

## West Point Parents Club of MA

### Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2012

A meeting was held at Carl and JoAnne Vercollone's home in Lincoln, MA.

**In attendance were:** George Jedras, Nicole Burkel, Nina Johannesen, Susan Kimball, Stephen Wallingford, Richard and Margaret Primack, and Jo Anne and Carl Vercollone

George Jedras conducted the meeting.

### **Old Business**

**Cow Loan Party:** George recognized and thanked Nicole for her efforts to pack and deliver the boxes from the Cow Loan party. It was necessary for Nicole to repack all the packages into smaller boxes. There was also an issue in getting accurate information from Deb Dalton for addressing the boxes. It was noted that some of this information is on the WPPC-MA but it is incomplete and in some cases inaccurate. Members will be encouraged to make sure their information is up to date.

**Silver Dollar Orders:** Kathy Snook is handling the Silver Dollar orders. They will be distributed at the Firstie Party on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Fed and State Tax Filings:** Carl reported that the Federal and State filings for the fiscal year ending July 31 2011 have been completed. Steve asked what the requirements were for maintaining our tax-exempt status. Carl reported that there is not a requirement to file a financial statement but to answer certain questions that you have maintained compliance.

Note: Below is some summary information on maintaining tax status.

First, be familiar with this list from [IRS Publication 1828](#) of compliance requirements for every public charity (501(c)(3) nonprofit organization): All IRC section 501(c)(3) organizations, including churches and religious organizations, must abide by certain rules:

- their net earnings may not inure to any private shareholder or individual,
- they must not provide a substantial benefit to private interests,
- they must not devote a substantial part of their activities to attempting to influence legislation,
- they must not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office, and
- the organization's purposes and activities may not be illegal or violate fundamental public policy.

Charitable nonprofits can lose their tax-exemption or face stiff penalties, called "[intermediate sanctions](#)" for engaging in the activities listed above.

Additionally, all nonprofits that are recognized as tax-exempt ([with some exceptions](#)) have an obligation to [file an annual return](#) with the IRS. Failure to file can result in [automatic revocation of tax-exempt status](#).

**Club Directory:** Nicole reported that the Membership Directory has been updated with the best available information and members should be encouraged to check the information for accuracy. Additionally Richard mentioned the Parent's Guide (also linked on the web site) that he, Diana Lucivero and Marsha Ciccolo prepared. This information should be regularly checked and updated.

**Club Financial Position:** Nicole presented an income statement for the first five months of the 2012 fiscal year that showed net income in excess of \$9000 and cash balance of \$20,000. She stated that this positive net income would decline over the balance of the fiscal year as it included some bus revenues but not the corresponding expense. Nicole projects that the Club will show a positive cash flow for the full fiscal year. The bus revenues have been solid as they are well communicated and we benefit from some use by NH and ME cadets.

### New Business

**Holly Ball 2012:** George reported that WPPC-MA would be hosting the 2012 Holly Ball. Navy hosted the 2011 ball. George will be meeting with last year's chairperson to coordinate the handing over of responsibility for the upcoming ball. George has invited any volunteers to join him for this meeting. Items to be addressed early on include: naming a chairperson, picking a date, reserving the hotel (try for last years hotel, the Seaport Hotel), select a menu, hire a DJ, reserve a domain, set up a web site and fund raising. It is customary to turnover any surplus funds to be used towards the next Ball. Navy will be turning over about \$4000. The last time WPPC-MA hosted was in 2008. Revenues were \$28,000 (\$17K ticket sales and \$9K sponsors). Expenses were \$26,000. It was reported that the

attendance of West Point cadets at last year's Ball was very light relative to the other Academies so a concerted effort will need to be made to encourage attendance.

**Graduate Activity:** Richard reported that the Deployed Grad Boodle event will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Jim and Diana Lucivero's home. Richard said 25 people attended that last year's event. This year there will be fewer deployed grads and the focus will be on packing fewer but higher quality items. All Club parents are invited to attend and are encouraged to submit the names of other deployed soldiers who might benefit from a package.

**Founders Day:** Founders Day will also be held on March 10th. All cadets are invited to attend and receive a complimentary dinner. All club members are encouraged to attend.

**Firstie Party:** Kathy Snook is planning to speak at this years Firstie Party. Kathy is a West Point Grad, a parent of four children who have and are attending West Point and taught at West Point as well. This initiated a discussion on the importance of having speakers attend WPPC-MA meetings that can offer an interesting perspective and hopefully boost attendance. The hope is that this will draw more members to attend as attendance at meetings has dropped off.

**Club Officer Nominations:** George announced that Steve Wallingford would assume the duties of Club President at the end of George's term. Nicole, Nina, Carl and JoAnne plan to stay on in their current positions. Chris Benson will be taking over transportation. Open positions include: Vice President, List Serve, Cadet Activities and Firstie Party. It was agreed that a strong appeal needs to be made for new member volunteers. This appeal should be made at the Plebe Picnic in June.

**R-Day Table:** The Club is looking for volunteers to staff the WPPC-MA R-Day table.

**Plebe Picnic:** The Plebe Picnic will be held either on June 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fort Devens was suggested as a potential centrally located site to be investigated.