



West Point Parents Club of Massachusetts Meeting Minutes--7 February 2009

The Cow Loan Celebration/meeting was held at the Laughna's house 7 February 2009.

In attendance were:

Rory & Martha Laughna, Alan & Pat Small, Marsha & Walter Ciccolo, Alex & Carol Hannenberg, Mark & Jodi Deuger, Carla & Tim McMahon, Penny & Kevin Maddy, Cindy & Bill Yeo, Pete & Dion Fitzpatrick, Pam & Chester Chin, Tom & Jane Sheehan, Jim & Vivian Rezendes, Cheryl & Mark Connors, Elaine & Mike Fleming, Debi Brandt, Don & Kathy Cherry, Barb Davis.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to celebrate the new-found wealth of the Cows after they received their "Cow Loan". Several people supplied candy and goofy gifts with a money theme to be provided to the class of 2010 from MA.

After a short gathering period, Alan Small called the meeting to order.

Holly Ball: The Holly Ball, which was hosted primarily by WPPC-MA (with minor help from the surrounding states) was a huge success. 291 attended the event at the Hyatt Regency Boston on 27 December 2008. The Holly Ball committee spent an inordinate amount of time planning but the outcome was worth the effort. All Firsties received a \$50 reimbursement of their ticket and underclassmen received \$20. We were also able to make a \$1600 donation to the Fisher House Project which is building a facility near the VA hospital in West Roxbury. The Coast Guard Academy will host the Holly Ball next year. Martha Laughna will hand over the materials on Tuesday.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was delivered by Alan Small as the Maxwells were absent. It should be noted that the Holly Ball committee maintained a separate account, which had no impact on the finances of WPPC-MA. The current balance runs at about \$8000. The major cash inflow was related to membership and the bus. Generally the bus has been running at a profit, partly due to the fact that the Thimbles have done an excellent job publicizing to the surrounding states' clubs. Several cadets from NH use the bus on a regular basis.

More on the Bus: Alan Small commended the Thimbles on the excellent coordination of the buses. The Christmas bus was quite the experience, taking approximately 12 hours to return from WP due to weather problems. After fighting the weather and traffic for 3 hours and only making it to Danbury, CT, the bus pulled off the highway allowing the cadets to exit the bus into the mall until things had cleared a bit. The Thimbles kept everybody posted during the day/evening as to the whereabouts of the bus.

New Officers: The parent club will be seeking some new officers in the coming months. Generally the terms start in April as the turnover will take place at the April meeting. Several parents of Firsties will be leaving their posts and will need to be replaced along with the position of Club President. Details of the positions required will come at a later date. The current board is hoping to bring along a few of the 2011 and 2012 parents in the interest of diversity on the board. Some jobs can be easily performed even if you can't make it to regular meetings. Please consider utilizing your talents to help the club.

Supplies for the deployed: The Hannenbergs continue to collect supplies for the deployed grads from MA. They currently only have about 6 names and are sure there are more out there. If you know of a USMA grad from MA who is deployed, please make sure the Hannenbergs have his/her name. Contact Carol and Alex at ahahann@comcast.net if you know of someone who should be added to the list.

Mark Deuger indicated that he is also part of a group which meets at Hancoff AFB monthly and serves a similar purpose for all deployed soldiers from the area. Contact Mark at mdeuger@charter.net if you know of someone overseas that they could add to their list.

Parents then described how things are going for their cadets/grads and got to the business at hand, filling up bags for the Cows to celebrate their new found wealth.

Note: As we filled up the bags, several parents noticed that companies had been listed incorrectly in the directory as they have not been updated by their parents. Please take a moment to view the directory that was distributed to the WPPC-MA listserv on 3 February and send any updates to Linda Shea at lstories@comcast.net. Our only source of contact information is from the parents of the cadets. Maintaining accurate information is important for ALL families, whether or not you are active in the club. Four times per year, the parent club sends gifts to West Point (one time per class) and we want to be able to locate all of our cadets. Thank you.

The next meeting of the West Point Parents Club will take place on 5 April at Shaw Group in Stoughton. As always, please watch the website for any changes. www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-mass/ The focus of this meeting will be the Firstie gifts which will be provided to the parents of any Firsties who are present. All Firstie parents should make a note of this meeting so we can provide the proper send off! If parents are not able to attend, the gift will be sent directly to your Firstie at West Point.

Respectfully submitted: Martha Laughna