



West Point Parents Club of Massachusetts Meeting Minutes—5 April 2009

A meeting was held on Sunday, April 05, 2009 at Shaw Group in Stoughton. In attendance were: Martha Laughna, Sharon Verash, Kathy & Jerry Bowling, Michael & Vicky Ong, Alan & Pat Small, Carla & Tim McMahan, Patty Miner, Monica Dube, Tom & Susan Hagstrom, Tom & Lynne Byrnes, Kathy & Jim Irwin, Lloyd & Lynn Willey, Bill Yeo, Pete & Dion Fitzpatrick, Vivian & Jim Rezendes, Don & Kathy Cherry, John & Sandy Lohan

After enjoying lunch, Alan Small called the meeting to order.

Class of 2013—currently 28 appointments have been made from Massachusetts with 17 cadet candidates having accepted their appointments.

Mentors—Pam Chin was recently appointed the mentor manager for the incoming class and is currently seeking families who would be willing to mentor incoming families of 2013 cadet candidates. Mentoring is easy and involves making phone contact with the new family to which you have been assigned and introducing them to the WPPC-MA. The mentors will also act as sounding boards in helping the new families navigate through Beast and Plebe Year as well as keeping the family informed of WPPC-MA events. Anyone interested in serving as a mentor for an incoming family, please contact Pam Chin, pjchin@comcast.net or 508-699-7833.

Upcoming events

- **Presidents Conference:** Tim & Carla McMahan along with Stephen & Helen Maxwell will attend the presidents conference at West Point in a couple weeks. The purpose of the conference is to disseminate information to the parent clubs throughout the country and to share ideas on the leadership of the parent clubs.
- **R-Day**—the McMahons and Kevin & Paula Thimble will attend R-Day and man the WPPC-MA table there. Mentors should make sure that their 2013 families know that there are experienced parents waiting for them if they would like to just talk about the day's events and take a breather before continuing on with the rest of the day.
- **Meet the Cadet Candidates** for the class of 2013 at the picnic on June 14. More details forthcoming.
- **Plebe Letter Writing**—the WPPC-MA hosts a letter writing party for all members to write encouraging letters to the New Cadets participating in Beast. The party is tentatively planned for the evening of July 11. Check the website for updates.
- **Club Tailgate**—the WPPC-MA will host a tailgate during a home football game. Date and time TBD. Jodi Deuger will once again organize this event and will make sure that the person who volunteers to bring the plastic ware, actually brings it.
- **Army-Navy**—Pete Fitzpatrick will coordinate this raffle type event. It is the typical “office pool” type game of chance. Pete will bring the board to all WPPC-MA events to sell squares. The winner will be announced at the Army-Navy game, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009. Winner need not be present and no knowledge of football is required.

New Executive Board

President—Alan Small introduced Tim & Carla McMahon as the new presidents of the WPPC-MA. Alan expressed his goal to have parents from all classes involved in the parent club and that passing on the presidency each year would help keep the club vibrant.

Vice President—while the office of Vice President remains open, parents from the classes of 2011 or 2012 are encouraged to consider serving in this capacity. Please contact Tim & Carla McMahon if you are interested in serving in this capacity. carlajmcmahon@yahoo.com.

Treasurer—Helen and Steve Maxwell will continue to serve in this capacity.

Recording Secretary—The position remains open although Martha Laughna will continue to serve in this capacity until a brave soul steps forward. The main focus of this position is to take minutes at the meetings and distribute them by email to the parent club listserv. Anyone interested in taking this position should contact Martha (rLaughna@verizon.net) if you have questions.

Transportation—Paula & Kevin Thimble will continue to coordinate the bus to transport cadets to and from West Point during high travel times (Thanksgiving, Christmas return, etc.) If you have any questions about the bus, please contact Kevin & Paula at kpthim@comcast.net.

Membership/Directory—Martha Laughna will conduct the membership drive and produce the parent club directory. If there are currently any errors in the 2009 directory, please send an email to rLaughna@verizon.net with the correct information.

Plebe Parent Mentor Coordinator—Pam Chin (see previous section under Class of 2013 and Mentors).

Listserv Maintenance/W-P.org moderator—Dave Shea continues to serve in this capacity although would be willing to pass it on to another willing party. Anyone interested should contact Dave at dave.shea@aecom.com.

Webmaster—Nina Johannassen will continue to serve as webmaster. Anyone with information to be added or corrected on the website should contact Nina at nina@blueiriswebdesign.com.

Cadet Activities—Pam Chin will continue to inform the club members of upcoming events in our area.

Grad Activities—Vivian Rezendes and Kathy Bowling will join Carol Hannenberg in coordinating these activities. (someone please correct me if I got that wrong, I think I was talking).

Club Merchandise—Sharon Verash will coordinate selling clothing with our beautiful emblem. If you are interested in seeing what is available in stock contact Sharon at nurseed52@msn.com.

New Business

Kathy Bowling suggested that the club should hold a Boodle Packing party to send collected boodle and other necessities to the deployed soldiers. She said she would shoot for March next year since no other parent events are planned for that time (although it was brought up that spring break, Plebe Parent Weekend and Founders Day are all typically held during March.) Watch for further information.

Martha Laughna made a **motion for the club to donate \$250** to the current West-Point.org fund drive. Steve Maxwell seconded. The club voted in favor of the donation. Martha explained that WP.org manages much of the information that we as parents receive from West Point and that they operate solely on donations made during their semiannual fund drives.

College Fair—Jerry Bowling sought volunteers to visit with high school juniors at the college fair which is being held at the convention center this week. The Bowlings, Martha Laughna, Pat Small and Pam Chin volunteered to fill this need.

Finally, the business at hand—honoring the Firsties from Massachusetts. Jerry Bowling explained the tradition of providing a silver \$ to the first person to render a salute to a new officer. The Parent Club presented the Firstie Graduating gifts to their parents who were present at the meeting. The gifts include a flag which has been flown over the US Capitol and a 1 oz. pure silver dollar which was minted at West Point during 2009. The gifts for the Firsties whose parents were not present at the meeting will be brought directly to West Point. Firstie parents, please alert your cadets that they will be there.

The next event will be the Cadet Candidate Picnic on June 14. Watch for further details.

