

AFA Quarterback Club of Denver

Letter from the Board

Happy Holidays to the members and friends of the Air Force Academy Quarterback Club of Denver!

We have just finished up another winning and successful football season at your Air Force Academy. While the CINC Trophy escaped us by barely a yard in Overtime, we still had a great nine win regular season. The Falcons have a chance for 10 wins for 2021 with a win in the First Responders Bowl against the Louisville Cardinals in Dallas on December 28th. Once again, an impressive effort for the Falcons and their staff. I am sure they will play their hearts out in the bowl game, they always do. They always make me proud to be a Falcon fan!

For the Club, we wrapped up a good year, after the hiatus for 2020. We went back to having luncheons at Valley Country Club occasionally, with interesting talks from Troy Calhoun; Lt. Gen. Richard Clark; AD Nathan Pine; AFA sports reporter for the Colorado Springs Gazette, Brett Briggeman; and AFA Wrestling Coach Sam Barber. We thank Eric Silakowski at the Academy for his help in arranging for the Academy speakers. Thanks especially to the speakers who give their time to drive to Valley and give us their thoughts and perspective. And another thanks to the members that took the time and effort to join us for these luncheons. The more people we have attend the luncheons, the more likely we will be able to attract these important speakers to join us in the future. For those that missed the luncheons, we missed you, and need you to join in the future for our Club to thrive.

Your Club Board met on December 2nd to discuss how our Club will look next year and what we want to accomplish. We did receive notice that we will not be supported as well as we have in the past by Valley Country Club. We may have as many as two meetings there next year, at a higher cost, but there is no doubt we will have to change our location and the way we operate for 2021. We have concluded that a change in what we do is an opportunity to perhaps attract others to join us and grow from the smaller group we have seen over the last several years.

The board discussion had several good thoughts and points and led us to the following goals and action items.

- Our goal for 2022 is to have 2 meetings in the late winter and spring, 1 meeting in August before the season (which is when Troy Calhoun prefers to speak to our group), and 2 meetings each month during the football season.
- We may have meetings on dates other than Thursdays, or other than luncheons, in order to attract the best speakers we can.
- While we support and have interest in all Air Force Athletics, we are focusing our support on Falcon Football, as you would expect for a Quarterback Club.
- We will have to plan on holding our meetings at a new location. We are investigating locations further south and with a close proximity to I-25. This may include locations in Lone Tree, Castle Rock or Larkspur.

AFA Quarterback Club of Denver

Letter from the Board

- We want to take this change and opportunity to invite new attendees and interested parties to join the Club. We do need to focus on Club growth in order continue in the future beyond 2022, and this is our best chance to make growth happen.
- Of course, we would like to count on our current members to bring friends that would be interested and encourage them to join the Club as members. But we also plan on expanding our communications and reach to include a broader audience in Douglas County and the South Denver Metro area. This may include the AOG and other AFA grads in the area.
- We would welcome and encourage joint meetings arranged by the Air Force Athletics staff in the South Denver Metro area for larger groups with invitations to all ticket holders and parents in Douglas, Arapahoe, Denver and Jefferson Counties.

We would welcome any of your comments and thoughts on these conclusions. I would also be happy to field any further suggestions on how to make our Club grow. Feel free to call or email me at 303-829-8833 or bradbernero@gmail.com .

The AFA Quarterback Club of Denver was founded in 1962, so that makes next year our 60th anniversary. A lot has changed in that time, and we have outlived many clubs like ours. Currently, we have 45 paid members or couples, and 77 regular contacts in our email list. For various reasons, this is a shorter list that the club has had in the past, and much lower numbers that we have had 10+ years ago. Our 2022 dues will remain the same as we had in 2020 at \$55 per member and \$65 per couple. As a reminder, in the spring of 2020, the board decided that the dues for 2020 would also apply to the 2021 dues, and no additional amount would be charged this past year. However, that did not curtail our support of Air Force Academy Athletics in financial terms. The Club still contributed to the Academy for the Outstanding Football Player Award and contributed to the Athletic Department both years just the same. Other than some minor costs to run the club, the vast majority of your dues go to support those contributions to the Academy. We would like to continue with that support and will need your help by paying your dues for 2022 as soon as you can in the new year.

Thanks for your attention to this update and newsletter. As mentioned, please give me your thoughts.

Go Falcons!

Brad Bernero, President, Air Force Academy Quarterback Club of Denver