

West Point Parents Club of Massachusetts Meeting Minutes—13 April 2008

In attendance were: Martha Laughna, Pat & Alan Small, Kathy & Jerry Bowling, Cheryl & George Cosmas, Janet and Ken Kalitka, Jack Kenney, Carla & Tim McMahon, Barb Davis, Debi Brandt, Janet Sobol-Medow & Mr. Medow (sorry), Helen & Steve Maxwell, Beverly & Frank Cannone, Pete & Dion Fitzpatrick, Chester & Pam Chin, Patty & Alan Miner, Susan & Brant McDougall, Marsha & Walter Ciccolo, Richard & Margaret Primack, Mike & Elaine Fleming, Ligang Zhang & Wen Liu, Travis Veigas, Jodi & Mark Deuger, Kathy & Mitch Allison

All Academies Holly Ball (2008)—Karen Peterson, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, briefed a small group of parents on the Holly Ball planning process from 2007. She and her husband planned the entire thing and passed on loads of information as the West Point parents will be hosting the All Academies Holly Ball (AAB) for 2008. Martha Laughna and Pat Small will co-chair the event with the help of Pam Chin, Viv Rezendez, Kathy Bowling and anyone else who wants to join in. (Later in the meeting, Barb Davis agreed to be the fundraising chairperson for the event.) Karen began the general meeting by quickly describing to the whole group what was involved planning the AAB. The AAB involves all NE states—MA, ME, NH, VT, RI, CT and all five service academies.

Treasurer Report—Brant McDougall: We currently have a balance of about \$7000 with the buses and membership income being responsible for building up the balance. We donated \$500 to West-Point.org.

Buses—Paula Thimble: There was not enough interest in the spring break bus to run it without a loss so it was cancelled. The next bus is likely to be for Labor Day weekend.

Membership—Susan McDougall: Linda Shea has been trained on the membership database management and will take over as membership director. Anyone wishing to join the parent club now through the end of the school year should contact Susan so she can collect your information. No membership fee will be imposed until the next fiscal year.

Mentoring—Marsha Ciccolo: Marsha collected a list of parents interested in mentoring new families in the class of 2012. Once she has collected the necessary contact information for these families, she will contact interested mentors and connect them with new families. The mentor program is mostly for the benefit of the parents.

Grad Activities—Kathy Bowling for Carol Hannenberg: 48 boxes of goods were sent to deployed grads recently. The soldiers all appreciate the goodies.

Club Merchandise—Pam & Chester Chin displayed an arrangement of fleece jackets and vests for parents to try on. Once we get at least fifty items, another order of WPPC-MA clothing can be made up. People interested in ordering WPPC-MA clothing should contact the Chins or the McMahons.

State Field Force—Jerry Bowling: WP has made 26 offers to MA students, 22 have accepted for 2012. Pam Chin and Pat Small attended a college fair in Boston to publicize USMA. Six cadets are coming to the Boston area over Memorial Day weekend to increase the presence in the area and for publicity for USMA. Major Nuckowski is responsible for our region and each congressional district has a representative so that prospective cadets know who to contact if

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they are interested in attending or applying to USMA. The task of the Field Force is to educate high school students about USMA and publicize it as an option for college. USMA does not “recruit” because if they have to talk them into it, it is not for them.

Cadet Activities—Pam Chin continues to email information to WPPC-MA members regarding local activities where cadets are involved.

Recent and upcoming events—

Saturday, April 25: Deployed grads boodle wrapping party. Fourteen members of the class of 2006 from MA are currently deployed. The event will be at the Bowlings’ in Medfield at 7:00. Please RSVP to Kathy if you are coming.

KathyBowling5@hotmail.com. Directions forthcoming.

Saturday, June 14—Cadet Candidate BBQ @ 3COM: Kathy Bowling encouraged parents to attend the BBQ in order to meet the new families and help answer parents’ and cadet candidates’ questions and concerns.

Recent events include: helping to host a track team dinner by donating food, sending valentine coupons to MA cadets, Founders Day where Will Small and Jeff Chin spoke to Cadet Candidates. The club donated a Bose Sound system for the silent auction.

New Business

Boodle Packing—The Hannenbergs would like to have a boodle packing party for deployed grads. It will be held at the Bowlings’ home on 4/25 in Medfield. See further details above.

Army Navy 2008—Twenty rooms were held for WPPC-MA at the Doubletree Hotel in Philadelphia and all twenty have been booked. As of earlier in the week, rooms at the hotel were still available and you might still be able to get a similar rate if you call.

Parent Club President’s conference—The Smalls and the McMahons will attend the conference at West Point next weekend.

Ed Colazzo donated Bose headsets for all the Cows and Firsties. Thank you.

Kathy handed the meeting over to the Smalls and officially retired as President. The WPPC-MA presented Kathy with a print of “West Point at Night” in appreciation of her efforts.

More discussion about the Holly Ball ensued: The budget for last year’s ball was about \$18,000. Some entire families came together. The DJ has been great and lots of people enjoyed the dancing. Barb Davis agreed to be the fundraising chairperson. We will be looking for a good speaker for the night.

Calendar Updates—Alan Small presented a calendar for some proposed events. The group approved sponsoring a tailgate party before the Akron football game on 9/20/08. Alan Small and Judy Deuger will investigate the details. It is likely that the West Point Club will be used to provide food and tent. Likely places include the Mid Lot (behind The Plain), South Dock, or possibly near Buffalo Soldier field. Parking passes would be available along with game tickets.

Parents Visit West Point—two times when parents might want to visit their cadets at West Point would be at Buckner on their day off, and Ring Weekend (if you are fortunate enough to be invited!)

Boodle—Debi Brandt and Barb Davis agreed to drive boodle for the down to West Point.

Buses—Paula Thimble: Buses will run Labor Day and Thanksgiving.

The Ciccolos will be camping at Round Pond with their RV during the Marchback in August. Members are welcome to stop by early in the morning to support the New Cadets.

Graduation Gifts to Firsties—the families of the Firsties who were in attendance were presented with a gift from the WPPC-MA for their graduating Firsties: A flag which was flown over the U.S. Capitol and a 1 oz. pure silver dollar which was minted at West Point. The families present were McDougall, Kalitka, Primack, Kenney and Cosmas. They were informed that they automatically get transferred from Parent Forum to the Grad Forum for parents of grads: no need to reregister. The website for USAA has valuable information for newly commissioned officers and their families.

Cadet Updates

Alex Bowling: Went to New Orleans to help rebuild. This summer has CTLT in Hawaii and will go to Ft. Benning for small arms training. Emily is moving to Ft. Benning also to be with Alex, and her '07 "friend".

1st LT. Andrew Bowling: March madness was a great distraction. Based in a Shiite suburb of Baghdad in the midst of the militia uprising. Instant Messenger is a great way to communicate 2-3 time/wk. No real sleep pattern. His address was broadcast on a radio station in Cincinnati so he is receiving lots of boodle. Kathy sends him cakes in a food saver with a can of frosting on the side.

Andrew Maxwell—doing much better than last October. Loved the hockey team. Brought some teammates home for spring break. His brother is joining him next year and will play lacrosse.

Ian McDougall—Had a great run with hockey this year. Will be going to medical school after some training in Texas to start the summer.

Jeff Chin—went to Belize for spring break. Learned that it is wise to make travel arrangements in sync with requirements at West Point. During summer will be 2nd detail with Beast.

Josh from Columbus is in D-2. This new family just moved here from Columbus, Ohio.

Will Primack has branched Military Police. Mechanical Engineering major. After training at Ft. Leonard Wood and a vacation in Ireland with his girlfriend, he will be based in South Korea.

Kyle Miner—went to Germany for spring break and will go to Airborne school during summer, no small feat after having broken his hip last year.

Mike Fleming—won a field goal kicking contest at the Army Navy game and \$1000 for an end of the year party for his company. He is very excited to be playing in a rugby tournament in Colorado in June.

Drew Deuger—has been involved with PR at his high school and it went so well that his high school will be doing an assembly next year for his presentation. Went to Padre Island for spring break. He will be among the cadre at Beast.

Charlie Cannone—Had a great year. Will attend Air Assault school before Buckner.

Zack Ciccolo—currently studying computer science in France (and in French!) at a grad school. He returns in May and will do summer training in Monterey, CA, Ft. Bragg CTLT in Aviation

Nicholas Kalitka—Roommate getting married after graduation. They are thrilled to be going to a wedding at WP. Branched Aviation

Tom Allison '06—after attending armor school and ranger school he is based outside of Baghdad. His area is currently under a blackout but before then, his parents could reach him via cell phone. He has been in the heat of battle and complains about the smell.

Lorin Veigas '05—on his second tour in Iraq, 9/07-12/08. Due to be promoted to Captain during summer of '08. He reports that the unsung heroes in the Middle East are the members of Delta Force. They are quiet, confident soldiers. He came across his Beast Platoon leader, VonValkenberg '01. Small world.

Nicholas Cosmas—Branched Corps of Engineers and going to Ft. Leonard Wood.

Evelyn Zhiang—will be going to Germany

Brad Davis—went to Germany for spring break. Will do internship at a government contractor in Billerica during summer. Looking to do exchange program next year.

Matthew Alioto—Participated on the debate team, loved boxing, and wants to fly helicopters.

Sean Fitzpatrick—CPRC was on a radio station in Worcester. Nuclear Engineering major.

Jonathan Rezendez—Spent January in Saudi Arabia and is currently studying in Rio de Janeiro for international relations.

Will Small—Mechanical Engineering but considering changing to systems engineering. Will be part of the Cadre for Beast 2 and will be at Ft. Benning with all the Bowlings at the beginning of the summer.

Trevor Kenney—Will eventually be stationed at Ft. Polk, LA after training at Ft. Benning (what a popular place!) and Artillery Training at Ft. Sill, OK

Matthew Thimble—Striker School and Buckner during the summer

Christopher McMahon—Air Assault school and Buckner during the summer.

Andrew Laughna—spent spring break in Russia (Moscow & St. Petersburg) with a group from West Point. Summer—will be first Beast detail as platoon leader and internship in Langley, VA doing wind tunnel testing with NASA.