



# Marquette NROTC Alumni And Friends Association (A&FA)

## Newsletter - Summer 2018

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Email:  
[munrotcalumni@gmail.com](mailto:munrotcalumni@gmail.com)  
MU NROTC Unit: (414) 288-7076

Facebook & LinkedIn:  
"Marquette NROTC  
Alum Association"

## Marquette NROTC Class of 2018 Commissioning Ceremony

The steps of the Joan of Arc Chapel looked out over a bed of tulips and across a deep quad of spring green grass and trees on a chilly Saturday, 19 May 2018, as the Marquette NROTC graduating class formed up for commissioning. Flags of the United States, the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps provided the backdrop at the Chapel doors.

An audience of 100 or so parents, siblings, friends, alumni and Unit staff members applauded as each graduate stepped forward in turn under a clouded 0730 sky. Each candidate recited the oath of office. Each had his or her Ensign shoulder boards or Second Lieutenant bars attached to his or her uniform. Each accepted his or her first salute from a military relative or friend.

The graduating class consisted of three new Marine Second Lieutenants and nine Navy Ensigns. Of those 12 graduates, five were men and seven were women. Unit Commanding Officer Captain Matthew Vandersluis, USN, commended the class and wished them Godspeed.

Among the Marquette NROTC alumni attending were Mike Good, retired Navy Captain and former President of the MU NROTC Alumni & Friends Association; Albert Lagore, retired Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel and President of the Seapower Leadership Association; Bill Hayes, former Marine Corps Captain and A&FA Vice President; Phil Claiborne, member of the A&FA Board of Directors; and Dale Thanig, class of 1972.

This ceremony was followed by a Tri-ROTC commissioning ceremony and a reception at the Union.



The Marquette NROTC Class of 2018: (left to right) 2ndLT Michael Wick, USMC Basic School, Quantico, VA; ENS Katherine McCrosssen, Nurse Corps Officer, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA; ENS Rosie Rains, Surface Warfare, Nuclear Option, USS San Jacinto (CG 56), Norfolk, VA; ENS Bryan Luke, Student Naval Aviator, Naval Flight School, Pensacola, FL; ENS Haley Garvens, Surface Warfare Officer USS Detroit (LCS 7), Mayport, FL; ENS Jacob Marquardt, Student Naval Flight Officer, Naval Flight School, Pensacola; 2ndLT Georgi Llanas, USMC Basic School; ENS James Gallaher, Surface Warfare Officer; ENS Brandy Kinnunen, Surface Warfare, Nuclear Option, USS Ross (DDG 71), Rota, Spain; ENS Diane Meason, Surface Warfare, Nuclear Option, USS New Orleans (LPD 18), San Diego, CA; ENS Angela Alberico, Surface Warfare, USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53), Pearl Harbor, HI; 2ndLT Benjamin Vazarini, USMC Basic School, San Diego, CA;

## Marquette University NROTC 1991 Alumna Mahlock to be first African American Woman Marine Corps Brigadier General

Colonel Lorna Mahlock, USMC, Marquette NROTC class of 1991, was nominated on 10 April 2018 by President Donald Trump for promotion to Brigadier General. When this promotion occurs, Mahlock will become the first woman African American ever to achieve that rank in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Col. Mahlock is currently serving as Deputy Director, Plans, Policies and Operations Directorate in Washington, D.C. This promotion will be a rare and unique distinction, since only 7.6 percent of Marines are women, according to a 2015 *“Time Labs”* report. This is the smallest percentage of women in any branch of military service. One reason this is rare is the challenging annual Physical Readiness Test (PRT) all Marines must pass. The PRT includes multiple calisthenics, a full body carry of a comrade, and a three-mile run in full field gear.




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## Sword Awarded to MIDN Brandy Kinnunen at NROTC Spring Ball

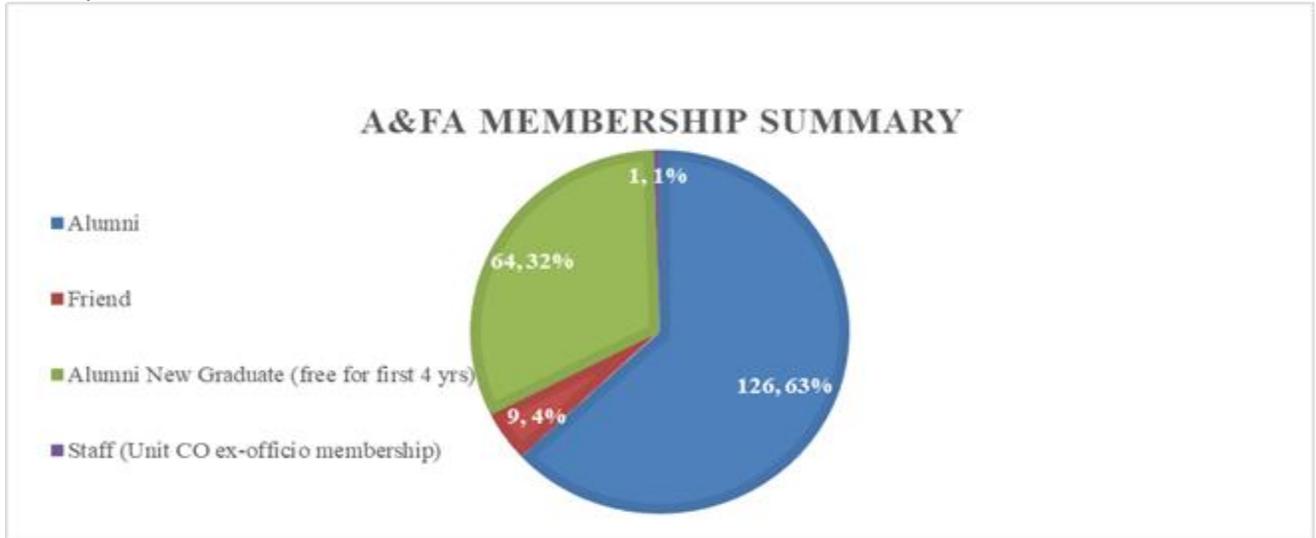


Midshipman 1/C Brandy Kinnunen was awarded a Navy officer's sword 27 April 2018 during the Marquette NROTC Spring Ball at the Milwaukee Intercontinental Hotel. The award, from the Marquette NROTC Seapower Leadership Association (SLA), is presented to the Top Navy Unrestricted Line graduate. Presenting the award was Lieutenant Colonel Albert Lagore, USMC (Ret), MU NROTC Class of 1990 and SLA President. Upon commissioning in May, Midshipman Kinnunen will report for duty to the USS Ross (DDG-71) in Rota, Spain as a Surface Warfare Officer.

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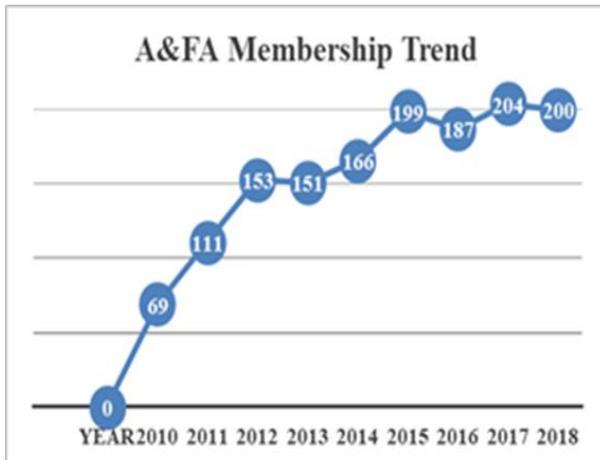
## Alumni Association Membership: Time to Join

Membership numbers have been pretty steady the past three years, and we currently stand at 200. Here's the tally:



Take a look at the graphs below. With over 2000 alumni of our NROTC program, we seem to be in a holding pattern at +/- 200, with only 126 alumni (and 9 friends) contributing the *(still only)* \$20 in annual dues this year! Below at the right is a breakout of dues-paying members by decade. Our 1960's alumni are strong supporters. How about those of us in the more recent decades taking the challenge to match the 1960's alumni? A goal of 4 alumni per class year as members is very achievable – and that will take us to almost 300 members, with over 230 paying dues.

Most more “mature” grads know that we got a lot out of Marquette’s NROTC program. It’s time to give back now. Being a veteran or service retiree is an elite “club” in today’s world, and your dues should show that. Although not an obligation, many of us appreciate and are grateful for the opportunity to have served and worn the cloth of the nation. And how about our young alumni who have completed their free membership period – you know firsthand how A&FA and SLA contributed to your experience since A&FA was reestablished in 2010. It’s time to “pay it forward”. We need the help of every alumni to encourage your classmates to enroll and sustain your Marquette NROTC Alumni & Friends Association. If everyone enrolled just one classmate, we’d be well on our way!



As many of you know, we instituted an online sign-up and debit/credit card payment method like many non-profits to simplify the dues payment process. We also wanted to make it easier to stay connected with our widely-dispersed alumni (and friends) when they move – in or after their active duty military service. We have a highly mobile society and we hope this will help make it easier to join and renew membership, as well as keep your contact info up to date.

The Wild Apricot (yeah, goofy name!) internet "cloud" based membership management system we have chosen allows every member access from their own computer. We will still accept forms and checks mailed the traditional way, but we are already seeing that many prefer this new approach for its ease of use. It has several great features – all in one place:

- Ensures our alumni database is retained in a secure/recoverable site, accessible from anywhere
- Every member has unique password access to the site and can verify their member status
- Every member can verify their own contact data and update it whenever changes occur
- Automatic dues renewal reminders are sent via email to members
- Alumni can pay dues and donate to the Seapower Leadership Assn. online
- Online payments are encrypted; site supports HTTPS traffic encryption
- No personal information is sold to, or shared with, any outside organization/partners/advertisers
- Data is backed up nightly and stored at a separate data center location
- Administrators (us!) can export data and archive the entire site
- Provides event calendar, supports event sign-ups, classmate forums, email “blasts” & newsletters

We have moved our current stand-alone website content to the Wild Apricot platform and consolidated into our internet address: [www.marquette-nrotc-alumni.org/](http://www.marquette-nrotc-alumni.org/)

Again – if every one of us members contacted **just one** classmate every year and recruited them to join, we would steadily grow our support to the NROTC Unit. Please accept this **Every-Member-Get-A-Member** challenge and do your part to sustain your organization! This is your opportunity to support the next generation of Navy and Marine Corps leaders. The 2018 Membership / Contact Info / SLA form is at the end of this newsletter. Thanks in advance for your help in growing our membership. Questions? Contact me!

Mike Good '83 [mgood3@att.net](mailto:mgood3@att.net)

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## Riedl and Helm Saluted as 2017 Alumni of the Year

The Marquette NROTC Alumni & Friends Association encourages you to nominate or re-nominate deserving Unit alums for two prestigious annual awards. Alumnus of the Year typically recognizes a military career, while the Young Alumnus of the Year award goes to an officer in the first 10 years of active duty. The nomination period began 1 April 2018, and the deadline for submissions is 1 August 2018. Awards will be presented at the Fall 2018 Naval Services Ball. The Nomination Guidelines and Form can be downloaded from our web site: [marquette-nrotc-alumni.org](http://marquette-nrotc-alumni.org).

Lieutenant Commander Paul Riedl, USN (Engineering, Class of 1965) was named Marquette NROTC Alumnus of the Year 2017 during the Fall Naval Services Ball at the Wisconsin Club on November 10, 2017. At the same event, Lieutenant Justin Helm, USN (Engineering, Class of 2008) was the first U.S. Navy officer to be honored as Young Alumnus of the Year. Read about their achievements under “Awardees” on our web site: [marquette-nrotc-alumni.org](http://marquette-nrotc-alumni.org)

Bill Hayes '62 [billqt6@hotmail.com](mailto:billqt6@hotmail.com)

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## Message from Unit CO Captain Matthew Vandersluis, USN

Another great year is about to close for the Marquette Midshipman Battalion. We commissioned 12 Midshipmen on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, and they will be headed out to do great things for our country. The standard of excellence that is a hallmark of our program is directly linked to the outstanding support that we receive from our Alumni groups.

As this was my first year in the seat, it was informative for me to see all of the pieces and parts that make up the training syllabus, classroom Naval Science courses and labs, formal balls, shooting competitions, drill meets, basketball and golf tournaments and local community service projects. Our Midshipmen excelled in all regards and, I feel, leave us ready for the fleet.

Summer training is in store for our remaining students, and I look forward to hearing about their experiences as they immerse themselves in Fleet operations. My personal thanks to the Marquette/Milwaukee family for making all of the above possible. Have a great summer!



Captain Matthew Vandersluis, USN

## New A&FA President Martin Menez's Message



Greetings to all alumni of the Marquette NROTC program, now in its 78<sup>th</sup> year! It seems like yesterday when I was a “boot” midshipman, a half century ago this fall. I’m pleased to be the new President and Chairman of the Alumni and Friends Association (A&FA), and the first not located in the Milwaukee region, but rather in the Washington, DC area. We truly have become a national organization.

I’m also pleased to relate that in the year ending 15 May 2018, our charitable affiliate, the Seapower Leadership (formerly “Library”) Association (SLA) donated over \$4,500 to support Unit leadership events and competitions, largely due to your contributions. I join SLA in thanking you for your generosity, keeping Battalion participation strong among its peer NROTC universities, and helping to prepare our future Navy and Marine Corps leaders.

In addition to A&FA’s projects in preserving our heritage, we have cut over to a professional membership management system, Wild Apricot, which is helping us transition to the next level. But to do so we also need increased active membership, coordinated by class reps which we don’t have yet for all classes (see article following). Please consider stepping up and leading your class in this key area.

Also attached is a membership/renewal application; dues are still only \$20/year. We invite you to visit our website (<https://marquette-nrotc-alumni.org/>), and closed Facebook and LinkedIn sites (both “Marquette NROTC Alum Association”) for news and great sources to reconnect and network. We hope to see you at our annual meeting and open house the morning of Saturday 6 October 2018 at the Unit. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any suggestions or recommendations or can support your alumni organization through helping lead and manage the A&FA. It’s not a great time commitment but pays large dividends in the development of our midshipmen, and extends your service to them, our Navy, Marine Corps, and Nation.

Martin Menez, Captain, USN (Ret)

[MMenez1981@Kellogg.Northwestern.edu](mailto:MMenez1981@Kellogg.Northwestern.edu)

## 2018 Annual Meeting & Reunion Events

The 2018 MU NROTC Alumni Reunion and Unit Open House will be held in conjunction with Marquette University's Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, 4 through 7 October.

Your Alumni & Friends Association (A&FA) will hold its Annual Meeting at the Unit on Saturday 6 October at 0900. All Alumni and friends are invited to attend this meeting for an update on the "State of the Marquette NROTC Alumni & Friends Association." A Unit Open House will be held immediately after this meeting, from 1000 to 1300. Come and see the Unit again, meet some of the current Midshipmen and Staff, enjoy complimentary lunch and catch up with your own classmates.

The 50-Year Class Reunion in 2018 honors the Class of 1968. The 1968 Class Rep has been in touch with the A&FA, and a good class reunion turnout is expected.

If you plan to attend Marquette's 2018 Reunion, please RSVP to [munrotcreunions@gmail.com](mailto:munrotcreunions@gmail.com). If you have any questions about these events, please contact me directly:

Ed Taicsich, '76, [Taicsich@att.net](mailto:Taicsich@att.net) or call(847) 714-3056.

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## Seapower Leadership Association Supports Unit

Hello Fellow Warriors (Marquette type and Defenders of the Constitution type).

I'm writing as your new Seapower Leadership Association President, and I am honored to assume this responsibility. I'll be honest, I was thinking about taking a break from some of the NROTC Alumni Board efforts. It has been nine straight years that I have been intimately involved, most of it spent as the treasurer of both the A&FA and SLA. In reality, that is what kept me in the game. I have seen firsthand what we as an organization have been able to do for the current Midshipmen.

This past year has been no different. We have been able to send multiple students to leadership conferences at the Naval and Air Force academies - and some other school in South Bend, Indiana. I can tell you from experience that these conferences are outstanding experiences for the future leaders coming out of our program at 16<sup>th</sup> and Clybourn. As you may be aware, the Unit staff decided to take a risk and move Freshman Orientation down to Naval Station, Great Lakes to improve the experience for new students as well as the current student training cadre. This is a bold move that has been met with overwhelmingly positive reviews. This would not have been possible without some additional support from SLA. Of note, the future of New Student Orientation for the country will most likely be moving to Great Lakes. This is a pilot year in which Marquette will be participating.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Unit's Spring Ball, and awarded MIDN Brandy Kinnunen a Navy Officer's sword as the SLA Top URL graduate. She is a very sharp young lady who will be leading sailors on the USS Ross (DDG 71) a few short months from now. I told her that 75-plus years of Alumni will be expecting great things from her in the future. She will not disappoint. To be a part of this support of the Marquette Midshipmen made my acceptance of the SLA President position a no-brainer. I foresee similar opportunities for support this coming year and will work to expand the depth and breadth of our support.

In that vein, I want to thank everyone for their donations – and of course ask that they keep them coming. Your commitment to giving back to the place that has a large part in our character formation is greatly appreciated – by me, the Board, the Unit staff and the Midshipmen and their families.

Albert Lagore '90 [albert.lagore@gmail.com](mailto:albert.lagore@gmail.com)

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## Alumni Association Electronic Communication

*Your semaphore flags and flashing light a' la 2018*

Keeping in touch with the unit and your colleagues is one of the main benefits of being a MU NROTC alum. Your alumni association uses a number of media to provide you with unit and alum news and information. Three of these are “pull” media that you need to visit to enjoy.

Web Site. <http://marquette-nrotc-alumni.org/>.

The Midshipman battalion maintains their own site at <http://www.marquette.edu/navy-rotc/> with an “Alumni” tab. You’ll enjoy reading correspondence from our current leaders, news on recent events, alumni notes, and seeing photos of recent alumni Navy-related travels. Better yet: write and post your own accounts. It’s a great way to share your experiences!

Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/130634680316129/>

No cat videos here, just good gouge and discussions on Navy/Marine Corps related activities. 273 are already members. Share conversations with them on your past and present Navy and Marine Corps experiences.

Linked-In. <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2948410>

More focused on business related items, including tax-deductible charitable donations, and that business-related golf tournament. If you haven’t joined yet, please do. 132 of your colleagues are already here.

Email. We send occasional announcements via email to make sure you’re aware of interesting upcoming events and opportunities. While we don’t overdo it, we do want to remind you that you’re a valued and important member of our Navy/Marine Corps alumni.

Try one or try them all. Each is a great way to keep in touch.

Marquette NROTC A&FA closed group in Facebook continues to grow (now at 247 participants), and LinkedIn is steady at 115. If you participate in these social media venues, search for “Marquette NROTC Alum Association” and request to join. Don’t forget - simply joining the A&FA Facebook and LinkedIn groups does not automatically make you a member of A&FA. Join now with dues to get all the news and updates that members enjoy.

Share your reminiscences, historical items or news with alumni and friends on Facebook. Share newsworthy items and job opportunities on LinkedIn (see Networking below). Our webmaster (Jim Dielen ’63 [dielen@hotmail.com](mailto:dielen@hotmail.com)) is also always looking for more good content. Please send him input and periodically check out our website for new photos and more at: <https://www.marquette-nrotc-alumni.org>

Chris Nemeth ’71 [nemeth@id.iit.edu](mailto:nemeth@id.iit.edu)



## Networking is Key to Civilian Job Placement

Hello Fellow Alumni!

Allow me to introduce the networking initiative that has been recently started for the A&FA. Transitioning from the Marine Corps back into civilian life was more challenging than I would like to admit, and I learned a lot of lessons along the way.

One lesson is the importance of having a strong network in the area where you want to end up. Trying to help our Alumni find meaningful, engaging civilian work if returning to the greater Milwaukee area is the main goal of this venture.

I've been fortunate to attend a few sessions of the Milwaukee Veterans Chamber of Commerce, and I can assure you that local businesses are hungry for our talent. I've also started compiling a Google document to list some of the larger local businesses for those returning to the area after a long absence, to point them in the right direction. In the future, I'd like to expand this list, and include any points of contact or current veteran employees (Alumni), as in-house referrals generally rise to the top of any hiring list. Any assistance in this would be greatly appreciated.

If you know of any transitioning Marines and Sailors looking to return back to the Brew city, or are yourself looking for a different opportunity, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Semper fi.

Brett Rosvold '10 [rosvoldb@gmail.com](mailto:rosvoldb@gmail.com)

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## Class Representatives Needed for Several Years

Good Day, everyone, from Bill Bau, Marine Option '66. I recently volunteered to chair the Class Representative project for the NROTC Alumni & Friends Association. I would first like to thank the two alumni who preceded me in this position: Jerry Bolain '65 and Mike Good '83. They started from little in 2008 and have taken us from zero to 46 Class Reps from as long ago as 1953. As a result, we now have Class Reps for 67% of our classes: very good, considering that many alumni are scattered across the country and the world.

I am now appealing to members of the 22 classes for which we still need a Class Rep. There are other responsibilities, but I would be very happy if Class Reps carried out these four. Duties are pretty simple:

1. Maintain an updated list of phone and email numbers for your classmates.
2. Communicate annually, staying on top of locations and happenings.
3. Encourage participation (paying dues) in the Alumni & Friends Association.
4. Attend the October Reunion/Homecoming annual A&FA meeting if possible.

This past year the University instituted a Homecoming Weekend during October, combining it with Reunion Weekend (formerly held in July.) This is now when A&FA conducts its annual member meeting and Unit Open House, at which all NROTC alumni are welcome.

The Association has an extensive list of alumni on a program called "Wild Apricot." This is an excellent place to start for any Class Rep. Here are the years for which we need Class Reps: 1954, '56 & '57; 1971, '73, '74 & '77; 1981, '82, '86, '87 & '88; 1997, '98 & '99; and 2000, '04, '05 & '06. Please call or email me if you are interested in being a Class Rep.

Semper Fi, and Anchors Aweigh,  
Bill Bau, '66 [bauwp@aol.com](mailto:bauwp@aol.com) or phone (310) 977-1463

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## WHY DO WE HAVE TWO ALUMNI ORGANIZATIONS?

You may be wondering why there are two Alumni associations – The Marquette NROTC Alumni & Friends Association (A&FA) and the Seapower Leadership Association (SLA.) Let me explain.

First, each serves a different primary constituency. A&FA funds MU NROTC alumni events such as the annual meeting and Open House, alumni awards and our communication programs. SLA supports Midshipman activities that, while important, are no longer funded by the Department of the Navy: activities such as drill, marksmanship, sailing and athletic competitions and leadership conferences. Alumni thus have the flexibility of funding either constituency or both. We hope you choose both.

Second, A&FA has members and dues, while the SLA has only donors. Why is this difference important? Sustaining both associations requires management and communication. The operating expenses to accomplish this for both associations (software, labor, postage, paper, printing, government filings, etc.) are paid for by A&FA member dues, thus freeing up SLA to focus on funding Midshipman activities. Rest assured, the A&FA runs lean and mean. Officers and directors receive no compensation.

Is all this effort really worth it? Why couldn't A&FA shut down and let SLA continue funding Midshipman activities? This, in fact, happened for a while in the past. From about 1991 to 2009, A&FA did not exist. The result was a gradual diminishment of SLA. When A&FA and its alumni outreach mission were resurrected in about 2010, it reinvigorated the SLA. Each year a new group of alumni is welcomed aboard, while others pass away. This means that new A&FA members and SLA donors must consistently join for the associations' missions to continue.

A&FA and SLA Treasurer  
Scott Christensen '83 [scott@christensencapital.com](mailto:scott@christensencapital.com)



### 1/1/18 thru 12/31/18 - MEMBERSHIP / CONTACT INFO / SLA DONATION FORM

Mail to: **Marquette NROTC Alumni & Friends Association, Inc. (A&FA)**  
Marquette University NROTC Unit  
1532 W. Clybourn Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233-2202

<b>Name:</b> <small>(w/ Rank if appropriate)</small>	First Middle Initial Last	<b>Commissioned Year:</b> (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Marine <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Friend
<b>Address:</b>	Street or Unit City / FPO State Zip Code+4 Country(if not USA)		
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> <small>(Used for most communications)</small>	Primary:	Alternate:	
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	Home:	Mobile:	Other:
<b>A&amp;FA Member Dues:</b> MU NROTC Alums; MU NROTC Staff past & present; MU Alums who served in Navy & Marine Corps via other sources; Family, Friends & Supporters of MU NROTC Unit	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regular Annual</b> [\$20.00/year] <small>Multi-year payment accepted @ \$20 x #yrs Make check payable to "A&amp;FA"</small>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Recent Graduate</b> <small>Newly commissioned officer membership is <b>FREE</b> for first 4 years following graduation.</small>

\*As a 501(c)(19) Not-for-Profit Organization, Membership dues are tax deductible as allowable under I.R.C. Section 501(c)(19).

<b>Seapower Leadership Association Donation (SLA)**</b> <small>Support to NROTC Midshipman Battalion activities. Make check payable to "SLA". Your name may be listed for public recognition; donation amount(s) will not be listed.</small>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> I wish my donation to be anonymous to the public and my name not be listed on any donor recognition venues.
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\*\*As a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Organization, all donations are tax deductible as allowable under I.R.C. Section 501(c)(3).

