

## **WPPC-IL Board of Director Candidate Biographies**

### **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.

### **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.

### **Mike Castino**

I would like to be on the board to help serve other parents and family members who have and/or will have a son/daughter at WPMA. As a non military member and now military parent, I believe I can bring that perspective and empathize and connect with other non military parents.

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I currently am the Chairman of an investment fund trust and an employee of US Bank. My business skills and ability to work collaboratively in a board setting will allow me to make a positive impact for the club as a whole.

Thanks for the consideration.

### **Bob Manfredini**

My name is Bob Manfredini and I am seeking another term on your Board. I am the proud father of USMA Cow Cadet Paul Manfredini. Aside from Paul, my wife Monica and I have three daughters, Theresa, Audrey and Natalie and have been Libertyville residents for 26 years.

I have been a supportive and active WPPC-IL member for the past three 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 Day and A Day ceremonies, March Backs, Army Navy Games and other functions.

Over the past several years I have gained an in-depth knowledge of the Academy and Cadet life, and know how the local Parents' Club can be a supportive bridge toward fostering a successful experience for the Cadets and their families. My proven leadership and business acumen have afforded me with the necessary skills to be an effective board member. Further, I'm a firm believer in community service and held various other civic and not-for-profit volunteer roles.

I pride myself on making a meaningful, value added impact and will do my best to preserving the Club's excellent reputation. Thank you for your support.

### **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

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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.

### **Matt and Rani McKee**

Matt and Rani McKee live in Glen Ellyn and our parents of Calvin, a 2022 cadet. Matt owns a business/marketing consultancy in downtown Chicago, while Rani is the school secretary at Ben Franklin Elementary in Glen Ellyn. They first moved to the Chicago area in 1997, with Calvin being born on June 2, 2000. When Calvin was around 8 years old, he brought his dad an ad in a kid’s magazine for West Point, asking if he could send away for a brochure the Academy was offering. Since that time, Calvin was focused on West Point being his destination for college—even though neither Rani or Matt had any connection or knowledge of the school. Once Calvin was accepted, they quickly discovered the West Point parent community, especially the WPCC of Illinois, and got involved in helping out whenever and wherever necessary. They look forward to the next three years and all the adventures that they will bring—including beating Navy!

### **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.

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### **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.

### **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.