

# West Point Parents Club of Northern Illinois

WPPC-IL Meeting Minutes – Conference Call 5/27/15

**Attendance:** Kim Vander Yacht, Brian Vander Yacht, Karen Falk, Phil Falk, Bill Binkley, Bob Ocasio, Cathy McNally, Diane Spurgeon, Lelaine Paik, Marissa Yelenosky, Kristen Howard, Geriann Wiesbrook, and Nancy Shares.

**Call to Order:** President Kim Vander Yacht called the meeting to order via conference call at 8:05 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** No Report

**Treasurer's Report:** Janine Mogan sent out the financial report via email prior to the conference call.

**President's Report:** Kim Vander Yacht started by thanking those who have taken on a leadership role in the club this year. Cathy McNally has stepped in and taken on the role as Membership chair, Geriann Wiesbrook is the new chairperson for the Mentor program, and also Lelaine Paik and Nancy Shares for creating the new Plebe Parent handbook. Thank you to everyone else for volunteering their time this year within the club.

**Membership:** Kim Vander Yacht asked Cathy McNally if she had received any new memberships. Cathy McNally responded that she has received 5 so far and will be prepared with forms at the Welcome Picnic to be held on June 7th. The club is offering the opportunity to pay for the full 4 years up front for 2019 families or to pay for the remaining years for all other families. The form has this option listed. There are currently 40 (33 men/7women) new cadet candidates from Illinois; 6 will be arriving from USMAPS.

**Mentor Program:** Geriann Wiesbrook stated that there are currently 3 incoming cadets requesting to be paired with a mentor family. There are no mentor families signed up at this point. Geriann Wiesbrook shared that she would like the 2018 families to become more involved as mentors to the Class of 2019 so that they can stay closely connected for the next 3 years. Kim Vander Yacht stated that the "older" families also have a lot of knowledge to share and can also stay connected even beyond graduation. Diane Spurgeon suggested emails to the mentor families throughout this year to remind them to connect with their mentee family. Geriann Wiesbrook stated that she is hoping to connect families geographically.

**Welcome Picnic:** Kim Vander Yacht shared that the Welcome picnic is being held at the Oakbrook Recreational Center on June 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 PM. Kristen Howard has only received 5 rsvp's to date. Kim Vander Yacht suggested making phone calls to our new families. Several members stated that they would be willing to make phone calls. Kim Vander Yacht will divide the list and send out to those who volunteered.

Kim Vander Yacht asked all members to arrive at 4:30 PM to help with set up and greet new families as they arrive. Sandwiches from Costco will be served. Kim Vander Yacht will pick up Army themed cookies. All classes are assigned food or drink to contribute. Diane Spurgeon shared that she has a large cadet and welcome signs to set out for decorations but is unable to attend the picnic. Nancy Shares will pick up the items from Diane Spurgeon before the picnic.

**RDay:** Kim Vander Yacht asked if anyone was able to go out to West Point for RDay to represent a table for the West Point Parent's Club of IL. Geriann Wiesbrook offered to be a part of a team to host a table for the club. Bill Binkley stated that he might be able to go out also. Bill Binkley asked about the purchasing of a square card reader to enable families the option of using a credit card to pay for membership, fundraising items, and club activities such as the tailgate. Discussion began amongst the leadership team and a quick vote resulted in the decision to buy a square card reader for the club.

**Parent's Weekend 2015:** Parents Weekend will be held October 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> at West Point. Bill Binkley stated that he did not see the flyer for the tailgate on the club website. Brian Vander Yacht confirmed that it is on the website as well as the club's Facebook page. Bill Binkley asked Brian Vander Yacht to send the flyer out via email again. Copies of the flyer will be available for new families at the Welcome Picnic as well. Bill Binkley requested that all members ask for donations to raise money so that the club can invite all Illinois cadet's to take part in the tailgate at no charge to them. Bill Binkley plans to use part of a donation request form that Karen Falk created for the All Academy Ball.

**All Academy Ball:** Kim Vander Yacht thanked Phil & Karen Falk for all of the work they have done as AAB chairpersons as well as the donations they have secured thus far. Karen Falk stated that they are in the process of signing the contract with the Marriott Lincolnshire. The Ball will be held on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Karen and Phil Falk have already received a few donations, including one from Grainger. The Grainger donation will cover the cost of the cadets. Karen Falk stated the importance of all WPPC leadership members in seeking out monetary donations to help keep the cost down for attendees. All members can use the donation letter created by Karen Falk by simply contacting her to receive it. The donation letter targets cash donations. Phil Falk commented that the Chicago sports teams will donate items such as jerseys, balls, and tickets but will not give monetary donations.

**Adjournment:** Kim Vander Yacht adjourned the call at 9:26 PM and thanked everyone for participating.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Shares  
Secretary

