

# Draft

## Delaware Military Academy PTA Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 16, 2025

**Attendees:** See Secretary for the sign in sheet

**Call to order 6:38- Jen Avery (President)**

### **Commandant's Report- Dan Newcott**

Dan Newcott said thank you to the PTA for all the support we give to the staff at DMA. During Open House there were 154 who filled out a form. They wrote what middle school their child was attending, how they heard about DMA, and what programs they are interested in. There were 41 different Middle Schools mentioned. Top reasons they are interested in DMA include NJROTC, sports, and band. We hope for a class size of 150, 210 invitations were sent out, 500 applied. This year's freshmen class is 160.

### **Secretary- Sue Cressman**

Minutes from the previous meeting were posted on our website. Motion to skip the reading and approve the minutes was made by Jen Avery and seconded by Danielle Wenzel.

### **Treasurer's Report- Pam Bargren**

(To see the full report go to the DMA PTA website. For other additional information contact the Treasurer.) As of October 9, 2025 money in the savings account will be used for a cart for NJROTC to cart rifles and other equipment as well as new coolers for the PTA. Friday lunches have brought in around \$2000.

It was brought up to possibly remove Service Night snacks from the PTA since only about 50 people attend and cadets that are working that night are the ones eating. Currently the budget is \$75. The money could be moved to Military Support to help with the cost of the Veterans Breakfast or the Military Ball.

**\*\*We will vote on this later for next year's budget.\*\***

**VP Presidents Report-** Hillary Raptis - Nothing at this time.

### **VP Communications Report- Danielle Wenzel**

Two people have joined the PTA this month. Only 4 staff members are members at this time.

**Question was posed: How can we get more people to join? Ideas below.**

- Let parents know that they can join and that coming to meetings is optional. They don't have to come but they are always welcome.
- Have a booth at the football games or when Sports Boosters sells spirit wear.
- Have teachers or staff members hand out flyers to parents in the pick up line in the morning or after school.
- Incentives for Cadets if their parent/s join PTA.
- Pin a membership link on the BAND App.

# Draft

- Some parents don't realize they need to sign up for PTA each year. This needs to be communicated.
- Have a BLACK FRIDAY type deal during Thanksgiving/ Winter Break time.

More ideas needed. We will talk again at the next meeting.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Activities Committee-** Erin Marino - No activities coming up.

## **Friday Lunch-** Cynthia Mistretta

Friday lunch is going well. No Friday lunch on October 31st since there is a virtual day.

## **Hospitality-** Hilary Raptis

Hilary's son is graduating this year. We will need someone to fill this position next year.

Choice Open House went well but snack/water donations were low this year. Less than 30 families donated. Most food was eaten by our cadets. The question was posed: How do we in the future ensure that the food is designated for the visiting families. Should we have a separate area for the current cadets that are volunteering? Current cadets are taking large quantities of food. We want our cadets fed but not take advantage of the generosity. The cost of food is continuing to rise.

Ideas:

- Should we just have cookies and water?
- Should we charge cadets for the price of the food? 25 cents? 50 cents?
- Should we tell the cadets that the food isn't a free for all?

**\*\*This will be a conversation for the executive board at a later date.\*\***

## **Membership-** Brooke Terranova

This was discussed above.

## **Military Support-** Ashley Hitzig and Chris Clawson

November 13th is the Veterans Breakfast. Last year we paid for 350 people.

## **Staff Appreciation-** Stacey Chakwin - No new update.

## **Old Business-** No old business

## **New Business-** No new business

Motion to Adjourn 7:46 PM

First- Hillary Raptis

Second- Cynthia Mistretta