**WPPC of MD, DC, VA Board Meeting**

Saturday, 13 May, 2017

Acting Secretary – L. Reichenthal

**Location:**

Murray’s

6309 Manchester Way

Alexandria, VA 22304

***Meeting call to order 12:35pm***

**Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting**

Nona Faber made the motion to approve the minutes.

Maggie Drummond seconded the motion.

**Next Board Meeting** – at the Dobson’s, on July 15th at 10:00

**Roll Call**

* Melanie Gness – President
* Don and Margaret Yamamoto – (1st Vice Presidents)
* Dave and Lil Reichenthal – (2nd Vice Presidents)
* Kari and Shawn Murray – (Treasurer)
* Kirk McLaren – (New Treasurer)
* Ty Phelps – (Membership)
* Joyce and Steve Rau – (Nats Game and future Service Projects)
* Michael Dobson – (Merchandise)
* Maggie Drummond and Micheala Currey - (JSAB)
* Rocky Mengle - (Raffle co-chair)
* Denise Pitts - (Meet and Greet)
* Nona Faber - (Afghan)
* Alison Arnold - (Social Coordinator)
* Magda Schrage and Dave Wilkinson - (R-Day)

**Merchandise –** Michael Dobson

Graduation bags now have the class logo but it didn’t come out as well (in black and white). Full color class stickers were printed and they were sent out to put over the logo on the bag – and it looks good. We may want to consider selling these stickers.

There are many missing packages from USPS mailings and it is causing a lot of extra work. Mike is using Priority mail with tracking numbers and is taking out insurance on the packages. He is spending quite a bit of time in finding what has happened with the packages and has also received some hate mail.

The group toasted Mike on his handling of the challenging situation with a disgruntled buyer that sent a very disparaging email. This buyer was upset since he didn’t receive the merchandise (bags) but the post office confirmed it was delivered and not their responsibility. The buyer did take a unilateral action to get his money back with the credit card company. As a club, we agreed to appease the buyer, since they didn’t receive the bags. Melanie Gness to call the buyer and to discuss the best way to resolve, including offering a refund, if appropriate.

The motion from Michaela to authorize to fully refund and seconded by Dave Wilkerson.

**Graduation**

The grad luncheon is sold out - 418 signed up. Maggy Reddy sent out letters and coins to the Class of 2017.

Melanie wrote a separate letter to the family of one of the cadets that passed away that would have graduated in 2017.

**Meet and Greet** – Denise Pitts

The registration for the “save the dates” were posted on many of the Facebook pages for the “Meet and Greet.” In previous years, 2 lists are received from the West Point Society of DC and Deb Dalton – this year we only received email addresses of the new cadets.

Dave and Lil Reichenthal sent out letters to about 80 cadet candidates with info about the “Meet and Greet” and more. Dave to get the password to get access to the site or spreadsheet to get this information and share this information with Denise.

Margaret to bring the flags for this event. Tables will be allocated for merchandising (4 tables), raffle, Nationals game, boodle, etc.

Access to the hall is at 1:00 and we have 2 hours to set up and 1 hour to clean up. Venue is the same as last year. Sign-up genius will be sent out to coordinate.

Discussed boodle box raffles – agreed to raffle 5 boxes again.

Football merchandise and tickets – a special request was made last year for 2 tickets for the football game. Rocky suggested to look at the form letter he used last year.

Deb Dalton is the headliner for the event. Will use the same program as last year. Need to find someone to give the opening prayer. Recommendation to get a recent grad to speak at this event. (Rocky’s son did last year)

Need 5- 10 cadets for this event and come in polo shirts and khaki pants (cadet casual). Consider getting current cadets that are in sports to meet up with the new cadets that are athletes.

Need the names of the cadets to support this event. Magda and Kari volunteered their sons, looking for female cadets also. Dave R. to send out an email to solicit more cadet volunteers. Note that the full email list can be retrieved from the emails. Anyone can send to the entire list if they are on the list - make sure that the email is sent as plain text.

**Dave R - Need to send an email to solicit cadets for the meet and greet to also recruit for the potluck.** **Melanie to send a draft of this email to Dave.**

Meet and Greet is open to everyone in the club but this event is for the new cadets.

West Point Society typically provides $500 and Rocky suggested to Melanie to request that money again.

Magda will take flags and material after this event to support R-Day.

**Presidents Report**

Discussed Founders Day in DC with the West Point Society and it was very successful. The 25 new cadet candidates did benefit with hearing from 2 generals and it was a first-class event.

General Keith Walker now leads the West Point Society and is committed to paying for all volunteer cadets in the future.

Richmond Parents Club has a picnic on May 20th. Rocky will represent there.

Northern Chesapeake will hold their picnic on June 17th. Looking for a rep from our club and answering questions about our bus program and membership. Denise Pitts will support the June 17th meeting.

Melanie is carefully posting all of the events in Facebook so they don’t post on top of each other

Social Media – Looking for help from 2020 parents for web hosting and maintenance. **Dave has the action to request help from the 2020 parents.**

**Webmasters**

There is a concern because we cannot get the website updated. Melanie to discuss with B. Schuman to decide on a path forward. **ACTION for Melanie.**

**1st Vice Presidents** - Don and Margaret Yamamoto

Insurance for the club was recently updated. There were a few issues that are now resolved.

Don and Margaret are now helping the West Point Society with their insurance.

**2nd Vice Presidents** – Lil and Dave Reichenthal

Discussed mailings for the new cadets (membership, meet and greet, raffle)

Identified dates for the Summer Socials –

* Virginia area – Dobsons – July 15th
* Maryland area – Blomquists – July 29th

**Treasurer** – Kari and Shawn Murray

All of the P&L is looking good. The bus typically get $2K to $4K in profit for each quarter and they are running on or above plan. Afghan had a successful year also. The Winter Social cost more than anticipated, but ok. The funding status is solid.

Kirk to take over at the start of the next FY beginning July 1. Shawn to file taxes before he leaves. Budget build for next year will also be completed before they leave to be approved at the next board meeting. There was a request to get all of the invoices in ASAP. Please submit so it can be reconciled by the end of the FY.

Dave and Lil did not receive their debit cards. They were told to contact Wells Fargo.

Dave recommended that an independent person act as an audit at the end of the year and the group discussed. The independent person could be anyone on the club, just not one of the treasurers.

**Membership** – Ty Phelps

Maggie mailed out 60 challenge coins and sent out the 2017 email addresses to the Grad Parents Society. Ty noted that the website update has not been completed. Overall, the current standing for 2021 membership is 17. After a good scrub of the total membership the total count is 536 plus associate members.

Associate Membership - Qualification of associate membership was if you were a member of another parent’s club. People get it to have access to the bus, for example. The benefit of the membership is to get the email and bus discount.

Question: Rocky asked what he should do when he goes to meet with Richmond, VA parents club. Agreed to keep it as it is, offer the associate membership.

Bounced emails are being removed from the listserv file after 2 bounces. For the 2017 parents, agreed with the draft for the Howitzer.

**Boulder Crest**

Amazing organization, request to de-conflict the volunteer effort from the Spring football. Not sure if the is possible but they will try.

**Nationals Game**

There are about 77 cadets in the area, and to date, we have a 43% response of cadets (24) that are going to the game. A second mailing went out to promote the game. There are problems with the website but they are working through it. This year, the tailgate is at the Bardo River brewery across from the stadium. Tickets will be distributed at the tailgate. June 24th is the date of the game. A sponsorship page is available if you want to sponsor the cadet.

**R-DAY**

Previewed the lanyard and button for R-Day. Suggestion to include these in the Merchandise for next year. The plan is to hand out plain black folders with the stickers and all of the flyers about the club activities, bus, etc.

For the people helping out on R-Day, you need to download an app to your phone. The names who are volunteering need to be activated in PayPal to support. Kari needs to add Melanie and Ty to PayPal.

Need brochures, membership flyers and stickers printed to support all of the upcoming events.

**JSEB**

Cadets are not released to 22 Dec 2017 so the date of the ball is 28 Dec 2017. This year West Point is hosting this event.

**Raffle**

So far, Rocky has sold 524 tickets and revenue is about $12K. The plan is to sell about 200 more and the drawing will be at the “Meet and Greet”. Very disappointed that the Club level seats were higher than expected. Online sales end June 4th.

**Action for Dave:** Request that In a few weeks, that he send out an email blast to the 2021 as a reminder and push the online sales for the raffle.

**Can the club take advantage of the $5K donation for the sporting events? Action to Melanie to follow-up and to see what we can do and follow-up at the next visit.**

**Graduate Program**

This is a support group for parents about the Army. The goal is to have a meeting 4x a year. The next event is Sunday, July 30th, is a catered luncheon at the Army/Navy Country Club and the speaker is the first female cadet captain at West Point. Fischer House foundation will be their new service project. Questions about how to do financial coordination between the grad club and the WPPC and Kari and Shawn made some recommendations on how to support.

**Hosting**

No events

**Transportation**

Bus sales has declined because of the Cows being able to drive. No other updates

**Afghans**

The 2018 Afghan came in. There was a suggestion to post a picture of the new 2018 afghan on the Facebook page. Our price includes shipping and we sell the bulk during ring weekend. Need 2018 parents on ring weekend, Friday, prior to the ceremony. It’s a fun day, you get prime seats for the ceremony. Lunch is provided if you help. Suggestion to deal with this per year and/or get a storage unit for the WPPC. Central storage unit could be considered. Consider Parents Weekend and Football Games.

2019 Class – Don, to move this forward

2020 Class – Dave, to move this forward

2021 Class – we should request a volunteer after the meet and greet

**Social Chair** – Alison Arnold

Donald Junta to take over as Social Chair for next year. Winter Social, 129 people, and cost much more than expected so we need to budget appropriately next year. The cost was raised $2 but did not adequately cover the events. The price doubled. Alison has the action to resolve.

**Army 10 Miler, Chaplain, Army/Navy weekend** – were briefly discussed by Melanie and there were no real updates.

**Action to Melanie:** Dave requested an update to the latest bi-laws to reflect what we are doing currently and to vote on a new set of bi-laws at the next board meeting. Rocky suggested to reach out to Woody to see what he has done with this and update accordingly.

**Mentorship Program:**

Dave made a suggestion to reach out to the new cadets by locality. The group discussed and Melanie asked Dave to talk to Don. Don and Margaret had to leave, since the meeting was running late.

Good and Welfare –

Congrats to Shamus for graduation!

***Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.***