



# West Point Society of New England

Spring 2006

## WPSNE Board of Governors:

- Dale Kurtz '73 President
- Bob Cormier '90 Vice President
- Tom Simard '87 Treasurer
- Adam Balukonis '95 Secretary
- Carl Knowlton '83
- Drew Clarke '92
- Ed Collazzo '83
- Nicole DeMaria
- Bill Seymour '76
- Bob Ellis '54
- Fred Rice '60
- Jim Diggins '90
- Richard Sheridan '90
- Terry Kimball '93
- Joe Mastriani

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## President's Remarks

Fellow Members,

I hope you are enjoying the nice spring weather we have been having. In the past few weeks, the Firsties became Second Lieutenants and at the end of June, the Class of 2010 will go through the transition of "R Day". We will also say farewell to Lieutenant General Lenox as the Superintendent and welcome Lieutenant General Franklin Hagenbeck as the 57<sup>th</sup> Superintendent of the Academy.

Since my last newsletter column we have been saddened by the shocking death of the women's basketball coach, Maggie Dixon. But we were also basking in the success of the women's team winning the Patriot League championship and their first invitation to the NCAA's.

We say good bye to two long term members of our Board of Governors, Ellen Houlihan and Craig Mitchell. Their contributions to the West Point Society of New England have been helped us be recognized as a Distinguished Society since the inception of the award. We welcome two new members to our board, Jim Diggins and Joe Mastriani, elected at our annual business meeting in January. We are pleased to have them on board.

We had a great Founders' Day celebration with Kevin Anderson, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, as our guest speaker. I was honored to accept a certificate on behalf of the society from the AOG recognizing our society as a Distinguished Society for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. We also held a silent auction to raise money for a donation to the National Military Family Association and the Derek Hines Foundation. We raised over \$6000 to give to the two charities! I want to thank everyone who helped make the auction a success, the donors, the bidders and most importantly the co-chairs of the event, Terry Kimble and Carl Knowlton.

We have two annual events planned for this summer. The Joint Academy Golf Outing will

be held on August 11 at the Overlook Golf Course. Ken Kronlund will again run the event. The summer picnic at Green Meadow Farm hosted by Mrs. Joanne Patton will be on August 12. Please check our web site for more details for these events.

There will also be a re-dedication ceremony for Lt. John A Fera, USMA 1966 killed in action in Vietnam in 1968 on Saturday, June 24, 2006 1000hrs. at the US Army Reserve Center on North Street, Danvers. I hope many of our members will be able to attend this ceremony to honor one of our alumni.

The Board of Governors has accepted the strategy proposed by the strategy committee chaired by Bill Seymour. The strategy was developed using the input from you our members. There is more information and an update about the strategy in this newsletter.

Thank you for your support and participation in our activities. If you have any suggestions for the board or any questions, please ask a board member or contact me. This is your society. We want to make it as viable for you as we can.

Please keep our members of the military in your thoughts and prayers as they do their duty around the world.

Dale

Dale L. Kurtz  
USMA Class of 1973  
President, West Point Society of New England





Dale Kurtz accepts the Distinguished Society Award from Kevin Anderson

### NMFA's Primary Goals

To educate military families concerning their rights, benefits and services available to them and to inform them regarding the issues that affect their lives and...

To promote and protect the interests of military families by influencing the development and implementation of legislation and policies affecting them.

[www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org)



1LT Derek Hines '03

[www.derekhines.org](http://www.derekhines.org)

## Founder's Day 2006

Over 150 graduates, spouses, and friends gathered at the West Point Society of New England's annual Founder's Day Celebration on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Hotel in Newton. To commemorate the 204<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States Military Academy the evening began with Benny Havens and the opening of the third annual silent auction. Running concurrently with Benny Havens was a reception for accepted and offered candidates. Twenty-three potential members of the Long Gray Line and their parents met with admissions representatives members of both the Massachusetts and New Hampshire Parents Clubs and had the opportunity to meet and socialize with one another. Four of the members of the class of 2010 have parents that are West Point graduates.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was LTC Ed Collazzo '83 who regaled the group with stories of his Founder's Day celebration from the year before. LTC Collazzo celebrated in Basra, Iraq the previous year. In addition to recognizing the most senior (Hank Harmeling '42) and

most junior (2<sup>nd</sup> LT Lorin Veigas 2005) graduates present, LTC Collazzo also pointed out the significance of the warrior ethos and the POW-MIA table.

After dinner, the group was addressed by Mr. Kevin Anderson, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at West Point. Mr. Anderson spoke to the group about the traditions of athletic excellence, and how he hoped to improve and continue those traditions. He also spoke of 1<sup>st</sup> LT Derek Hines, a Newburyport, MA native and Army Hockey player who was killed in Afghanistan last fall. Derek's parents, Steve and Sue were present at the dinner and were recognized by WPSNE President Dale Kurtz '73.

To conclude the evening, Fred Rice '60 led the group in the traditional singing of the Alma Mater and attendees were able to socialize with classmates and dance the night away.

-Nicole DeMaria

## Founder's Day Silent Auction Raises \$5,610 for Charitable Causes

This year 23 organizations donated 26 items toward the Founder's Day silent auction. Auction items included Red Sox tickets, golf outings, whale watching and a family trip to Sturbridge Village. In total, the auction raised \$5,610 that will be split between the National Military Family Association and the Derek Hines Memorial Trust. 16 of the 26 items sold better than retail value. This shows the quality of donations as well as the generosity of the contributions toward the auction.

Both not-for-profit organizations seek to broadly serve military professionals and their families and a more detailed

description is attached for your information. The NMFA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving the families and survivors of the seven uniformed services through education, information, and advocacy. The Derek Hines Memorial Trust is a newly formed not-for-profit organization formed to honor the memory of Derek Hines, a West Point graduate killed in action in Afghanistan.

The New England West Point Society has now raised over \$21,000 towards military foundations in the last 5 years.

-Terry Kimball and Carl Knowlton

## Update on the Strategy of our Society

The Board of Governors has accepted the strategy committee's recommended goals for the society. These recommendations are the result of many hours of discussion, review of AOG Strategic Plan 2010 dated February, 2003, WPSNE By-Laws, Distinguished Society Program, other West Point Society's strategic plans and most importantly a membership survey conducted last year.

The goals recommended by the committee are separated into three categories:

1. **Goals critical to mission accomplishment**
2. **Goals important to mission accomplishment**
3. **Goals supporting mission accomplishment.**

The goals **critical** to mission accomplishment are:

- Serve as an informational conduit for our graduates
- Create professional support opportunities for graduates
- Support USMA admissions in New England
- Provide social opportunities for graduates
- Support West Point as the premier leadership institution.

## The 2006 WPSNE Family Picnic

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 12, 2006 - 11:00 am 'til 4:00 pm.  
Rain date is Sunday, August 13, 2006.

**WHERE:** Green Meadows Farm, 650 Asbury Street, South Hamilton, MA 01982

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

Mrs. Joanne H. Patton invites us to return to picnic at beautiful Green Meadows Farm. Alumni of our sister academies are encouraged to join us for this family event too. Previous guests recall what a splendid event this is. WPSNE families and Cadet Parent families are invited to join in an afternoon of old-fashioned fun.

- Picnic and Social on the spacious lawns
- A "highly competitive" softball game
- Tennis, swimming, blueberry picking, your choice



The goals **important** to mission accomplishment are:

- Enhance public awareness of contributions of USMA, and foster public support and government support for West Point
- Support Cadet activities
- Support Cadet families and other members of the West Point Community in New England
- Support USMA programs.

The goals **supporting** mission accomplishment are:

- Assist USMA in instilling a winning tradition in Cadets
- Other potential programs and events.

The board will focus on the first set of goals, those critical to mission accomplishment, at this time, but not to the exclusion of the remaining goals. The remaining goals will be addressed as resources and time are available.

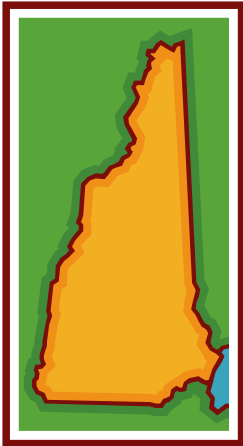
-Bill Seymour

It is a fun afternoon for all. In fairness to the Joanne, we need to know how many are coming--please fill in the form below and return it **today**. **Positive responses requested by Friday, August 4, 2006.**

There is no \$\$\$ required, your annual dues support this event.

**RAIN CANCELLATION:** Call 781-863-2878 after 8:00 am, picnic day.

RSVP TO: Ellen Houlihan  
11 Outlook Drive  
Lexington MA 02421  
(H) 781-863-2878  
(E) ellenhoulihan@verizon.net



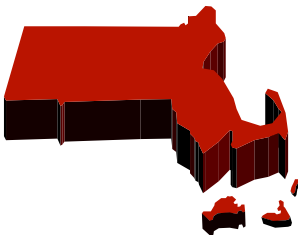
## New Hampshire Admissions Update

New Hampshire currently has eight candidates who have accepted offers of admission to the Class of 2010, and two at USMAPS who have recently been offered admission, for a total of ten. The new members of the Class of 2010 from New Hampshire are:

- Michael Clark Monroe, NH St. Johnsbury Academy
- Joshua Cote Bow, NH Bow High School
- Ryan Hopkins Nashua, NH Nashua High School south
- Alexander Kearns Hampstead, NH Pinkerton Academy
- Ryan Pope Rye, NH (UNH) Portsmouth Christian Academy
- Tyler Seymour Nashua, NH Nashua High School South
- Daniel Webb Harrisville, NH Dublin Christian Academy
- Kristopher Webber Gilford, NH Gilford Middle High School
- George Bilafer Melvin Village, NH (USMAPS)
- Benjamin Talbot Weare, NH (USMAPS)

The New Hampshire Admissions Field Force held a West Point Information Night on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Manchester. The event was attended by more than 100 people, including candidates for the class of 2011, the appointees to the Class of 2010, and their parents. Presentations were made by CPT Jesus Terrones, the Northeast Regional Commander from West Point, and Fred Rice, NH State Admissions Coordinator. Topics included a summary of the West Point Experience, the criteria and standards for admission, and the procedures for obtaining a nomination and applying for admission. This was followed by a Q&A session, and an informal mixer, where candidates had the opportunity to meet and ask questions of their local Admissions Representative and the Presidents of the NH West Point Parents Club.

-Fred Rice '60



## Massachusetts Admissions Report

Total Acceptances - 29  
 Average SAT score: 1315.  
 This surpasses last year's results both in number and average SAT score.

-Bob Ellis '54

## Membership Report

Please visit our membership page at [www.wpsne.org](http://www.wpsne.org) or email me at [Rsherdan@verizon.net](mailto:Rsherdan@verizon.net) if you have any questions.

Annual Membership: \$30  
 Lifetime Membership: \$300  
 Active Duty Membership: \$15



## Cell Phones for Soldiers

Cell Phones for Soldiers is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization that was started by two Norwell Massachusetts teenagers to help buy pre-paid calling cards to send to our service people serving over seas.

Started in April of 2004 Cell Phones for Soldiers has raised close to one million dollars and has sent more than 75,000 pre-paid calling cards to our service people. After hearing a news report about a local soldier who ran up a massive phone bill calling home from Iraq, Brittany Bergquist and her 12-year-old brother Robbie of Norwell, decided they wanted to do something to help. Brittany and Robbie donated their piggy bank money, collected snack money from their friends at school, and with \$21.00, they went to the bank to open an account. The South Shore Savings Bank of Hanover, Massachusetts donated \$500.00 to help them get started. Their goal is to help our soldiers serving overseas call home. They hope to provide as many soldiers as possible with prepaid calling cards for now with an

ultimate goal of providing banks of satellite phones, video phones and VOIP communications. Through generous donations and the recycling of used cell phones from drop-off sites across the country, they have already distributed thousands of calling cards to soldiers in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

The program will accept any model or make phone. You may bring phones and attached batteries as well as accessories to any West Point Society of New England event. *Cell Phones for Soldiers* are now accepting all make, model and condition of cell phones, chargers, batteries, accessories, blackberry PDA's and pagers, as well as ink jet cartridges. The phones are recycled for cash to purchase cards or unlimited free video phone calls.

-Nicole DeMaria

## Service Academy Business Network

SABN is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the principles and welfare of the Service Academies and their respective graduates.

We host a monthly networking luncheon to provide a professional opportunity for graduates and friends of the nation's Service Academies to network with featured companies and other attendees.

We hold these luncheons in the greater Boston area including a Providence, Rhode Island chapter.

If you are interested in attending one of our luncheons, please check out [www.sabn.com](http://www.sabn.com)

On May 16th the SABN network enjoyed a luncheon at the offices of New Directions on Long Wharf to hear Mr. Kurt Keville, USMA '83, who directs the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies at MIT. He also runs the annual soldier design competition between USMA cadets and MIT students. Please come out next time and join us.

- Bob Cormier '90



Kirk Keville '83

