



GO ARMY, BEAT NAVY!

# WPSMI Newsletter

November 2017

## Message from the President

by Tom Lynch '82

Rabble,

I hope everyone is having a great fall and enjoying watching a winning Army football team!

It certainly has been exciting watching the success of the Army football team in its best season since 1996! Undeclared at home and qualifying for the Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, TX on 23 December are great accomplishments but the ultimate goal is beating Navy and winning the Commander in Chief's trophy on 9 December in Philadelphia! For those of you not going to the game, see the info in this issue about our annual A-N viewing party. We are also planning a Bowl viewing party. Look for details in an email soon.

Once again, your Society was selected a Distinguished Society by the AOG at the Annual Leaders Conference in August. A special thank you for your

continued support of the West Point Society of Michigan!

Thanks to all those that supported our LEADS Conference in October. Doug McDowell and Jim Suhay led a team of graduates and cadets. See the update in our newsletter.

The class of 2018 received their branch selections on 5 November. All 35 of our class of 2021 cadets from Michigan successfully completed new cadet basic training and have quickly assimilated into the academic year. Candidates for the class of 2022 are busy finishing files and interviewing for Congressional nominations. Thanks to all those grads and friends that assist with our Field Force.

**The last Society luncheon will be held on 6 December at the Birmingham Athletic Club. Come**

join us for a special presentation by Adam Weiner, a USNA graduate class of 2001 and a Navy Seal. Contact Temple at [wtcumisky@yahoo.com](mailto:wtcumisky@yahoo.com) to register w/ meal choice(chicken, salad, veggie pasta - \$25 and pay at the door).

We have had some great speakers at our luncheons. If anyone knows someone that should address our group, please let me know.

Last chance to pay your 2017 annual dues. You can go to our website at [www.wpsmi.org](http://www.wpsmi.org) if you have not done so yet. Thanks for your continued financial support.

Finally, I would encourage you to consider serving on our board or helping with one of our committees. Not only is it an expanded opportunity to support the West Point Society of Michigan, but it is a great opportunity to network and develop closer friendships to fellow grads. Please contact me with your interest.

Sing second again!!!! Tom

## Fort Wayne Parrott Rifles

By Jim Suhay '66

In late 2015, the West Point Society of Michigan provided funds to the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition to restore and mount two Parrott Rifles at Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne. The rifles and the fort are local touchstones to the Academy. The rifled cannon were designed by Robert Parrott, USMA 1826; inspected by Alfred Mordecai, USMA 1861 and Richard Mason Hill, USMA 1861; and cast at the West Point Foundry across the Hudson River in Cold Spring, NY. The fort itself was located, designed,

constructed, garrisoned, and commanded by West Point graduates and many of their sons who lived at the fort and attended the Academy. The restored Parrot Rifles were mounted in May 2017. The Society funds were the seed money for a more expansive Artillery Plaza. Also installed is a cannon from the Vizcaya, a Spanish cruiser sunk by the U.S. at the battle of Santiago Bay de Cuba in 1898; a sister cannon is on Trophy Point at West Point. Two 3" Ordnance Rifles are planned for the Plaza as "bookends" to the existing cannon. Signage will be installed describing each piece and the role played by the Society in creating this popular public venue. A formal dedication of the plaza is tentatively scheduled for late spring/early summer 2018.



Parrot Rifles before Restoration



Parrot Rifles Restored and Mounted

"I'm often asked, given the threats to our democracy, whether I'm optimistic about our country's future. The answer is, absolutely I'm optimistic. Because I have looked into the faces of our future leaders – men and women who will promote our democratic values and our way of life through their actions and their example. Men and women who will live by the words Duty, Honor, Country." Former President George W. Bush, Thayer award speech, 19 October 2017.



## George W. Bush 2017 Thayer Award Recipient

Former President George W. Bush received the Sylvanus Thayer Award on October 19, 2017.



# West Point Leadership, Ethics, and Diversity in STEM Conference 2017

By Jim Suhay, '66

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Leadership Ethics and Diversity in STEM (LEADS) Workshop, sponsored by the West Point Society of Michigan, was held October 6, 2017 at Marygrove College in Detroit. It was a huge success. It was attended by over 350 people, including about 270 Detroit Area middle and high school students who participated in Leadership Ethics and STEM classes. Cadets from West Point and ROTC cadets from Eastern Michigan, Michigan State, Wayne State and U of Michigan provided the student instructors and mentors. Faculty from Michigan State and staff from the U.S. Corps of Engineers Detroit Office provided instructors for Chemistry and Bridge-building STEM classes.

West Point Commandant BG Steve Gilland '90 was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included:

- Tim Walton, former Detroit Lion and Detroit NFL Alumni President
- Alycia Meriweather, Deputy Superintendent Detroit Public Schools Community District
- Joe Anderson '65, 2016 AOG Distinguished Graduate

- LTC Dennis Sugrue '99, Commander US Corps of Engineers Detroit District
- US MI 14<sup>th</sup> District Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, and
- Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Captain Simone Askew, the first African American woman to lead the West Point Corps of Cadets

- LEADS chair Doug McDowell '86 thanks all the volunteers, including many new this year, and the numerous donors who made this event successful. A special thanks goes to Pat Locke '80, the LEADS volunteer national coordinator and Detroit native, who helps pull LEADS workshops together across the country.



West Point Commandant, BG Gilland



Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Captain Simone Askew



Detroit JROTC Cadets at LEADS

## Membership Dues 2018

Membership dues enable our Michigan West Point Society to support West Point as well as local area initiatives including our annual LEADS conference. Your \$25 donation is tax deductible.

You can contribute on-line at <https://secure.west-point.org/wpsmi/membership/>.

Or, if you prefer, you can send your check to our Treasurer:  
Temple Cumiskey  
4598 Island Park Drive

Help keep our West Point Society successful!

## 2017-2018 Calendar Information

<http://www.west-point.org/society/wps-michigan/westpoint.htm>

## Member Spotlight - Colonel Lloyd L. Sutton

by WPSMI



Colonel Lloyd L. Sutton graduated from West Point in 1973. He holds a Masters Degree in Business Management from the University of Southern California and a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

Lloyd has earned the Army Parachute badge and wears the U.S. Army Ranger tab. As a helicopter pilot, he has earned the highest military pilot's rating, a Master Aviator. In the civilian world, Lloyd enjoys a private and commercial instrument rotary and fixed wing airplane rating. He has also made many trips out West to Arizona and Nevada to enjoy soaring in glider planes. The Grobe 103 aerobatic competition glider is his favorite.

Lloyd has served 30 years in the U.S. Army and the Michigan Army National Guard. He has been a successful commander in every command positions from Company to Brigade level. He has served as an Attack Helicopter Company commander, an Attack Helicopter Battalion commander, and a Brigade

commander. As a Battalion commander, Lloyd was responsible for 400 soldiers, officers, and pilots. This command had twenty-six AH-1F Cobra Gunship Attack Helicopters. As a Brigade Commander, Colonel Sutton had command responsibility and operational control for over 3,000 soldiers, six Battalions, thirty Companies, Fifty-two Helicopters, over 2,000 combat vehicles, and nineteen armories.

In Lloyd's civilian career, he was a Sales, Software, and Services Executive with the IBM Corporation. His clients were among the nation's largest corporations, including Chrysler and General Motors. Also, when Lloyd was with the IBM Federal Division, his client was the U.S. Army. Lloyd is retired and volunteers for the West Point Society of Michigan, West Point Association of Graduates, the 102nd United States Colored Infantry Regiment Historical Society, and a variety of aviation associations.

Lloyd and his wife, Beverly, have been married for 44 years. Beverly is a graduate of Ohio State University. They have two married children, their son also named Lloyd, and their daughter Julia. Their son, Lloyd is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and has obtained a Master's Degree and currently teaches Junior High School science in Washington DC. His daughter, Julia is a graduate of the University of Michigan and is a Bio-Medical Illustrator living in Boston, MA. Lloyd and Beverly are very proud of their first new grandchild, Lydia. Lloyd claims that Lydia, now 15 months old, has his wife's and

daughter's brains and beauty, and his flying skills. She has multiple "bouncy toys" which she navigates and maneuvers with incredible accuracy. She will undoubtedly fly the next generation Apache Helicopter Gunship. Lloyd and Beverly are current residents of the City of Southfield, MI.

## Save the Date

Founders Day 2018 will be held on 17 March 2018 at the Pontiac Marriott.



## Admissions Poop

A great, new interactive map of West Point. A great way for candidates to see the area!

<http://westpointadmissions.com/map.php>

