**MEETING MINUTES**

**WPPC of MD, DC, VA – 4th Quarter Board Meeting**

**October 15, 2016**

**Carrol's Creek Café, Annapolis, MD**

**Submitted by Cindy Mengle (substituting for James Williams, Secretary)**

**Attendance**

Rocky Mengle – Co-President

Cindy Mengle – Co-President

Melanie Gness – First Vice President

Don Yamamoto – Co-Second Vice President

Margaret Yamamoto – Co-Second Vice President

Maggy Reddy – Co-Membership Coordinator

Ray Reddy – Co-Membership Coordinator

Maggie Drummond – JSAB Coordinator

Nona Faber – Afghan Coordinator

Alison Arnold – Social Events Coordinator

Michael Dobson – Co-Merchandise Coordinator

Peter Gness – Club Member

With a quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes from the 3rd quarter board meeting on July 23, 2016.

**Invoices**

Rocky reminded all coordinators to submit receipts, checks, cash, invoices, etc., to the club Treasurers within two weeks of the time the item is received or paid.

**Bank Accounts**

Rocky informed the board members that all outgoing and incoming Executive Board members will have to meet at Wells Fargo bank in January to adjust names and titles. New debit cards will be needed for the incoming 2nd Vice Presidents, and current debit cards will have to be turned in by the outgoing Presidents. In addition, we may have to open new corporate bank accounts, since Wells Fargo currently has us listed as a general partnership. Bank representative says that we can each go to our local branch as long as we are all there at the same time. More information on this will follow.

**Charitable Donations**

Rocky noted that the club presented a $1,000 check to the West Point Parents Fund before Ring Ceremony on August 26. This donation was a budgeted item.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to donate $500 to the Army Football Fund in memory of CDT Brandon Jackson, who passed away in a car accident on September 11, 2016. CDT Jackson was a member of the football team.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to donate $250 to the West Point Class of 1983 Gift Fund in memory of Harry Shablom. Harry was a member of our club, who had helped many cadets in the Haymarket, VA, area. Harry was also a West Point graduate (Class of ’83).

**Raffle Fundraiser**

Rocky updated the board on the upcoming raffle. The club received permission to sell raffle tickets at the AOG’s tailgate party before the Army-Navy game in Baltimore on Dec. 10. Expected to have 800-900 in attendance…mostly grads. Paul and Holly Shannon (2016) have agreed to help with ticket sales at AOG event (which conflicts with March On). We also have permission to sell at Founders Day events by the WPS of DC and WPS of Annapolis. Will ask for similar permission from other West Point Societies in Maryland and Virginia. We also plan to sell at the following club events: Boodle Bash, Winter Social, and Meet & Greet. The raffle drawing will be at Meet & Greet. Rocky also briefed the board regarding prizes and ticket costs.

**Volunteer Recruiting**

Rocky noted that the campaign to recruit new 2nd Vice President officially started on September 10 with e-mail to all Class of 2020 members. We had four members/couples show an interest; however, two eventually dropped out of the running. We sent questionnaires to all interested candidates, and then conducted phone interviews with final two candidates (1st and 2nd Vice Presidents joined in the interviews). Voting for the new 2nd Vice President will be held at end of meeting.

As for other volunteer positions, recruitment campaign officially started on October 1 with e-mail to all members. Rocky briefed the board members on the results so far.

**2016 Leadership Conference**

Melanie briefed the board on her experience at the 2016 West Point Leadership Conference, which was held August 10-13. She noted that Rich DeMarco and Julie Schwetz are in charge of USMA image licensing and discussed the new logos and that the old “A” is being phased out. LTG Caslen also discussed his priorities, which were the semester abroad program (150 cadets/year), academic scholars, West Point Center for the Arts and Humanities, and the Center for Civil/Military Operations. LTG Caslen went on to describe the new Cyber Center and his number one priority to produce military leaders prepared to fight and win America’s wars.

Melanie compared our boodle program with other clubs, and WPPC—MD/DC/VA is by far the most generous. Deb Dalton requested all clubs to confine boodle to cadets only. Many clubs supplement their boodle with “special” gifts directed to their members only. Most clubs are member centric.

In addition, Melanie noted that West Point is well aware of the competition that DUSA presents to our afghan program, but little was said to guide us.

The conference also included a presentation by two TAC officers. They also stressed that there are no private/confidential conversations with TACs or NCOs because they represent the chain of command. They also recommended that when cadets go to a TAC’s home that they bring a small gift and write a thank you note!

Melanie also meet with Richard Huh, Vice President of Alumni Support, to clear our path to donate small amounts directly to cadets per DOD regulations ($25 or less) for the Exchange cadets and to approve our new Raffle Program. Both programs have been approved.

**West Point Society (WPS) Relations**

Rocky reported that he submitted parent club information in August for WPS of DC’s newsletter. He also attended their Board of Governors’ Meeting on September 28. Only item of note from the BoG Meeting for our club is that they are looking for a new venue for their Founders Day event beginning in 2018. New locations being considered are in Northern VA, downtown DC, and National Harbor in MD. This affects us, because we help with the pre-dinner reception for cadet candidates and their families. The club also helped the WPS of DC run their “Hooah Tent” for Army 10-Miler on October 9 (we provided food and beverages for West Point-affiliated runners).

On August 28, Cindy, Rocky and Melanie met with the members of the WPS of Annapolis at their annual summer luncheon and introduction of the seven new West Point exchange cadets. During the event, we presented the WPS of Annapolis with a $200 check to sponsor one of their dinners and presented each cadet with a $20 gift certificate to a local restaurant. On September 6, Melanie attended the WPS of Annapolis dinner to “affirm” the seven exchange cadets. Finally, on October 4, Cindy, Rocky, and Melanie joined the WPS of Annapolis for the dinner that that our club sponsored for the exchange cadets. The cadets’ meals were paid for by our club.

**New Member Mentoring Program**

Don and Margaret briefed the board on their efforts to revitalize the sponsorship program for families of incoming cadets. They hope to solicit Class of 2020 parents to help work with the Class of 2021 and to encourage the 2021 parents to serve as mentors for the 2022 class. More information will follow.

**Name Badges**

Don and Margaret reported that they looked at various vendors on providing less expensive name badges. So far, the quotes from other vendors were more expensive. They will continue to look.

**Tax Returns**

Rocky noted that the club’s tax return is due November 15, and that it will be prepared and submitted by the Treasurers.

**Membership**

Maggy reported that there are problems with the Comcast and AOL e-mail addresses in our distribution list. The list is hosted by west-point.org, and they problem is with their system. We can with the AOG to see if they have an e-mail/distribution list system.

In addition, Maggy noted that she is working on a letter to associate members about paying $25 dues for years missed. The letter should be done within a week. In the future, letters will be sent out annually on July 1.

**Joint Service Academies Ball (JSAB)**

Maggie reported that the JSAB registration website is now live, and that they have 18 guests signed up so far. The last day to register is December 18. The cost is $50 for cadets; $75 for other guests. The JSAB Committee’s goal is to have 250 to 300 people attend.

Volunteers are still needed to help.

The JSAB Committee has received $4,000 so far in sponsorships ($2,000 from the American Public University System, $1,000 from the Association of the US Army, and $1,000 from the Air Force Club).

Naval Academy Parents Club is providing minimal support to the event, and the JSAB Committee is counting on the other parent clubs to promote the event to ensure a good turnout.

Maggie distributed a flyer for the event and described the menu.

A coin has been requested from the West Point Superintendent to present to the keynote speaker (coins from other academies requested too).

Finally, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to provide five $20 gift cards ($100 total) to be used as cadet/mid dance contest prizes.

**Merchandise**

Michael reported that he has renewed the inventory over the past few months, but he will only replenish general merchandise as needed going forward. He will, however, do another graduation bag special next year, and will have a consignment order of branch jewelry at the Winter Social. In addition, it was agreed that we would provide merchandise as door prizes for Fall Social (after board meeting).

**Boodle Bash**

Although Cheri Dickey was not able to attend the meeting, she asked Cindy to tell everyone that she is looking at a Saturday date for the 2017 Boodle Bash (normally it is a Sunday). It would make it easier on the drivers (don’t have to take off work on Monday) and Deb Dalton thinks it might be easier to deal with security on a Sunday for delivery of the boodle.

**Social Events**

Alison reported that there are 65 people register for the Fall Social, which takes place immediately after the board meeting. Next social event is the Winter Social, which is usually in March.

**Cadet Candidate Meet & Greet**

Rocky noted that the venue for the Meet & Greet has been secured for June 10, 2017. It will be at the same location as the 2016 event (Grand Hall in Fairfax, VA).

**Afghans**

Nona reported that we sold afghans at Ring Weekend on August 26 (set up at 8:00 a.m., opened for business at 10:00 a.m., and closed at 4:00 p.m.). Afghans sales to date (531 total) are as follows:

* 271 pre-paid before Ring Weekend and distributed at Ring Weekend (about half as many pre-sales as last year).
* 173 sold at Ring Weekend and paid for by PayPal.
* 34 sold at Ring Weekend and paid for by cash or check.
* 53 online sales since Ring Weekend

**Election of Vice Presidents**

Rocky noted that, as 1st Vice President, Melanie automatically move up to club President in 2017 (as per bylaws).

The board unanimously voted to elect Don and Margaret Yamamoto as 1st Vice Presidents for 2017. They ran unopposed.

After a discussion of the candidates (Dave & Lillian Reichenthal; Donald & Irmgard Junta), a secret ballot was held for the 2nd Vice President position in 2017. Cindy, who was substituting for the Secretary, collected and counted the ballots. Dave & Lillian Reichenthal were elected as 2nd Vice Presidents for 2017.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.