



West Point Parents Club of Massachusetts
Cow Loan Celebration
Meeting Minutes—31 January 2010

A meeting was held at 1:00 at the Boston Globe on Morrissey Blvd. on Sunday, January 31, 2010. In attendance were: Carla & Tim McMahon, Rory & Martha Laughna, Kathy & Jerry Bowling, Bill & Cindy Yeo, Pete & Dion Fitzpatrick, Prescott & Debra Wright, Warren & Maria Phillips, Dan & Jacquie Cronin, Nicole Burkel, Sharon Verash, Kevin & Paula Thimble, Janet Sobel-Medow, Pam & Chester Chin, Pat & Alan Small, Don & Kathy Cherry, Jodi & Mark Deuger.

Board meeting held prior to the General WPPC-MA meeting:

- In addition to the items discussed below in the general meeting, the board discussed documentation required to file for 501(c)3 non-profit status. This discussion also focused on the need to have proper legal documentation describing our group and its operating procedures regardless of our status as a 501(c)3 organization. One major benefit of having 501(c)3 status is that, based on last year's Holly Ball, we could have saved about \$800 and fundraising would likely have been even more successful. Bill Yeo will continue to pursue this issue.
- Membership eligibility requirements were discussed. These requirements will be formalized by Martha Laughna and added to the website.
- As many executive positions and volunteer jobs will be vacated this year, the McMahons will establish a slate of officers for presentation at the Firstie Celebration. Spring is a good time of year to switch officers as that is the time we are beginning to work with the incoming class. Bill Yeo has agreed to act as club president for 2010-11. He acted as Vice President for the current year. The hope is that the VP position will flow into the pres. position the following year.

The General Club Meeting

Army-Navy 2010—Once again, the club has been working on booking a block of 20 rooms at the Doubletree Hotel for the Army-Navy game. Those who have taken advantage of this group rate in the past can attest that it is the perfect location adjacent to the subway making it easy to get around.

Holly Ball—Many Plebe families attended the Holly Ball this year which was a smash hit hosted by the Coast Guard parents. Almost 400 people attended the event this year. The Air Force Academy parents will host the Holly Ball in 2011. If there is a parent who would be willing to act as liaison with the AFA parents for Holly Ball 2010 (this usually simply means making sure our parents are informed) please contact Martha Laughna at rLaughna@verizon.net.

Valentines will be distributed to all MA cadets the week of Feb. 8th. Please alert your cadet to be on the lookout as there are coupons for food included in the Valentines (we don't want other cadets walking off with our stuff!)

President's Weekend Bus—we have yet to reach a verdict regarding the bus for the weekend of Feb. 12-15. As it stands now, the fee will be raised to \$125 for the weekend in order to make it go. If you haven't already contacted Paula Thimble re: this bus please contact Paula by Thursday, Feb. 3 at kpthim@comcast.net if you are interested in having your cadet come home for the weekend via the bus. All bus payments going forward will be collected via Paypal which can be accessed at

<http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-mass/>. Please wait for final word from Paula later this week regarding the status of the bus before accessing Paypal.

Grad Boodle Packing party—The Bowlings will host a party to pack up boodle for deployed grads and other military personnel on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 6:30. Kathy B. encouraged members to bring fun, entertaining things to send overseas—movies, games, magazines, Red Sox & Patriot items. Thank you to a member of the class of '79 offered to pay for all the shipping of the goods.

Plebe Parent Weekend—PPW will be held March 12-14. Parents are encouraged to arrive Thursday or early Friday and to take advantage of everything the weekend has to offer. There will be a formal dinner in the mess hall and a hop on Saturday night. Usually parents can attend a class with their Plebes on Friday. Plebes will be released Sunday morning at a time TBD.

Founders Day, WPSNE dinner—The annual Founders Day dinner hosted by the West Point Society of NE will be held on March 20. Watch for details to come. The dinner usually includes high school seniors who have received appointments to West Point, several parent club members and many graduates. The night includes a silent auction, speaker and dinner. Parents are invited to attend regardless of whether they are members of the WPSNE.

2011 Class Rings—the class of 2011 is currently in the process of ordering their class rings—wow! Aren't they still plebes?! The process will end during the middle of the week.

Tax reporting assistance—Cadets can receive help with their taxes by bringing all paperwork to Building 606 before April 1.

The Thayer Hotel—the hotel is under new management and many improvements are being made. Currently they are offering cadet parents a 20% discount with stays at \$129/night. This includes breakfast. The discount is not available Plebe Parent Weekend.

Sandhurst—The Sandhurst military competition will be held on Saturday, April 10. Word is that the competition will be held at Camp Buckner again this year. It is possible for parents to watch the competition from certain places.

Graduation 2010—will be held Saturday, May 22. If you are picking up a cadet for their summer leave that day, you are encouraged to come and watch what goes on so you can plan for the future. Kathy Bowling educated the audience about what graduation day/week can be like, although people have many different experiences. During the week there is a Sup's Reception, award ceremonies, glee club concerts, graduation parade (be early!), banquet and a lot of hurry up and wait.

Jodi Deuger indicated that they have reserved a house that she found by using one of the following websites: www.homeaway.com, www.greatrentals.com, www.VRBO.com. She will let everyone know how it goes!

Other suggestions for grad week included visiting the Storm King Art Center, climbing up Anthony's Nose on the opposite side of the Hudson, a dinner cruise on the Hudson.

R-Day Class of 2014—will be held on Monday, June 27, 2010. If a parent from the class of 2013 would like to volunteer to represent WPPC-MA at our hospitality table please contact Tim and Carla McMahon

at carlajmcmahon@yahoo.com. The club has already reserved rooms at the Quality Inn in Fishkill and will pay for the room for Sunday night.

June 13, Cadet Candidate picnic—the WPPC-MA will welcome the class of 2014 at the cadet candidate picnic. Cadet Candidates can meet with current cadets and learn more about what to expect with R-Day and Beast while parents can meet other parents from 2014 along with many upper class parents. More details to come.

Open Executive WPPC-MA positions—Many of the positions that will be opening in the spring have been claimed! The new slate of officers will be announced at the end of March. This will include the new treasurer, plebe parent mentor coordinator, bus coordinator. But, sadly, in spite of several pleas to be replaced, no one has volunteered to be SECRETARY! I can believe all those people had to do was ask politely and a hand shot up. Being secretary is really easy! Trust me ;o) If you would like to become involved in a greater capacity in the parent club (a few other positions are still open) please contact [Carla and Tim McMahon](#).

The next parent club event (other than the grad boodle packing!) will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. It will be the Firstie celebration when the club presents graduation gifts for the graduating Firsties to the parents of Firsties. Directions are on the calendar on the website, <http://www.west-point.org/parent/wppc-mass/> Please join us as we celebrate!

Respectfully submitted for the last time:
Martha Laughna