



WEST POINT ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is the principal advisory body to the WPAOG Board. The Chair and Vice Chair of the WPAOG Board are also the Chair and Vice Chair of the Advisory Council. Fifty-four members on the Council connect the Long Gray Line with many of our Association's governance processes.

Many Advisors contribute to WPAOG as subject matter experts and as constituent group representatives. The Board asks Advisors to, above all other considerations, represent the best interests of the Long Gray Line as a whole, rather than the specific interests of a particular alumni group. However, you are encouraged to voice your views on any issue in an open and candid way, while respecting the culture of the Board relating to speaking with one voice on Board decisions and policies. Experience has shown that successful Advisors demonstrate the attributes listed in the enclosure to this letter. Highlighted below are a few roles related to that list of attributes:

- **As a committee or task force member.** Every Advisor is asked to serve on one or more WPAOG committees or task forces. Typically, these advisory bodies accomplish their work through face-to-face meetings, conference calls, and other electronic means.
- **As a communicator about West Point and WPAOG.** Throughout the year, please educate your networks about today's U.S. Military Academy and WPAOG. During the Advisory Council's meetings at West Point, you will receive updates from key leaders at West Point and WPAOG's senior leadership.
- **As a representative of the Long Gray Line.** By way of election or selection, you represent WPAOG's membership. Please bring the perspective of your classmates, society members, and other West Point associates to committee and Advisory Council actions and processes.
- **As a sounding board participant.** On occasion, the Board will consider matters of broad significance, asking you for your thoughts on contemplated actions, changes in policy, or proposed solutions to issues.
- **As a philanthropic leader.** Please be on the record as a financial supporter of West Point and/or WPAOG. Being able to state that *all Advisors* are donors of record, encourages other alumni and friends of USMA to give.

Advisory Council Meetings. Do your best to participate in the two Advisory Council meetings at West Point each year, one held in the spring and one in the fall. The spring meeting is scheduled in conjunction with Projects Day. The fall meeting date is usually scheduled in conjunction with a football game.

As a WPAOG Advisor, you are also welcome to participate in the annual *WPAOG Alumni Leaders Conference*, endowed by the Class of 1967 which usually occurs in August.

Thank you for serving! Committee meetings, Advisory Council meetings, and associated tasks are substantial commitments of your time and resources. The Board of Directors would like your experience as an Advisor to be meaningful and enjoyable.

Attributes of a Successful WPAOG Class, Society, or At-Large Advisor*

BE

Confidence. Comfortable sharing ideas in front of a large group; does not take criticism personally.

Passion. Passionate about the WPAOG mission and able to voice opinions and thoughts in a non-confrontational tone or posture.

Respect. Respectful of the opinions of others and demonstrates a sense of empathy.

Humility. Knows that others have unique experiences and skillsets, which are no less valuable than the Advisor's experiences and skillsets.

Servant's Heart. Focuses on giving to the organization and others rather than on getting. Is willing to volunteer to serve on a committee or on a task force when the call is made.

KNOW

Financial Acumen. Understands the financials or is willing to learn to understand the financials.

Ability to Communicate. Possesses the willingness and ability to communicate and engage with individuals. This is especially important for Class and Society Advisors, who should constitute a two-way communications channel, bubbling up concerns and recommendations from their constituencies and trickling down information about what's going on at USMA and WPAOG.

Judgment. Possesses the ability to collect information and deliberate with others to make well-informed, ethical and relevant recommendations.

Knowledgeable. Is 100% supportive of the WPAOG mission and is knowledgeable of how the WPAOG Board of Directors and Staff execute and accomplish WPAOG's mission.

DO

Availability. Is committed and financially able to attend semi-annual meetings at West Point and to participate in WPAOG committees, task forces, or working groups.

Stamina. Has the ability to focus on the task at hand and tolerate long days.

Leadership. Has the ability to inspire others to serve.

Financial Support. Is committed to provide financial support to WPAOG and its mission. It is not important how much is given but rather that an Advisor leads by example by giving. This example builds credibility with the constituency.

***Developed by a Board of Directors Task Force and approved on December 12, 2014**