

West Point Parents Club of Northern Illinois

WPPC-IL Meeting Minutes – Conference Call 8/18/15

Attendance: Kim Vander Yacht, Brian Vander Yacht, Jane Wilhelm, Karen Falk, Phil Falk, Bob Ocasio, Kristen Howard, Nancy Shares and Bill Binkley.

Call to Order: President Kim Vander Yacht called the meeting to order via conference call at 7:06 PM.

Secretary's Report: Nancy Shares stated that the minutes were emailed out prior for review. Bob Ocasio noted that the name for the Admissions Representative under "Field Force Team" is incorrect. The correct name for the West Point Admissions Representative for the Great Lakes area is Capt. Wade Smith. Nancy Shares will make this correction to the 7/13/15 minutes. 1st motion to accept the minutes with the correction made: Bob Ocasio. 2nd motion to accept: Jane Wilhelm. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Jane Wilhelm stated that there are 3 reports to look at. The 1st report is the bank statement showing \$10,617.98 currently in the checking account. The 2nd report is the financial activity, which shows \$100 in petty cash returned to the checking account, membership deposits of \$1127, and one check written to Kim Vander Yacht for \$540 to reimburse her for last year's Howitzer Ad. There was also a returned check from the Oakbrook Park District for \$400, which was returned to because they had an issue with the signature. A new check was rewritten for \$425 and sent to the Oakbrook Park District that included a \$25 bank fee. The 3rd report is the proposed budget. This shows that membership is down by \$1000. Jane Wilhelm asked about ways to make up for that number on the budget. There will be some savings with the flags and boxes for the Firsties this year because the class is smaller than last year. Discussion was made about increasing membership by reaching out to IL families who are not current members. Kristen Howard agreed to setting up a PayPal account that will allow families an easier way to join and pay for membership. Class Representatives will be sending out an email to all Illinois families who are not current members that will encourage them to join the club. Bob Ocasio made a motion for Kristen Howard to set up a PayPal account; Jane Wilhelm gave the 2nd motion. All were in favor.

Membership: No Report. There is a discrepancy in the numbers last noted for the membership. This will be figured out and an accurate count will be reported at a later date.

Mentor Program: No Report.

Field Force Team: Bob Ocasio stated that he attended the STEM workshop where he met the new representative for the Great Lakes Area, Capt. Wade Smith. There

will be more to report after Bob Ocasio attends the Field Force team meeting next month.

Alumni Group: No report.

Plebe Letter Writing Party: Kristen Howard stated that the letter writing party was a success. There were an equal amount of plebe parents and parents of upper classmen who attended. Many items were shared to write and decorate letters to send to the plebes. Letters went out to all Illinois new cadets as well as a few international cadets who had not received many letters during BEAST.

Leadership Conference: Kristen Howard attended the leadership conference with Geriann Wiesbrook and stated that it was a great experience. They attended several tours on post that included one to the survival swimming pool facility. There were opportunities for the parent's club representatives to share fundraising ideas. Many parent's clubs donate a percentage of their fundraising back to West Point. Kristen Howard asked if we would ever want to consider doing the same. All agreed it was something to think about. One fundraising idea that Kristen Howard suggested was to order cigars with a personalized/engraved box. This would be great to give for the Christmas dinner. Kristen Howard also stated that other clubs often host informal get togethers at a member's home as a way to get to know each other better and build friendships. Kim Vander Yacht mentioned that Terri Wareham is planning to host a cocktail party at her home on September 25th, 2015 with an email invitation to go out soon. Kristen Howard shared that West Point will soon be replacing the cadet guards with armed guards after the recent shooting at a recruiting center in Tennessee. The leadership conference was a great way to network with other clubs around the country. Kim Vander Yacht thanked Kristen Howard and Geriann Wiesbrook for attending

Upcoming Events:

All Academy Ball (AAB): Phil and Karen Falk shared concerns about the lack of help there has been in fundraising for this event. It would greatly reduce the cost of the event for the club and attendees if there were a push to get donations. One specific area is for table centerpieces. Karen Falk asked club members to reach out to local florists to ask for a donation of at least one table centerpiece. To date, there are 14 floral donations. Karen Falk shared that she and Phil Falk made a proposal to sell ornaments at the AAB but the Navy representatives do not support this fundraiser stating that the annual wine glasses are a good souvenir from the event. Grainger is donating \$7500 to cover the attendance cost of the cadets & midshipmen. There is \$4000 more in donations coming in from Allstate and USAA. Karen Falk also stated that they are going to request a \$500 donation from each club to offset the cocktail hour.

Army Women's Soccer: The women's soccer team will play in Chicago against DePaul on 9/4 at 3 PM and Loyola on Sunday 9/6 at 1:00 PM. Kim Vander Yacht shared her hopes in putting a tailgate together for the games. The West Point Society of Chicago is also interested in helping with a tailgate.

Parent's Weekend 2015: Bill Binkley stated that there are currently 50 tickets purchased for the game as well as 15 parking passes. The catering company offers a package that is similar to last year's and will cost around \$35 per person. It is still important to seek out more donations or ask for companies to match a donation. Donations will be used for the cost of cadets of current club members. Bill Binkley suggested sending an email out to non-club members to invite them to join us for the tailgate. Their cost would also be \$35 and they would pay \$25 for their cadet.

Fall Picnic: Kim Vander Yacht stated that the Fall Picnic will be held on 9/20/15 from 5-7 PM at Clarkson Park in Northfield, IL. An appetizer, sides, and drink donation request will go out to the club soon.

Army/Air Force Watch Party: Kim Vander Yacht shared that the watch party has been confirmed for 11/7/15 at Toby Keith's in Rosemont. Time of the game is still to be determined. Toby Keith's will open 30 minutes early for our group in the event the game time is early. However, if the game were earlier than 10:30 AM, we would have to consider another venue. There is a \$25 rental fee with a guarantee of \$750 purchased in food & beverage. Kim Vander Yacht will extend an invite to the West Point Society of Chicago.

Army/Navy Watch Party: Kim Vander Yacht will get more information out soon regarding this event. Phil Falk suggested that there be a watch party at the 4th floor of the Union League Club and all pay their own bill at the end of the game.

Adjournment: Brian Vander Yacht asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM. Bob Ocasio gave the first motion to accept, Nancy Shares gave the second. All were in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Shares
Secretary