

**SAN ANTONIO AGGIE MOMS
MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 1, 2011**

San Antonio Aggies Moms' February meeting was opened with a welcome from President Annette Mollere.

The Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer were led by Laura Smith.

Student Support winners were announced: Audra Henson, Josh (?), Woodrow (?) and Teresa Romo-Vasquez.

Door prizes were given next, names not announced.

The upcoming raffle was described, and all those present were encouraged to buy and sell tickets. It is a great electronics package, and tickets are \$5 each, or 5 for \$20. All proceeds fund scholarships.

Representatives from Honor Our Troops (HOT) were present, and one of the gentlemen described their mission, so that all present could participate if they so desired. The group was previously hosted by the Corps at the A&M - Nebraska game. The project is to provide deployed service members with a "Care" package, filled with various goodies and necessities, and a personal touch from home. It includes a picture of the donor, and encourages the donor to pray for the service member.

Jana Tate introduced our honored speaker, the new Commandant of the Corps, BG (ret) Joe Ramirez, Class of '79, and former Aggie Band member. General Ramirez was an engaging and inspiring speaker. He noted that he has been on the job for 90 days. He is proud of the quality of the young men and women in the Corps. He would like for students, former students, parents, and Aggie friends to claim the Corps as "our Corps," in the manner of "our football team," "our basketball team," "our baseball team," etc. The Corps represents the spirit of Aggieland, and is the only visible reminder of the history of the university.

BG Ramirez presented his mission statement for the Corps. He noted that the current enrollment is 1,916, and has a goal of 2,600 Corps members by 2016. Special emphasis will be on recruiting Hispanic, African-American and female members, to reflect student body diversity. Current GPR in the Corps is 2.72, and the goal is 2.85 for next semester.

A statement of core values of the Corps has been crafted, with input from Corps members. These values are: honor, integrity, selfless service, and discipline.

Gen Ramirez provided some of his personal history, and how he came to attend Texas A&M as a member of the Corps of Cadets.

Gen. Ramirez views the Corps as a bridge from childhood to adulthood. While crossing that bridge, he sees his/the staff's/the university's responsibilities to be to educate, train, and prepare them for the future. He wants to instill the value of determination, and help each one succeed in graduating. He used an illustration of an Army 4-man stack to show the value of teamwork (vs. individuality), which is important for leadership. Another illustration, of a pothole, was to remind members not to let setbacks stop progress toward further success. He closed by showing a photo of a tombstone, with the reminder that the dash between birth and death dates is our life, and he wants to teach members how to "live their dash."

Questions followed:

1. Is there going to be improved connectivity between the Corps and the Galveston Maritime Academy?

A. There is a difference in the academic rigor of the two campuses. Galveston is viewed as a "feeder" school. He plans to increase interaction, specifically by including the Galveston group more than once in marching in before football games.

2. How will budget cuts affect the Corps?

A. There will not be a bad impact. He has incredible support for growing the Corps. Seven staff positions have been eliminated.

3. Does that include the Parsons Mounted Cavalry?

A. It is an expensive unit, but it is OK financially.

3. Question about A&M Qatar:

A. It is a feeder school, but does not have a Corps unit.

Gen Ramirez then added some additional information:

1. He is issuing Class A coats, which were found stored, and had not been used for a number of years. New coats will be ordered.

2. Aggie Band Hall plans are due now! The Aggie Band is one of the most visible Corps organizations, yet the bandhall hasn't been updated or touched in over 30 years. In addition, it is used by several other musical/band groups.

Gen Ramirez closed with inspiring stories of the Aggie family, including tremendous, overwhelming support for the family of a Cadet who was recently killed in a car accident.

The large crowd expressed appreciation for his attendance at the meeting, and for his role as the new Commandant, which he describes as his ideal job.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Rodriguez