



WPPC-MA Newsletter

Feb 2017

Successful Cow Loan Boodle Bash and 2nd General Club Meeting (Jan 29)

In honor of their Cow Loans, the Class of 2018 was treated to a box of fiscally-themed treats this month. On Jan 29th, club members gathered at the home of Alan and Donna Beaulieu (Parents of Luke '18) to conduct our annual Cow Loan Boodle Bash. Our boodle boxes were stuffed to the seams with great items, which will cheer the Cadets during this annual gloom period of cold Hudson Valley weather. Thanks to Teresa and Charles Leahy (parents of Madeline '20) for delivering the boodle boxes to West Point.



Before the boodle bash, many WPPC-MA members gathered for our second general meeting of the year to elect officers and to discuss upcoming 2017 activities. At this meeting, we welcomed Class of 2020 parents Vin Sutera and Terry Dowling to our committee. Vin and Terry volunteered (thanks!) to lead the Club's Membership Drive and Car Pool List, respectively. To maximize our meeting attendance, the WPPC-MA provides advanced notice of all meetings. Agendas/minutes/reports are all posted in a timely fashion on our website.



Next Up: The Deployed Grad Boodle Bash (Sunday, Feb 26)

One of our favorite events each year is the Deployed Grad Boodle Bash, when West Point families past, present and future have the opportunity to gather to prepare care packages for former cadets from Massachusetts who are now deployed internationally. This event reminds us all that our cadets really are part of the Long Gray Line. We especially invite our WP alumni and families so that we can hear about the experiences of our Massachusetts commissioned officers. Hearing the



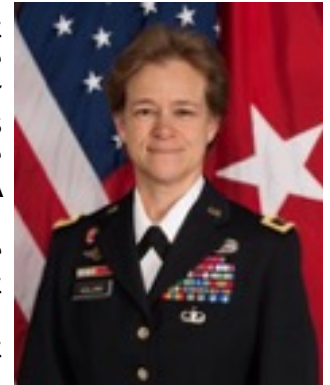
anecdotes, helps keep in focus our club's larger mission to support the young men & women who have chosen a life of service to our country. The event will be held at 1500 (3pm) at the home of Carl and Joanne Vercollone (parents of Jenna '14) at 25 Cerulean Way Lincoln, MA. Please email your RSVP to the Vercollone's at cr@vercollone.us. We look forward to seeing you there! The link below leads to a list of recommended deployed grad boodle items on our website:

<http://wppc-ma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Suggested-Donations-for-Deployed-Grads.pdf>

Here is a small sampling from the above list: FOOD: Keurig K cups, Candy, Trail Mix. TOILETRIES: Baby/ facial wipes, Q Tips, Body Lotion. ENTERTAINMENT: Amazon Gift Cards, Magazines (current), DVDs, Books, Travel Games, Brain teasers

Don't miss the WPSNE Founders Day Banquet and Cadet Candidate Reception (Sat, Mar 25)

The West Point Society of New England invites all WPPC-MA families and friends to their annual Founder's day banquet on March 25th at the Devens Common Center. The event includes a gathering of cadet candidates for the Class of 2021 at the Cadet Candidate Reception. The keynote speaker is the 76th USMA Commandant of Cadets, Brigadier General Diana M. Holland ('90). The WPPC-MA is excited to greet the cadet candidates and their families and to make them aware of the many services we provide to enhance their West Point experience. We are hoping for a good turnout of current WPPC-MA families so that connections can be made well before our Hail and Farewell in June. Thanks to WPPC-MA member Diane Bedard (mom of Matthew '19) for coordinating Plebe and Parent "Boodle Boxes" for the event's fundraiser, the proceeds of which will support WPSNE Ethics in Leadership program conducted by the WPSNE Leadership Council in conjunction with the American Legion Boys State/Girls State program. Please direct event questions to wayne@wpsne.org.



Get more details and register for Founders Day at http://wpsne.org/event/founders-day/?instance_id=143

Capstone Event: Firstie Celebration (Sunday, Apr 2) and 3rd General WPPC-MA Meeting



The WPPC-MA will pay tribute to the Massachusetts Class of 2017 cadets as they wrap up their West Point journeys. On Sunday April 2nd, Kevin and Carole Martin (parents of Benjamin '16) will host our annual Firstie Celebration in their home in Chelmsford. More details will be announced as the event approaches. All club members are encouraged to attend this event at which we recognize our home-grown heroes. Preceding this celebration, we will conduct our third and final general meeting of the academic year promptly at 1300 (1pm). Although you are welcome to attend either event, we urge all members to join us for both, as we celebrate accomplishments and make decisions that will impact your family's 47 month West Point journey. This is an opportunity for you to PARTICIPATE LOCALLY! We look forward to seeing you there.

Last Chance: Army Navy 2017

We recently announced that our club's block of 25 hotel rooms for the 2017 Army Navy game in Philadelphia was sold out. However, we are pleased to announce that the hotel has added two more rooms to our block, so we are rewarding those with an active club membership an opportunity to reserve these rooms (\$208 per night, Fri Dec 8 and Sat Dec 9, Mid Town Holiday Inn Express). This is first come first serve invitation. Please email pbedard1@gmail.com if interested. Those beyond the first two will be put on a waiting list in case more rooms open up later this year (quite possible).



Volunteer with our WPPC-MA Team!

We still have several open parent club committee positions, and invite you to join us. To learn more about these positions, please attend our next General Meeting on April 2nd, or contact Phil Bedard (pbedard1@gmail.com) or Alan Beaulieu (Alanbeaulieu@verizon.net). We have a deep and experienced committee that can easily guide new members into any position of interest. We've mastered the many hands = light work approach, so you will find volunteering with our club easy and rewarding. We recently filled the Car Pool Coordinator and Membership Chair positions with Terry Downing (father of Robert '20) and Vin Sutera (father of Samuel '20). Thanks guys! Now we are aiming down range, and look to find help on a few positions currently filled by a parent affiliated with the Class of 2018, so that we have smooth transitions next year. This is a great time to volunteer, as you will have a full year to "learn the ropes" from the current committee member. These positions include Treasurer, Firstie Gift Coordinator, and Chief Tail Gate Coordinator. All positions are easy to learn and execute, and are very important to our success. Please consider joining us in one of these roles.

Stay Connected With Our WPPC-MA Facebook Group

Our club's private Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WPPCM/>) is a great way to stay connected with your club friends and members, and a great way to get quick answers and help on West Point related issues. Many members use our page to help buy/sell/share event tickets, get quick answers to questions, and maintain friendships with club members. We ask that all posts be West Point / Parent Club related. To be added to this private Facebook group, contact our social media specialist Brad Whitehall (father of Brad '19) at brad.whitehall@gmail.com.



The Convenience of the WPPC-MA Car Pool List



During the second half of the academic year, there are fewer weekends that create enough demand for a club sponsored bus. For these times, we have created the WPPC-MA Car Pool List. Would you like to be included on the list? If so, please contact Terry Dowling at tdown9671@comcast.net. Once you are added to the list, we ask that you carefully follow the car pool list instructions that are posted at <http://wppc-ma.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Car-Pool-List-Instructions-2016-10-09.pdf>. The car pool list is extremely helpful to Massachusetts families.

Ride in Luxury on "The Bus"

The West Point Parents' Club of Massachusetts arranges bus transportation for Cadets and Cadet Guests between Massachusetts to West Point during holidays and leaves when large numbers of Cadets are likely to be coming home. Our next and final bus of this academic year will be a March 19th "return to West Point" bus following spring break. Registration for this bus is now open. Please visit this [link](#) on our webpage to reserve a bus seat for your cadet.

On-Line Resources for our Massachusetts and New England West Point Families:

WPPC-MA Website: <http://wppc-ma.org/>
WPPC-MA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WPPCM/>
West Point Society of New England (WPSNE): <http://wpsne.org/>

Upcoming WPPC-MA Schedule of Events:

Feb 26 (Sunday) 1pm: Deployed USMA Grad Boodle Bash (25 Cerulean Way, Lincoln MA)

Mar 25 (Saturday) 530pm: WPSNE Founder's Day Banquet and Cadet Candidate Reception (Devens MA)

Apr 2 (Sunday) 1pm: 3rd WPPC-MA General Meeting and Firstie Celebration
(Chelmsford MA)

Jun 17 (Saturday) 10am: Hail and Farewell to Class of 2020 New Cadets (Shrewsbury MA)

Summer/fall events to be announced and detailed soon.