



# WPPC-MA Newsletter

## Jan 2018

### 2nd General Meeting - All Families Welcome (Jan 28)

The club will conduct our 2nd general meeting of the year at 1pm on Sunday Jan 28th at the home of Bernie and Sharlene Stansbury at 18 Juniper Road, North Reading MA (Thanks to the Stansbury's for hosting!). This meeting will precede our Cow Boodle bash at 3pm. We hope that more than just the parents of Cows will join us, especially for the General Meeting. Our agenda includes planning for our 2018 season and taking some important votes that will affect your future experience with the WPPC-MA. We value the opinions of all our members. An agenda will be posted to the club website prior to the meeting. This is also a great opportunity to learn about open club positions and become more active in our organization. Please join us to shape the West Point Parents Club plans for 2018 and to enjoy an afternoon with current (or new!) club friends. Note that we have scheduled this meeting with surgical precision to avoid conflict with the Patriots Super Bowl run. Please RSVP to the Stansbury's at [stansbury40@yahoo.com](mailto:stansbury40@yahoo.com).



### Cow Loan Boodle Bash (Jan 28)

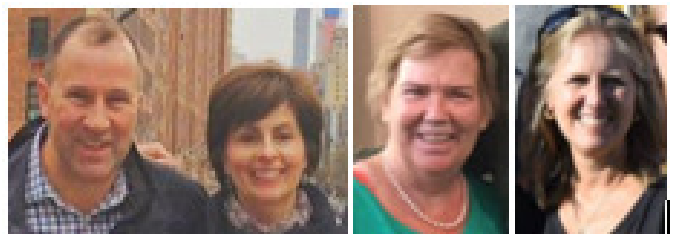


Following the club's general meeting, we will hold a Cow Boodle Bash at 3pm. Please RSVP to Sharlene Stansbury at [stansbury40@yahoo.com](mailto:stansbury40@yahoo.com). If you have never been to a boodle bash, this one is a great introduction. At a boodle bash, club members each bring some "boodle" (packaged snacks, candies, personal care items, etc) to our gathering. Bring enough of your item(s) so that we can provide at least 1 to each of our cow cadets (about 25). This bash is themed around their mid-year "Cow Loan", so including some treats with a financial theme are fun (e.g., candy coins, \$100,000 bars, Payday bars, etc). Please avoid large items, as each shoe-box sized boodle container has to fit about 20-30 items. Once our boodle "assembly line" is set, we'll fill, seal, and address the boxes. The club can save ~\$300 in postage if there is a parent that will soon be making a trip to West Point, and is able to transport the boxes (about half a car trunk) to the Central Guard room. If you can be our boodle courier, please let us know in your RSVP. If you can't attend, but would like to donate some boodle, please visit our online donation page at <http://wppc-ma.org/make-a-donation/>. Be sure to write "cow boodle bash" in the memo field of the donation form. We will use donations to purchase additional boodle a few days before the event. All attendees are welcome to bring an appetizer or dessert, and if so, please mention what you plan to bring in your RSVP. Hope to see you there!

### Thanks to Alan Beaulieu and other graduating WPPC-MA volunteers!

The WPPC-MA thanks Alan Beaulieu for his tenure as WPPC-MA Co-President. This fall, Alan turned the reins over to Brad Whitehall. Alan's USMA enthusiasm and dedication to parent support has made our organization one of West Point's premier parent clubs. His leadership has greatly enhanced the West Point experience for many Massachusetts families. Prior to

serving as President, Alan served as the club's Event Coordinator, and established many of the club events that have become part of our tradition. Thanks Alan! Thanks also to long serving club volunteers (left to right in photo) Donna Beaulieu (Secretary), Denise Kenneally (Holly Ball Coordinator) and Kathy Ouellette (Treasurer). Their son's Luke, Denis and Matthew are graduating this spring, and will branch Infantry, Ordnance and Aviation, respectively.



## 2017 WPPC-MA Recap

Thanks to all members for supporting a great year of club events. You can find details and great pictures of most events on our web site and Facebook page. Here is a quick summary of our significant 2017 activities:

- We packaged and shipped ~60 boxes of donated Boodle to our Yuks, Cows & Deployed Graduates.
- We shipped Grant Hall gift certificates to all MA plebes during the 2nd semester TEEs.
- We welcomed our new 2021 Massachusetts cadets and families at the WPSNE Founders Day Banquet, the WPPC-MA Hail & Farewell celebration, and at the "Tame the Beast" summer social.
- We held a successful Football Tail-Gate Party at Daly Field. 150 cadets, parents and friends attended. If you couldn't make it this year, don't miss next year's!
- Parent support remains strong! Thanks to Patty Symes ('20, Treasurer), Karen McKinney ('20, Secretary), Dan/Eileen Jordan ('21, Social Media), Val/Mike Evans ('21, Event Scheduling) and Brad Whitehall ('19 Co-President) for filling open positions in 2017, and to the rest of the team for your dedication!
- Our R-Day volunteers were on post to guide families through the start of the challenging new-cadet process.
- In December, WPPC-MA families filled 42 rooms in our WPPC-MA block of Army-Navy hotel rooms, and cheered Army Football to victory (again!) over Navy.
- The WPPC-MA leadership team met for three general meetings to plan the events and support that are important to all Massachusetts cadets and their families
- Many WPPC-MA families attended the Coast Guard sponsored 2017 All Service Academy Holly Ball. Join us again in Dec 2018 as Air Force organizes the next Holly Ball.
- Our WPPC-MA sponsored buses rolled back and forth between MA to West Point for most holiday periods, saving parents 1000+ miles of driving throughout the year.
- Much more - visit our Facebook page and Web Site to learn more about past and future WPPC-MA activities.



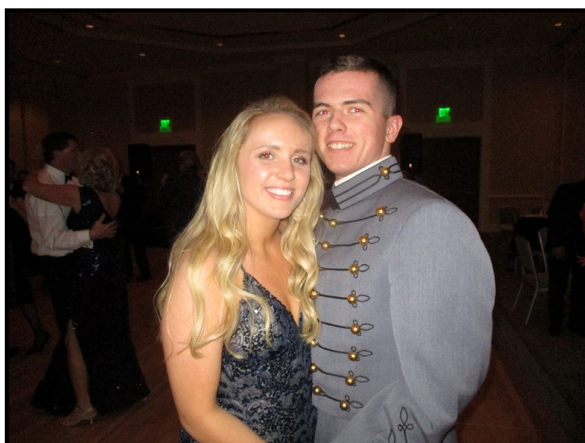
## Want to Get More Involved in Your WPPC-MA?

We always welcome those who want to volunteer some time to help on WPPC-MA activities. To learn more about how you could help, please attend our next General Meeting on Jan 28, or simply call Phil Bedard (pbedard1@gmail.com) or Brad Whitehall (brad.whitehall@gmail.com). We have a deep and experienced team that can easily guide new members that are interested in helping with club activities. Parent help on our bus "check in" would be particularly helpful. Please email us if you are interested.



## Great Time at the 2017 All Service Academy Holly Ball

Thanks to our friends at the Coast Guard New England Parents Association for organizing this year's successful All Service Academy Holly Ball. On December 30th, 250 cadets and family members from the USMA, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine Academies gathered at Boston's Seaport Hotel for a night of patriotic holiday cheer, dancing and celebration. If you couldn't make it to the Holly Ball this year... don't miss it in 2018! Check out some Holly Ball pictures below, and on our club Facebook page. Also keep an eye on the Boston Globe. They took many pictures, and have traditionally published them in the Sunday paper a week or two after the event.



## 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. It's also 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 to 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 Eileen Jordan at [dano64@charter.net](mailto:dano64@charter.net).



## Membership Report

We are pleased to report excellent WPPC-MA membership numbers as we close out the year. Over 70% of Massachusetts cadet families maintain an active membership in our Club. Thank you for this high level of support to Massachusetts cadet families. This past year, we switched the membership registrations to a one-time (versus annual) process to cover all four years (and the net price for four years was reduced by \$50!). Please look for our membership drive email this spring. See <http://wppc-ma.org/membership/> for details on how you can join or renew your membership with our club.

## 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 Downing at [tdown9671@comcast.net](mailto: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>. Shortly after this newsletter is published, we will re-issue the current car pool list to all Car Pool List members.



## 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 last remaining bus for the academic year will be on March 18th. This will be a "return to West Point" bus following spring break. Registration will be announced via email in mid winter. Bus information can be found at <http://wppc-ma.org/the-bus/>.





## Deployed MA Graduate Booodle Bash, and Graduation Planning Forum (Sunday March 4)

The WPPC-MA will conduct a booodle bash for deployed MA graduates on Sunday March 4th at 1pm. More information will be provided for this event in February.



On this same date/location, we will also conduct a graduation planning forum at 3pm. At this forum, parents of recent graduates will share their graduation planning experience, and provide tips for upper class families that are currently planning for their cadet's graduation. Graduation week provides once in a lifetime activities for the whole family, and good planning will make the experience that much better. We also plan to have some Q/A to help parents understand the first year of life after West Point (e.g., BOLC, Ranger School, first unit assignment, etc). We hope you can join us for this first ever WPPC-MA graduation forum.

## A Snowy Army-Navy Thriller - Army 14 Navy 13 !

More than half of our WPPC-MA families recently traveled to Philadelphia for the Army-Navy Football game. Army's white uniforms were the perfect "camo" as they matched the snowy winter weather that persisted all day. Army West Point entertained with a thrilling game that was decided by a missed Navy field goal as time expired. Most WPPC-MA members stayed at our discounted block of hotel rooms at the Holiday Inn Express in downtown Philadelphia. The club also held a Friday night rally at a local tavern as we geared up for the big game.



## WPPC-MA Hotel Rooms for Army-Navy 2018

The club has again negotiated an excellent deal with the Holiday Inn Express (Midtown) in Philadelphia for the Army-Navy game in 2018. Rooms are \$209 / night for the weekend Dec 7th thru 9th. The location is convenient to downtown restaurants, bars, and public transportation to the stadium.



After we recently announced these rooms in mid December, we quickly sold out. However, we expect some cancellations, as some family plans will likely change. Club members that would like to be on our waiting list should email Phil Bedard at [pbedard1@gmail.com](mailto:pbedard1@gmail.com).

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

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

## Upcoming WPPC-MA Schedule of Events:

Jan 28 (Sunday) 1pm:	2nd WPPC-MA Board Meeting. Location: 18 Juniper Road, North Reading MA
Jan 28 (Sunday) 3pm:	Cow Loan Boodle Bash. Location: 18 Juniper Road, North Reading MA
Mar 4 (Sunday) 1pm:	Deployed USMA Deployed Grad Boodle Bash. Location: 22 Harmony Trail, Hopedale MA
Mar 24 (Sat) 530pm:	WPSNE Founder's Day Banquet, Devens MA
Apr 8 (Sunday) 1pm:	3rd WPPC-MA Board Meeting and Firstie Celebration. Location: 153 Belmont Street, Reading MA