

**WEST POINT INN ASSOCIATION**  
**SPRING MEMBERS' REPORT**  
In Lieu of April 19, 2020 Meeting

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT*

Dear West Point Inn Family,

As I start writing this, it is the beautiful Sunday morning that we were all supposed to be meeting at the Inn. I wish I were giving this report in person, but we find ourselves in these bizarre times. Your Board, committee chairs and Innkeepers have been working hard to keep the Inn safe during this health crisis. Also, several discussions have been held on how to reopen once we get the all-clear from state and local governments.

When Marin County initially shut down "non-essential" businesses, way back in mid-March, our Innkeepers and Housekeeping Committee sprang into action. Bonnie Jones and Fran Rondeau zipped up to the Inn and sanitized the kitchen and all the dishes. At the same time, our industrious Innkeepers sealed up the Inn and cabins as best they could. Since then, they have been keeping watch over the Inn so that it remains secure until we can visit it once again.

Although people are supposed to be sheltering-in-place, Mount Tamalpais has been packed with visitors almost every day. Our Innkeepers have had to deal with several incidents of people pushing aside the barricaded furniture on the porch to try and get into our closed restrooms. They are learning several new ways to politely tell people that we are unable to provide access to our facilities, for their safety and ours. We owe a debt of gratitude to Jim Barry, David Durr, Jennifer Greene, Karl Jurgenson, John Slater, Bob Thomson and Pat Williams for their dedication to the Inn. It is not easy staying up there alone for a week at a time, but they are doing an incredible job for us all.

Besides keeping the Inn safe, we are also trying to plan how to reopen once the world returns to "normal." This includes talks on what exactly "normal" will look like. While we will obviously continue to keep the Inn clean to our normal high standards, we will have to decide how our operations will continue. We are having ongoing discussions on topics such as: Will we still be able to have a communal kitchen? Will people have to bring their own blankets and pillows? Will we only be able to operate at 50% occupancy? None of these questions have solid answers yet as the information available to us changes often, sometimes even hour by hour.

One way we are responding is by increasing our ability to clean the dishes. Our Buildings & Grounds committee, led by Ross Asselstine and Urban Carmel, are working on turning the kitchen sink into one with three compartments. That way we will be able to wash, rinse and sanitize like a commercial facility. They are working closely with

Bonnie Jones, our water and sanitation expert. The B&G team is also leading the way, along with the Innkeepers, as we clean and repaint the main kitchen.

Another concern is finances. We have made projections based on different scenarios, including the possibility that we will not take in any more money this year. The shutdown has affected not only our overnight use income but also paused, if not stopped, our pancake breakfast season. We have already canceled the Mother's Day event and we will probably also have to go without Father's Day. These are our two biggest money-makers and the rest of our breakfasts are still in question.

To help with finances our treasurer, Mark Northcross, applied for a Paycheck Protection Program loan through the Small Business Administration. While we were not successful during the first round of funding, we hope to be approved now that Congress authorized a second round. I wanted to be able to announce that we received the money, but it probably will not be until the end of April that we hear if we are approved.

We are also discussing other ways to raise money, but we are always open to hearing suggestions from our members. One idea is to have a "virtual" pancake breakfast, where you can send us photos of you and your quarantine family having pancakes (if you want to include a few dollars, that would be appreciated also . . .). We would then post the photos on the website. Nancy Fox and the PB Committee, Lin Johanson and Gordy MacDermott, are also working on sketching out one of Fred Runner's excellent photos of the Inn so kids can color it in. We would then also display them on the site. If you have another thought, please let them know at [pancakes@westpointinn.com](mailto:pancakes@westpointinn.com).

I want to thank Nancy and the rest of the Board, Bonnie Jones, Don Keeley, Wayne Koide, Pete Martin, Jim Parton, Johanna Sisteck and Clare Wellnitz, for their hard work, advice, and guidance during this period. I especially want to thank Wayne, who is leaving the Board after almost 4.5 years of service. He will continue as the Policy & Procedures Committee chair, but we appreciate Wayne's dedication to the Inn including his year as President. We also want to welcome Alyssa Jorgensen, who will be filling out the rest of Wayne's term. We look forward to Alyssa's ideas and contributions to the Inn. Welcome aboard!

I also want to thank the committee chairs who have continued to work on their projects, albeit from home. Some of them have provided reports, which you can find below. I also want to thank Alison Bricker (newsletter editor), Jan Gauthier (Communications/Website committee chair) and Kay Voyvodich (webmaster) for their hard work during the early days of the shelter-in-place order. Their quick actions have kept you all informed as information changes quickly. Sometimes the news is different even before we could hit "send" on the announcement that was currently being written.

Finally, I want to thank our Membership. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this period. Since we were not able to hold a question and answer session, please feel free to contact me at [elections@westpointinn.com](mailto:elections@westpointinn.com) if you have any queries, comments or concerns.

While we will follow science, common sense and local government directives to decide when we reopen, we will get through this. Someday, hopefully soon, we will all be able to meet again up at our beloved Inn.

Until then, stay safe and stay healthy!

## *COMMITTEE REPORTS*

*Communications/Website Committee:* Jan Gauthier

We hope our West Point Inn family, friends and members are safe and healthy during the difficult and challenging time.

We got off to a great start in 2020 with our 3rd Annual Crab feed at the West Point Inn that raised money for the Inn. Our planned 1st annual Chili Roundup for March 15th was sold out. As the country started sheltering in place, we had to cancel the event for the safety of our guests and volunteers. We look forward to resuming special events and fundraisers when it is deemed safe.

We have a great group of volunteers that support the Inn and help to make our events and fundraisers a success. If you would like to get involved when the Inn reopens please go to our website contact page for our event, work party and pancake breakfast coordinators and send them an email. If you have any feedback for the website or items that would be helpful, please send them to: [jangauthier08@gmail.com](mailto:jangauthier08@gmail.com).

*Election Committee:* Lin Johanson & Chris Marcuse

We just want to remind everyone that we are looking for at least three candidates to run for the Board this fall. The only condition is that you must have been a member for a full year before taking office on the second Monday of January. If you are interested in joining the Board and serving the Inn, please contact us at [elections@westpointinn.com](mailto:elections@westpointinn.com).

*Garden Committee:* Kathleen Kopp

There's a new member in the garden. It's a temporary greenhouse. We have David Durr to thank for this donation and for assembling it within the garden fence.

Now we have a place to start seedlings, protect them from harsh weather and hungry pests, and let them get established before transferring to the garden. We have lettuces and beets performing well. Several tomatoes are already in the ground getting ready to feed us this summer.

So, thanks to all the Innkeeper's for maintaining our garden and compost while we are all good little shelterers! Thank you as well for keeping our inn safe.

As a hospital nurse, I am happy to tell you our efforts are paying off.

Hope to see you back on the mountain as soon as it is safe to venture out again to our beloved inn.

*Heritage Committee/Historian: Fred Runner*

I know I'm not alone when I say we're sorry Heritage Weekend had to be cancelled.

I'm including two photos that would have been part of Heritage Weekend, showing young Ralph Kliewe (Klee-way) on the Inn's stone steps. The view is likely shot from the cab of one of the mountain steam locomotives. Another photo shows the Inn under a blanket of 1922 snow. On the right side of that snow-covered shot is the Mountain Play train passenger boarding platforms on the right. The Mountain Play weekend was the biggest weekend of the year at the Inn. Innkeepers Martin and Melanie Kliewe had to hire extra staff to manage the cooking and cleaning as the Mountain Play actors and director stayed overnight and playgoers came for a big dinner after the single Sunday show.

Of course, I'm also managing the restoration of Mt. Tamalpais & Muir Woods Railway's engine No. 9, the only surviving piece of the railroad that built the West Point Inn.

Hope all are well.



*(Photo courtesy of Fred Runner)*



*(Photo courtesy of Fred Runner)*

**Membership:** Gordy & Lynn MacDermott

Hello Members,

First, we would like to thank all our members who sent in their dues on time. This year we only had to send out 63 late notices. We had 17 members decide not to rejoin which made 17 folks on our wait list very happy. Some have been on it since last April. We had 19 members become Lifetime members for a total of 94 Lifetimers. We are at our membership limit of 600. We will be listing our new members in the June newsletter.

**Pancake Breakfasts:** Lin Johanson & Gordy MacDermott

We want to thank Scott & Lisa Halsted, and the May breakfast and cleanup volunteers, who were all ready to serve up some delicious pancakes to hundreds of visitors. Unfortunately, that is currently the problem. The overwhelming popularity of our breakfasts is what makes us unable to hold them during this health crisis. It leaves a big gap in our fundraising, a hole we need to plug since the Inn hasn't been taking in any overnight use fees.

We've had some discussions about ways to raise money. One idea we're currently working on is a "virtual" Mother's Day breakfast. For this event we would ask people to send us photos of them having pancakes, which we would then display on the website. Another idea is to have kids color in a drawing of the Inn, which we would also display on the site. A small donation would be asked of anyone sending in their pictures. If you have any other suggestions, please write us at [pancakes@westpointinn.com](mailto:pancakes@westpointinn.com).

*Personnel:* Lin Johnson & Fran Rondeau

We want to thank our excellent squad for keeping watch over the Inn during this difficult time. David, Pat, Jennifer, Karl, John, Jim and Bob have been experiencing their own version of "Mad Max" or any other post-Apocalyptic movie. They have been battling the hiking hordes that are chasing after that one precious commodity on the mountain: a working toilet. We've had several occurrences where people have pushed aside the signs, tape and even furniture that we are using to block off the porch and rest rooms. Our team has been fair, but firm, in sending people away. We wish our crew well as they stand guardian over the Inn. Thank you for your dedication and professionalism!

*Reservations:* Jennifer Greene

I have been refunding guests due to Covid 19. I wonder about people that weathered the Spanish flu at the inn in 1918. I feel a strong kinship towards them in my work as a paramedic. I hope you are sheltering in place and are happy and healthy.