

**WEST POINT SOCIETY OF ATLANTA  
PO BOX 492511, ATLANTA, GA 30349-2511  
VOICEMAIL: 404-881-8081  
<http://www.west-point.org/society/wps-atlanta/>**

**UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!**

- 27 Jul 00:** WPSA Happy Hour, 1830-1930, John Harvard's Brew Pub in Buckhead.
- 19 Aug 00:** Family Picnic, The Basnett's house on Lake Allatoona. (Flyer enclosed; RSVP by 14 Aug.)
- 31 Aug 00:** WPSA Happy Hour, 1830-1930, John Harvard's Brew Pub in Buckhead.
- 21 Sep 00:** WPSA Monthly Luncheon, 1130, Petite Auberge Restaurant\*, Cost: \$13/per person.  
RSVP by 18 Sep 00.
- 23 Sep 00:** Evening event at Altobeli's Restaurant and Piano Bar. (Flyer enclosed; RSVP by 18 Sep.)
- 28 Sep 00:** WPSA Happy Hour, 1830-1930, John Harvard's Brew Pub in Buckhead.
- 19 Oct 00:** WPSA Monthly Luncheon, 1130, Petite Auberge Restaurant, Cost: \$13/per person.  
RSVP by 16 Oct 00.
- 26 Oct 00:** WPSA Happy Hour, 1830-1930, John Harvard's Brew Pub in Buckhead.
- 16 Nov 00:** WPSA Monthly Luncheon, 1130, Petite Auberge Restaurant, Cost: \$13/per person.  
RSVP by 13 Nov 00.
- 30 Nov 00:** GPTV Army/Navy Fundraiser.
- 30 Nov 00:** WPSA Happy Hour, 1830-1930, John Harvard's Brew Pub in Buckhead.
- 2 Dec 00:** Army/Navy Game Party.
- 10 Dec 00:** VORCI Christmas Party.
- 22 Dec 00:** All Service Ball.

\* Directions to Petite Auberge Restaurant: Go I-85N; take Exit 31 (North Druid Hills Road); go approximately 2 miles; cross LaVista Road; restaurant is on right in Toco Hills Center near CVS Pharmacy.

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .**

As your new President I seek to maintain the high level of participation of a most active membership. Thanks to Jim Eberle's leadership the West Point Society of Atlanta has added another 'Distinguished Society' streamer to our flagstaff. This is the fifth consecutive year the Association of Graduates has awarded the streamer to the WPSA.

Irv Schoenberg '48, Wally Ward '58, David Brice '72 and Karson Snyder '85 are new members of our Board of Governors. They join Dan Baker '73, President-Elect; Ali Gelineau '81, Vice-President; Jay Haney '69, Secretary; Brad Reid '83, Treasurer; Ron Adams '68; Tony Gaines '90; George Waters '53 and Paul Trotti '73. Seek out any of us to share an idea, voice a concern or VOLUNTEER!

At our annual planning meeting on Saturday, June 10, the Board of Governors and others discussed what we as a Society would like to accomplish in the coming year. Look at the calendar, visit our web page and become more involved in your West Point Society of Atlanta. **Dominick Crea '70**

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**DON'T MISS THE FAMILY PICNIC AT THE LAKE—19 AUGUST!!!**

Don't miss out on the family picnic at the Basnett's. There will be lots of activities for kids of all ages and terrific food, too! The enclosed flyer provides more information and detailed directions. This is a great way to bring WPSA families together and have a great time in the sun and water, complete with a barbeque feast, before school starts up! RSVP by 14 Aug 00. **Bill Basnett '86**

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**BEAT NAVY!!! LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!**

The WPSA PAO will be coordinating this year's "BEAT NAVY!" video entry(ies) to USMA. All those who want to take part in making the video or who have ideas should contact Karson Snyder '85 at [snyderk@west-point.org](mailto:snyderk@west-point.org) or by phone at 770-716-6095. Submission will be made to the USMA PAO NLT 31 Oct. **Karson Snyder '85**

## JUNE MONTHLY LUNCHEON—BG (RET) MICHAEL J L GREENE '41

Where were you on 16 Jan 1945? Were you comfortable and warm? Our speaker at the luncheon on 15 June was not. BG (Ret) Michael J L Greene ('41) wasn't, to say the very least. GEN Greene was commanding Task Force Greene, a team of soldiers from the Cav Sqdn in the 11th Armored Division selected to dash through the remnants of German forces in the Bulge and meet elements of First Army. GEN Greene gave a very entertaining talk that had all of us sitting on the edge of our chairs; starting with two anecdotes from his cadet days that wove into the reality of the war. Then MAJ Greene was the Sqdn XO, and received the honor because the CO wasn't available. A group of nearly 75 heard GEN Greene tell us of his adventures that historic night. The group was split about 60/40 between WPSA members and guests from Third U.S. Army, including the Chief of Staff, MG Warren Edwards. We, unfortunately, had to turn away some folks. Couldn't handle all the walk-ins. But I digress - GEN Greene confirmed what the weather records tell us - it was one of the coldest winters in recorded European history. The cold, ice and snow were a greater impediment to progress than the Wehrmacht. His task force started at dusk (EENT for the Rangers among us - maybe not, but it sounds more elegant), slipping and sliding down a Belgian road headed toward Houffalize. (If you were there, you'd know how to correctly pronounce it.) GEN Greene selected LT Ellenson to lead the charge through a painstaking evaluation of all the junior leaders available. (Actually, Ellenson, who was well over 6 ft tall, mouthed off about the "Crazy Major" leading the TF while unbeknownst to him, said crazy major was falling on the ice to his immediate rear. MAJ Greene, who is a survivor of a 1941 runt company figured Ellenson would make an excellent point man, by virtue of his demonstrated audacity and elan.) The trees in the Ardennes are situated about double arm interval apart and the terrain is closer to vertical than horizontal. The TF was forced to either follow roads or firebreaks, hence forced to pass through towns, rather than go around them. The first town encountered was of unknown status as far as the Germans were concerned. He elected to send the vehicles through one at a time to find out if they drew fire. All vehicles got through without drawing a shot. At this point MAJ Greene elected to follow a trail through the forest. All was uneventful 'til they reached a hill glazed with ice. The wheeled armored cars could not get up them. The solution was to send up the tanks and tow, pull, drag, and cajole the wheeled vehicles up. (Must have been a noisy operation, guaranteed in the bitter cold air to alert the high command in Berlin) It was tough keeping the troops awake. They (the 11th AD) had landed in Cherbourg not too many days previous, and force marched across France to be committed to their first combat in the counterattack south of Bastogne to reduce the Bulge. A combination of fatigue and cold made alertness a rare commodity. The junior officers and NCO's major task was keeping folks awake in the backs of the trucks. Finally, TF Greene, in the persons of MAJ Greene, LT Ellenson and a few other troops arrived at about dawn to an opening in the forest that gave them a view across a small valley of the town of Houffalize. On the slope leading up to the town was at least one position occupied by soldiers - nationality unknown in the early morning haze and dim light. MAJ Greene and his tall associate began walking toward the position, obviously blissfully assuming that it was American. Their illusions were shattered, when a soldier stood up and shouted "Kommen sie aus von dem Gebusch mit Hande hoch!" or words to that effect. Couple that string of non-English w/ the observation of either a Mauser or MG 42, and they knew they were in the 1945 European equivalent of "Deep Doo Doo." At this point, in the confusion of war, I don't remember exactly the sequence of events - but MAJ Greene managed to yell, shout hand and arm signal to a SGT in an armored car to spray the area w/ Cal. .50 rounds; which the SGT did, giving MAJ Greene and his cohorts time to scurry to safety. (Not even a cold German argues w/ a spray of Cal. .50 rounds landing at close quarters.) In the ensuing fire fight, MAJ Greene was soundly decked by some GI. When they recovered enough to be civil, he was shown a series of holes approximately 7 mm in diameter running up his trouser leg, but fortunately not up HIS leg. At that point he elected not to process the 1945 equivalent of an Article 15 against the soldier for assaulting a commissioned officer. Meanwhile, REAL Americans were noticed approaching Houffalize from the left flank. The town got shot up, the Germans chased out, and the Third and First Armies shook hands. Rather anticlimactic, the way GEN Greene described it - but it wasn't an A-Bomb being detonated. That same day, TF Greene was replaced by other forces and all of the 11th AD was turned south east in Third Army's push toward the Czech border.

GEN Greene did not last out the war - he was wounded and med-evaced a short time later, to eventually return to occupation duties w/ his unit after VE Day. Whatever happened to LT Ellenson and the SGT w/ the Cal. .50, you ask. Good question. GEN Greene did not answer that question, so I asked him on the way to the airport. Both survived the war, not much the worse for the wear. Ellenson mustered out when the war was over, and eventually became head coach at Florida State University; he has since died. The SGT (can't remember his name) received a battlefield commission before the end of the war and retired years later as a lieutenant colonel. He made at least two trips to Houffalize with GEN Greene to commemorate the historic meeting. **Don Reinhard '59**

# CAREER TRANSITION NETWORK

The Career Transition Network is a volunteer organization sponsored by the West point Society of Atlanta. Its purpose is to assist its members in their career transition, job search, and business pursuits. It has been in existence since the early 1990's.

Membership is open to all current and former military officers, regardless of service or source of commission. Currently, we have 132 active members.

The network maintains a roster of people seeking new jobs and the network "alumni." Our alumni are available to assist job seekers in several ways: reviewing resumes, providing informational interviews, providing career direction, and announcing job leads.

The network operates an email service. On a weekly basis a message goes out to all members listing job leads or other useful information.

To join, please send an email message to Rich St. Denis '70 at [RichStDenis@compuserve.com](mailto:RichStDenis@compuserve.com).

To maintain membership, please provide job leads, business leads, and other information of value to our members.  
**Rich St. Denis '70**

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## WPSA HAPPY HOUR -- BUSINESS NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

Don't miss out on a monthly business networking opportunity! This WPSA Happy Hour takes place on the last Thursday of every month at **John Harvard's Brew Pub** in Buckhead, 3041 Peachtree Road, NE (Internet Map), 404-816-2739. If you have any questions, please call Tony Gaines '90 at 770-625-6513. The next one will be 27 July—don't miss it! The schedule through November is posted at the beginning of this newsletter—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!  
**Tony Gaines '90**

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**Note from the Executive Director:** Each of you received an *individualized invoice/data sheet* in this mailing. It will provide your dues status and give you an opportunity to update the information that will be included in the next directory, which will be published this fall. Directories will only be published for current dues-paying members. To ensure the directory is as accurate and complete as possible, please review, make any necessary corrections/additions, and return to me promptly. If you have any questions, you can leave messages on the WPSA voicemail (404-881-8081); call me at 404-464-2500 or e-mail me at [heathjd@forscom.army.mil](mailto:heathjd@forscom.army.mil).

Special thanks to Barbara Green (Lew Green '65) for setting up the special evening event on 23 Sep at Altobeli's Italian Restaurant and Piano Bar—sounds like a great place! (This was originally scheduled for May.) See the enclosed flyer and RSVP by 18 Sep 00.

If you change your e-mail address, please let us know so we can update our files and keep you current.

We have a very active society—just look at the list of upcoming events! But, in order to sponsor all of these events and support community outreach activities, it is important that WPSA members pay their annual dues. If you haven't paid your CY '00 dues, you may make your check payable to WPSA for \$35 and mail to WPSA (address at top of front page).  
**Jan Heath, Executive Director**

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**For more information about what is going on in WPSA, visit our website at:**

<http://www.west-point.org/society/wps-atlanta/>

Thanks to Warren Hearnese '89 for doing such a great job keeping it updated!