



West Point Society of New England  
2nd Quarter 2016  
Newsletter

**2016 Society Board of Governors**

Dale Kurtz '73 President  
Ed Collazzo '83 Vice President  
Don Webber '80 Secretary  
Tom Smith '71 Treasurer  
Raoul Alcala '62  
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Wayne White '78

Dena Caradimitropoulo '81  
Chris Putko '83  
Pete Perez '85  
John Duhamel '88  
Iris Sobchak '92  
Casey Phoenix '96  
Jason Halligan '05

Daniel Wells '05

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Graduates and Friends of West Point,

As I started to write this column and put the newsletter together I thought, there hasn't been too much going on for WPSNE. Once again, I was surprised at what has been and will be happening for our Society.

We received a very nice thank you from Pam Slingsby, USMA '83 and the Women's Lacrosse team for our sponsorship of a post-game tailgate at the Army/BU game in April. The inaugural Division 1 season for the team was a good developmental year and we look forward to continued growth and success of the Women's Lacrosse team.

The Parent's club recognized Wayne White for his service as the WPPC-MA liaison and welcomed Iris Sobchak as the new liaison for the Club. Having been in that role in the past, I know how important it is and how much it is appreciated by the Parent's Club.

I encourage you to read about the Leadership Awards we presented, our inaugural Leadership and Ethics program and the new procedure for visiting West Point which are in this newsletter.

I want to focus on the upcoming events we have planned for the summer.

In order of occurrence:

WPSNE Day at Fenway Park to see the Red Sox take on the Tampa Bay Rays on July 10. Tickets are \$36 and we have a few left. Come out and join us in cheering on the Sox.

The All Academy Golf Challenge, The Ken Kronlund Classic to benefit Patriot Resilient Leader Institute at Stow Acres on July 22. (Details attached.)

The WPSNE Summer Picnic at the Patton Homestead on July 23. (Details attached.)

The Service Academy Grad Mixer at the Market Restaurant on July 27.

Details for each of these events may be found later in the newsletter. Join us for all or some of these activities. Each one offers an opportunity to connect with fellow alumni and have some fun. Bring your family and friends to the picnic, the ball game, the golf outing.

A very important activity underway is the review and redesign of our website and other social media. Dena Caradimitropoulo has taken the lead on this project and is off to a great start. We want to focus on our website first and then move towards other media.

If you have comments or more importantly if you have the skills to assist Dena and the Society in the redesign and build of the site, please contact Dena or myself.

I along with Tom Smith and Wayne White will be attending the AOG Leaders' Conference in August. This will be the first Leader's conference for me that Bob McClure, USMA '76 will not be presiding as President and CEO of the West Point AOG. Bob has been a great leader for our Association of Graduates and has led the organization through the conversion of our governance. I wish Bob well in his future endeavors. At the same time, I welcome Todd Brown, USMA '85 as our new President and CEO. I have known Todd for many years and look forward to working with him in his new role.

If you have any questions you want addressed at the conference, please send them to me, Tom, or Wayne. If you have any issue you want to have addressed, please send that to me as I will be leading a couple of discussion groups with other leaders.

I wish you all a very happy and safe Independence Day. It seems that each time I write a newsletter column, something is happening in the world to raise my attention about our service men and women who are standing guard to keep us safe and free. Keep them all in your thoughts and prayers. We are members of a very select group (72,000 strong since 1802). We, better than most of our citizenry, understand the sacrifice of standing guard. I also ask that you be vigilant and report anything that just isn't right. Together we can maintain our safety.

Dale

USMA '73

## Leadership Awards

### SYLVANUS THAYER LEADERSHIP AWARD – BRAINTREE HIGH SCHOOL

We are pleased to announce the selection of Emma Rutan as the recipient of this year's Sylvanus Thayer Leadership Award. It was a difficult decision, as it is every year, as BHS continues to nominate very impressive candidates. Of particular note was the fact that two of the candidates have made a significant impact on their peers, the faculty, and the administration after having been in the school for only two years for one candidate and only one year for another candidate. That point is truly remarkable and was not lost on the interview panel. We thank Al Barese, USMA '79 and his committee for their fine work.

### PATTON FAMILY LEADERSHIP AWARD – HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

We are pleased to announce the 2016 Patton Family Leadership Award winner is John Gourdeau. John was selected from a group of 5 outstanding candidates. The candidates were all highly qualified and the deliberation to select the awardee was very difficult. Mrs. Joanne Patton joined Tom Smith, USMA '71 at the award presentation. We thank Tom Smith and his committee for their fine work.

## West Point Society of New England

### Leadership and Ethics Program

The West Point Society of New England conducted its inaugural Leadership and Ethics Program June 13-16 in collaboration with Massachusetts Boys & Girls State (BGS). Collaborating with BGS brought logistical excellence and simplicity to instituting and conducting this highly effective program. More importantly, the WPSNE leadership and ethics program enriched the BGS experience. The program kick-off centered on a video discussion between Marshall Carter, USMA '62 and Bill Murdy, USMA '64 on the subject of ethical leadership. Jason Halligan, USMA '05 and Dan Wells, USMA '05 designed this highly effective and inspiring course of study, recruited graduates who currently attend Harvard and MIT in preparation to be instructors at USMA, and inspired the 110 attendees who participated in the course and its case studies. The program was approximately ½ day in length, and discussions have begun for extending the length of the program next year. We are excited about future collaboration with BGS and look to build upon the success of 2016's program. Presented by Peter Perez, USMA '85.

## Web Site Redesign

Dena Caradimitropoulo, USMA '81 has taken charge of a project to assess our Society's web site. If you have comments or suggestions on what our web site should look like and its functionality, please contact Dena or Dale Kurtz. If you have web site design and programming in your tool box and can work on this for our Society, please contact Dena. Communicating with you, our members, is a critical element of our Society's mission. Your assistance is appreciated and needed. Thank you, Dena, for stepping forward to take on this challenge. [Mcdc728@comcast.net](mailto:Mcdc728@comcast.net)

## WPPC-MA

The Parents' Club hosted the Cadet Candidate Hail and Farewell on June 19th to welcome the new Cadet Candidates to the Club and to send the Candidates off to R-Day which was June 27th. We hope that the New Cadets are enjoying the summer at West Point!! There are 42 New Cadets from New England (MA - 28; RI – 8; NH – 6) loving life at this time. Joining the sendoff celebration were members of the Class of 1970, the 50 Year Affiliation Class for the Class of 2020. Representatives from the Class of 1970 were; Tom Bradley, Jim Price and Toby Quirk.

The WPPC-MA thanks Wayne White, USMA, '79 for his years of service as the Parents' Liaison. Wayne has been a steady link between the WPPC-MA and WPSNE. In June, Wayne passed on the duties to Iris Sobchak, USMA '92 as the new liaison. We thank Iris for maintaining this connection.

## Visiting West Point

If you are planning to visit West Point, please read the new policy on visitor identification. Post security has been that singular issue which has kept the Superintendent awake at night. It is important that we protect the national treasure that is West Point - our cadets, our faculty, staff and families, guests and visitors as well as the facility itself.

Effective June 7, all visitors to West Point who do not have identification issued by the Department of Defense (or are not escorted by someone with same) will be required to stop at the Visitors Center outside Thayer Gate to get a visitor pass. USMA is still working on plans for handling this new requirement for large-scale public and alumni events. Please be patient during this process. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the West Point Garrison webpage for the current policy <http://www.westpoint.army.mil/visitus.html>.

# Summer Events

## West Point Society Day with the Red Sox

We have a few tickets still available for our return to historic Fenway Park on **Sunday July 10**. The Boston Red Sox play the Tampa Bay Rays at 1:35pm. Tickets may be obtained by contacting Daniel Wells: [daniel.clarke.wells@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.clarke.wells@gmail.com). Tickets are \$36.



View from seats available for WPSNE Day at Fenway

All Academy Golf Challenge,  
The Ken Kronlund Classic



WPSNE is hosting the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual All Academy Golf Challenge, the Ken Kronlund Classic on **July 22, 2016** at Stow Acres Golf Club. This charity event will benefit Patriot Resilient Leader Institute, [WWW.PRLI.US](http://WWW.PRLI.US)

You may register at:

<http://www.westpointaog.org/WPSofNewEngland-GolfClassic>

This event is open for grads, family, and friends. Come out, enjoy a nice day of golf, comradery and support a USMA Graduate backed charity. For additional information contact Dale Kurtz, [dlkurtz73@verizon.net](mailto:dlkurtz73@verizon.net)

The 2016 WPSNE Family Picnic  
at the Patton Homestead

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 23, 2016 - 11:00 am 'til 3:00 pm.

**WHERE:** Patton Family Homestead, 650 Asbury Street, South Hamilton, MA 01982

**BRING:** Your picnic lunch and beverages, lawn chairs or ground cloth, athletic equipment

**TOURS:** Availability is limited. Contact John Duhamel

**RSVP TO:** John Duhamel

(E) [lawyerjd@comcast.net](mailto:lawyerjd@comcast.net) (C) 617-784-0759 Email preferred.



The Patton Homestead



## Professional Grad Mixer

Ike Kim, USMA '93 has arranged for the next Service Academy Grad Mixer. Join other grads to network and connect.

Contact Ike for details: [jhej00@yahoo.com](mailto:jhej00@yahoo.com)



### **Service Academies Professional Grad Mixer**

Wednesday, 27 JULY 16

1730 – 2030

**“MARKET”** Restaurant, Bar, and Lounge at  
21 Broad Street, Boston, MA 02109

In vicinity of Boston Financial District  
(5 minute walk from State Street and Aquarium T-Station )

Come network with the other grads in the area.

Event is open to all classes!

Free Appetizers!

Families welcome!



Co-sponsored by the West Point Society of New England  
and the Boston Chapter of the USNA Alumni Association



**SAVE THE DATE!**

### **New England All Service Academy Holly Ball**

The WPPC-MA is hosting the annual **New England All Service Academy Holly Ball** on December 30<sup>th</sup> at the Seaport Hotel in Boston. We would love to have members of the West Point Family from across New England join us for this special event. Details will follow and there is a dedicated website for this family event!