

WPPC-IL Board of Director Candidate Biographies

Bill Ratzer

My wife, Sue, and I are the parents of 1LT Scott Ratzer, Class of 2014, and we have enjoyed our longstanding involvement with the West Point Parent's Club of Illinois. I am running for a second term as an at large member of the Board and my primary contribution will be to serve as a liaison with the Admissions Dept. at West Point. I have been an Admission's Field Force Volunteer for the past three years and that gives the club an inside track to work with the New Cadets and their families in our area prior to R Day and all the way through graduation. We have established a great outreach program for the new families and I look forward to continuing those efforts.

MaryAnn McGerty

My son Michael is finishing his second year at West Point (how did that happen?) I had just one visit to West Point and not a lot of exposure to the military over the years. When my son's decision came to attend West Point (the night before the deadline), I was a little surprised and unsure where to start. We relied on the community of WPPC of IL along with Deb Dalton, the class page, etc... to learn and grow into a WP family. It helped to have a gathering of cadets and families and a forum where we could learn from everyone else's questions and experiences. Each opportunity to get together – the welcome picnic, the beast letter writing session, the volunteer opportunities and football games, boodle packing session... have been valuable every time – to learn from those ahead of us and trade and piece together the bits we've gleaned from our cadets. Sometimes even my seemingly few little bits were learning points for someone else as we strive to understand our cadets' lives.

Background: lifelong Illinoisan, Oak Park, Trinity High School, U of I grad, worked for Dale Carnegie Training and now for Pfizer for many years. My main experience to contribute is as class mom, team mom, volunteer...

I like to contribute to the community in whatever way I can and that is why I'd be happy to be on the board of WPPC-IL because I'd like to help welcome and build that family as it grows.

Tammy McMiller

Tammy McMiller is founder and CEO of Plan Heal Health Companies, Inc. a health data platform that marries technology and social to empower people to become their own health advocate.

Before founding Plan Heal, Tammy held senior executive roles leading big-data, product development, and global market entry efforts for premier nonprofit and Fortune 500 companies in the Health, Telcom, Financial Services, and Travel & Tourism industries. She is also been an angel investor in startups that help improve the lives of people across the globe in the microfinance and agriculture verticals.

Tammy studied Biology/Pre-Pharmacy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Business Management and Information Systems from National Louis University, and a Masters Degree in Business and Law from Loyola University School of Law.

Jeff Carello

Former Executive Director and National Training Director for 12 years with Excel Communications. Semi-retired since 2005.

Spouse with 2 sons and a daughter

- Tammy Carello - married 28 years
- Travis Carello - 2015 Graduate of University of Alabama
- Trace Carello - Fourth Class Cadet (Doolie) at USAFA
- Talia Carello - Fourth Class Cadet (Plebe) at USMA

In 2012 we moved 300 miles from Mount Vernon (So. IL) to place our children into better and more challenging academic environments. Our youngest son (Trace) and daughter (Talia) graduated from Marmion Academy and Rosary High School respectively in 2016 and 2017.

I believe in the USMA mission and I look forward to helping future and current cadets as well as parents from the Chicago-land area with the support and resources of the WPPC of IL.

I feel my past experiences in the corporate and field environment will help me contribute in a positive way as a Board Member. Thank You for your consideration.

Danelle Sowatzke

My name is Danelle Sowatzke--wife of Kent & proud mama of Zachary (2019) and the other 4 younger monkeys in my home. I have an accounting background, but left the hustle bustle of the business world to stay at home with my kids to raise and home school them. What a big, beautiful blessing that has been! I have been involved with the WPPC-IL for the last couple of years, first as secretary and most recently as treasurer. It's been a wonderful experience to share in this extraordinary West Point journey with other parents and to help plan, organize, and partake in some of the many events that the club offers. I would love to continue on as a board member to orchestrate planned events & informal gatherings for parents & families both regionally and overall, to develop community fundraisers & outreaches, and to build lasting relationships with each other. I would be honored to serve on the board to represent you and your ideas.

Tammy Nigam

- Good listener with excellent organizing and time management skills; efficient record keeper who pays attention to details.

- Result oriented person who is well skilled in project, people and time management.
- Know how to interact with various personalities and work with them to build and maintain relationships in a professional manner.
- Well-travelled person who is comfortable with diversity, cultures, faiths and people from around the globe. Lived in South Asia as an expatriate for my company.
- Come from a strong Army background. Father served in the US Army. Mother was a Gold Star wife.
- Have an older son who is currently serving in the US Army and stationed at Fort Bliss.
- My Uncle, who served in the Vietnam War, went to the USMA after the war and taught there for 5 years. So I grew-up hearing and learning about the Academy for many years.
- My ever-lasting connection with USMA is that of my cousin, who I was very close to, is buried in the West Point Cemetery. I visit him every time I go there.

Bob Manfredini

Hello fellow WPPC-IL members. My name is Bob Manfredini and I am seeking a Board Member position. I am the proud father of USMA Cadet Paul Manfredini. Aside from our Yearling son Paul, my wife Monica and I have three daughters, Theresa, Audrey and Natalie and have been Libertyville residents for 25 years. I have been a supportive and active WPPC-IL member for the past two years, attending almost all of the Club's and USMA's key events. I have participated in the Club's summer and fall picnics, new member pizza socials, watch parties, sport club functions, the All Academy Ball and help run and host the annual Boodle Party. Additionally, I have made it a point to attend many of the events held through West Point, such as the Parent Weekends, Plebe Parent Weekend, R and A Day ceremonies, March Backs, Army Navy Games and other functions. Through being active in the Parents' Club and USMA's events, I have been

able to get to know many wonderful people and gained an in-depth knowledge of the Academy and Cadet life, and how the local Parents' Club can be a supportive bridge toward fostering a successful experience for the Cadets and their families. Whether, it's through active attendance, financial support or welcoming new comers, I humbly "get it" when it comes to being an effective Board member. After all, the WPPC-IL is what allows us to be one cohesive West Point family. The privilege that our Cadets have should not be taken lightly and they deserve the best support the Parents' Club can offer them and their families. Aside from my active support for the Club, I am uniquely qualified to serve on your Board given my solid leadership experience and business acumen. Through my successful career as a Commercial Finance professional, I have keen organizational, planning, communication and problem solving skills. In addition, I'm a firm believer in community involvement. I served as a board member for another notfor-profit organization, as a Leader and Committee member for the Boy Scouts of America, as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, as a classroom instructor for Junior Achievement and as a little league baseball coach. I pride myself on making a meaningful, value added impact and will do my best to uphold the excellent reputation of the West Point Parents' Club of Illinois. I respectfully seek your nomination and thank you for your support. Regards, Bob Manfredini

Joyce Egan

Joyce Egan has been married to her husband, Tom, for 22 years. She has been a stay at home mom for their two sons; Thomas, a Cow at the Point, and Russell, a senior in high school. Joyce is very involved in Irish cultural organizations and in the broader Irish community. She is actively committed to keeping and preserving the old traditions so they are passed down to and lived by other generations in her family. Joyce is a longtime supporter of the Chicago arts community. Joyce is a devout Catholic and a member at St. Barnabas Catholic Church. She and her family reside in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago.

Trisha Bottarini

I have been married to Jay for 25 wonderful years. We are the proud parents of 5 children. Jill is a Cow at WP, Joel is happily completing his Plebe year, Julie is a junior at Rosary High School, Jacob is in 8th grade, and Jobe is in 5th grade. I have been homeschooling our children for seventeen years. Prior to staying home to raise and educate our children, I worked in relocation. For the past year, I have been on the WP board. I have really enjoyed getting to know fellow WP parents. It is great to have other parents who understand the differences of a West Point education as compared to the “normal” college experience. Our family has really enjoyed our West Point journey. I hope I can continue to serve on the board and to help grow our club.