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Delaware Military Academy PTA Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 16, 2026

Attendees: See Secretary for the sign in sheet

Call to order 6:36- Jen Avery (President)

Commandant's Report- Dan Newcott

Dan Newcott thanked the PTA for all it does for DMA. The number of students who will be in the upcoming freshmen class is about the same size as 5 years ago. There were less enrollments the last 4 years. He caught us up with some potential shifts happening in New Castle County. There is a possibility that the school districts in New Castle County will be combined to be one. DMA is currently 1 of 2 charter schools that have a charter through a school district and not the state. We are chartered through Red Clay Consolidated School District. He has talked to the state about IF New Castle County becomes one district will they charter DMA? The state would be glad to. Dan Newcott just wants to come up with a plan so DMA will have a great future. Our current charter was renewed recently for 5 years. DMA wants to continue to have the interview process before students need to decide on which school they want to attend. This is one of the items we want to continue moving forward.

Our current graduating class for 2026 is 113 cadets. The incoming freshmen class is 150 cadets. Our charter allows for 550 cadets but will support up to 600.

CAPT Bates reported that Marksmanship and the Drill team had their annual banquet last week. They would like the PTA to have some refreshments at the NJROTC Awards on May 6th in the Dome Lobby. The Cafeteria is providing fruit and granola bars. They asked about Mini-Grants for the staff. There is a form on the PTA website.

Secretary- Sue Cressman

Minutes were read from the previous meeting.

Minutes were approved by Pam Bargren and seconded by Bobbie Thorwood .

Treasurer's Report- Pam Bargren

(To see the full report go to the DMA PTA website. For other additional information contact the Treasurer.)

It was brought up about our yearly gift for the school. It was not put in the budget for this year. The new board can put it in the budget for next year. Examples of previous years include the picnic tables outside. Dan Newcott said they get a lot of use. It was also brought up that there are 6 or 7 umbrellas for the picnic tables. This was unknown by many.

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There is one bank account with only a few dollars in it that will be closed out before the current board leaves.

Financials Approved by Sue Cressman and seconded by Georgia Tsionas.

VP Presidents Report- Hillary Raptis

None

VP Communications Report- Danielle Wenzel

None

Committee Reports:

Activities Committee- Erin Marino

Senior breakfast is coming up. Times were not posted at the time of the meeting. This will be fixed. A new committee chair will be needed next year. The major events are: bootcamp picnic in the summer, underclassman Picnic (end of school year), and the senior breakfast (close to the end of the school year).

Friday Lunch- Cynthia Mistretta

Cynthia will continue next year in this position.

There needs to be a push on social media for volunteers to help with Friday lunch.

To get volunteers it may be a good idea to let parents know that if they need volunteer hours for their job, this is a good way to get a few.

Hospitality- Hilary Raptis

No Report

Membership- Brooke Terranova

We have 4 new members. People who didn't realize they needed to join each year.

Military Support- Ashley Hitzig and Chris Clawson

Up next is the 9/11 ceremony.

Staff Appreciation- Stacey Chakwin

No Report- This will be an open position. Someone is needed to help with this.

Old Business-

We talked about removing hospitality refreshments for the DMA service academy night and the Jr. Ring Ceremony since attendance is small at these events. It may need to be brought back as our student numbers increase in the future. We are adding refreshments to the drill competition hosted by DMA.

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New Business-

There was talk about having National Honor Society Members wear their pin on their uniform next year.

Board Elections were conducted. Our new board will be the following for the 2026-2027 school year. Congratulations!!

President- Georgia Tsionas

Vice President- Cynthia Mistretta

Secretary- Nicole Collier

Treasurer- Pam Bargren

The PTA bank account will change over to the new signers at the end of June.

Motion to Adjourn Pam Bargren 7:49 PM and second by Bobbi Forwood.