

1st General Meeting of the WPPC-MA

Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/1/2017

Location: Home of Karen and Mike McKinney

Attendees: Catherine Adona, Mike/Karen McKinney, Phil/Diane Bedard, Kathy Ouellette, Patty Symes, Brad/Denise Whitehall, Dan/Eileen Jordan, Mike/Val Evans

Leadership Team Status:

- * Co-President - Brad Whitehall volunteered to pick up this leadership role from Alan Beaulieu.
- * Webmaster/Social Media - Mike volunteered to combine social with website. Eileen Jordan volunteered to help on Mike on social media.
- * Recording Secretary - Karen McKinney volunteered to pick up this role previously held by Donna Beaulieu
- * Holly Ball liaison - Phil took action to speak with Denise (son graduating this year) to determine if she still intends to be our primary interface this year, or if the position should be considered immediately open.
- * Firstie Gifts - Patty agreed to coordinate the next purchase, and Val agreed to volunteer to help with the gift wrapping.
- * For the first time in a while, all positions are filled!

Board Member Reports/Updates

Bus Update:

Discussed need for clarity on non-member bus pricing; applies to purchaser, or passenger? Voted unanimously that the discount is based on the purchaser's status, not the traveler's status.

Action: Mike to clarify language on the website, to include words about the intent of this policy, that is, that additional seats at discounted rate should be for cadet guests (e.g., visiting from afar), and to discourage purchase of member price seats for other local cadets that are not members

Discussed need for Newton-based "cadet in charge" next year. Phil took an action to speak with Sharlene to get her suggestion on how this might work, and clarity on when needed.

Agreed that "official" bus policy is no refunds, however, agreed to give Treasurer / Bus Coordinator broad authority to grant refunds based on their judgment. The "official/printed" policy is intended to discourage people from reserving seats that they're not sure they will need, thus resulting in an early sold out bus, or higher chance that we will suddenly get unsold seats at the last minute.

Action: Phil and/or Sharlene ensure "official" policy is stated on the website.

Treasurer's Report:

Kathy presented summary of past year, and budget for next year, which showed the club to be in very good shape. Transition to new Treasurer Patty Symes is proceeding smoothly.

Reaffirmed target of \$12K as a suitable cash balance. Currently at about \$18K. Mike suggested we come up with a general long term plan rather than a hasty one-time correction. Attendees had a good discussion on ideas to bring down cash balance over time.

Action: Phil took an action to summarize the options discussed and work with treasurer to estimate financial impact. Ideas included, but not limited to: \$5 bus price reduction, renting a tent to support Firstie commissioning ceremonies, more gift coupons such as the plebe gift coupons given to firsties last year, donation to AOG, new club flag (WP requires new standardized style), more subsidy to annual tail gate, etc.

Did not take a vote on 17/18 budget, because of questions/changes mentioned above. Need to take vote at next meeting once the above suggestions are discussed and voted on.

Highlighted need to add 2019 cost of web domain/site hosting renewal fees to budget. Currently shows only \$50 annual fee for Ninja forms.

Action: Phil will research amount(s) due next year to Patty to allow her to revise budget.

Holly Ball:

Good discussion of Holly Ball. All agreed to work to create some buzz to encourage folks to sign up (newsletter, reminder email, talk it up with fellow club parents).

Action: Phil and/or Denise to reach out to Coast Guard to status the planning of this year's event to enable loading of relevant information/links to our website.

Membership:

Membership drive has concluded. Strong results. Stats published in recent newsletter. Discussed pricing policy for families with multiple cadets. Agreed unanimously that those families should pay just one-time \$150 fee, regardless of the number of cadets in the family.

WPSNE Report

Brad discussed his positive interactions with the WPSNE monthly meetings he is now attending. Any members are welcome to attend a meeting (contact Brad if interested). Brad conveyed that this forum, and associated WPSNE activities, may be of interest to parents of graduating cadets with interest of remaining connected to West Point, and for support while their cadets begin serving after graduation. Brad said that the WPSNE is an extremely welcoming group.

Old Business

Hail/Farewell:

2021 members stated they were overwhelmed by the bustle/confusion of the Ike Hall activity after the Goodbye. All agreed we should provide more information at next Hail/Farewell as to what to expect; both in what we discuss at meeting, and in handout.

Tail Gate Out-Brief:

Discussed lessons learned from successful 2017 tailgate. Phil posted planning guidance to the "links" page of the web site to assist planning of future tail gating events.

New Business

By-Law Refresh:

Ran out of time to fully discuss this topic. Phil briefly mentioned the current by-laws are well-written and just need a minor refresh.

Action: Phil to present red-lines for review/vote at next general meeting (Jan)

Calendar:

Established dates for next two club events: Jan 28 selected as date for 2nd General Meeting and Cow Boodle Bash (hosted by Bedard's), and Mar 4 Deployed Grad Boodle Bash (host TBD).

Action: By end of month, Phil to draft list of annual events, rough time frame & logistic needs for each (e.g., host, meeting room, supplies) as guidance for new Event Schedulers Val/Mike Evans.

Action: Val/Mike to prepare draft schedule of club events for entire 17/18 year to be discussed/voted at Jan meeting (previous event scheduler Alan Beaulieu and other team members are available to provide guidance on event planning)

Army-Navy: Agreed we should meet Friday night at a local bar, since the hotel does not have a bar.

Action: Mike is familiar with the city will recommend a suitable nearby place that Phil can announce in newsletter and game announcements

Milestones: Much discussion regarding transition from Firstie to Commissioned Officer and navigating milestones like Ring Weekend/Graduation/Post-Graduation to first training assignment post grad. It was brought up that there is a lot of emphasis from the club to support incoming cadet candidates, new cadets, and plebes, not as much for upperclassmen families.

Action: Secure recent graduate cadet's parent as guest speaker at a boodle bash to provide "been there and done that" type of advice for these milestone events and transitions for Cow/Firstie parents.