

## **Congratulations Class of 2020 - With Vision We Lead**

Saturday, June 13, marked the end of the 47 months – err 48 months for them! -- journey for the Class of 2020. A heartfelt congratulations to the Class, their families, and loved ones. We look forward to seeing the family members at our Parents Club events as you pass along your wisdom and experiences. The entire ceremony is available to view on YouTube, courtesy of WPAOG streaming. The Plain was as remarkable as ever, with a beautiful blue sky and the iconic views from Trophy Point set to the backdrop of the Barracks. R Day for the Class of 2024 is only a few weeks off and the virtuous circle will begin. The 2nd Lieutenants have packed their gear, vacated the barracks and now the preparations begin to receive the Cadet Candidates and New Cadets begins. “The Army Goes Rolling Along.” The virtuous circle continues.

The Class of 2020 marked their A-Day on a hot and humid day in August 2016, having completed Beast, marching to their designated company spots by the bleachers on the Plain. The remaining 3,000 plus Cadets of the upper classes marched to the Plain, assembled by Company. On the designated command, the now Plebes – having risen from Cadet Candidate, to New Cadet, to Cadet – were ordered to join the Corps. As the ranks opened up, the Plebe Cadets joined their companies as full members of the Corps of Cadets. Steeped in tradition, Graduation week completes the other end of this virtuous circle. At the Graduation Parade, the 4,00 plus strong Corps exits the Sally Ports in parade and form up in ranks in Companies with the Cows leading the Companies and the Firsties in the ranks. On the designated command, the perfectly aligned Company square ranks open, and the Firsties depart from the Corps of Cadets in a moment steeped in tradition. The Firsties then march and return to their places at the front of the Corps as near as possible to where each stood on A-Day nearly four years before ready to be accepted into the Corps of Cadets. The Corps parades before the Firsties. “The Corps, The Corps, The Corps.” The virtuous circle continues.

While the 2020 Graduation Parade, R-Day, and A-Day will look different this 2020, the tradition remains. Nothing can take that away. With a hearty good luck and Godspeed, we wish the best for the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2024 as the virtuous circle continues.

## **Class of 2024 Welcome to the Family/Hail and Farewell/Grip Hands 1974**

We had a terrific turnout for the first Class of 2024 event on a beautiful May 30 morning. With 14 Cadet Candidates, 15 Cadets, Four Class of 1974 Representatives, one dozen Old Grads, families of Cadets, families of the Class of 2020, and the Boy Scouts trooping the colors, it was a fine launch for the Class of

2024. For many of the Cadet Candidates, it was an introduction to their fellow Colorado classmates that they will be spending many hours waiting in the airport and on airplanes over the coming years as they travel from West Point to Colorado. The opportunity to get advice from the Cadets and for the families to come together always seems to be a pleasure. Reflections from West Point Society Pikes Peak President, Colonel Mike Boatner (ret.) Class of 1974 Representatives Col. Bill Kenny (ret.) and Col. Steve Schambach (ret.) who read from his admissions essay written in 1969 were impactful to say the least. Our concluding remarks on the Bigger Picture Perspective of the "Calling to Serve" and the privilege of leading America's greatest assets – its people, were provided by 10th Group Special Forces Sergeant Major Garza. That an upside of the COVID-19 Pandemic was seeing so many current Cadets interacting with the Cadet Candidates was a silver lining.

## **WPPCCO Board Slate for 2020 - 2021**

We are still looking to fill open positions on the 20/21 Board. If you are interested or would like more information, please email Sandy Schlappe at [sandyschlappe@helpingyousucceed.net](mailto:sandyschlappe@helpingyousucceed.net) or Bill Placke at [bill@placke.net](mailto:bill@placke.net)

Many thanks to Theresa Bakken for taking on the CASAB liaison for West Point. Also thanks to Lucy Cassidy (Tom '22) and Saskia Placke (Caspar '22) for stepping up to the Events Coordinator Positions. Finally, thanks the indefatigable Sandy Paulton (Past President) for West Point Society of Pikes Peak Region (WPSPPR) Liaison.

Open Positions:

- President(s) Elect for 2021-2022
- Fundraising Coordinator
- 2024 Class Representative

## **Join the WPPCCO!**

We hope you will join our group! Click [HERE](#) to apply. Specific benefits include:

- Conduit of timely and valuable dates and information pertinent to your Cadet's class all four years from the Parent Liaison in the Public Affairs Office at USMA via WPPCCO.
- Ongoing support and advice from parents who have been through the West Point experience; firsthand, invaluable cadet and parent information.
- "Parent Source Book" - available to members and a valuable resource for their entire four year experience at West Point.
- Free Cadet admission to the Colorado All Service Academy Ball. A \$280 value.
- Information about tickets to the Army/Air Force football game held every other year in Colorado Springs.
- "Boodle" exchange parties, socials, service projects.
- Access to West Point graduates who can advise parents and cadets on options at West Point and after graduation in the U.S. Army.
- Club members "adopt" your cadet when we are visiting West Point (Acceptance weekend, football games) and you're not able to visit.
- Network opportunities and friendships with other members through graduation and beyond.
- Continuous support, activities, and socials after your cadet graduates.

## Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

### **Mother's Day Tea – Being Rescheduled**

The Mother's Day Tea has been postponed. We are hoping to reschedule in line with unfolding events.

### **Cadet Send-Off – Replaced by August Parents Club Reorgy**

Typically the first week of August we hold the Cadet Send-Off for the Upper Class Cadets. This year, given that all the cadets will be staying at their Rockbound Highland Home after summer training, we are hoping to hold a Parent Club Reorgy social event. Please stay tuned for more details.

[West Point Calendar](#)

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[WPPCCO Website](#)