



# VMI Parents Council Introduction and Orientation

Academic year 2011-2012

# History and Purpose

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- Formed in 1957 through VMI Foundation
- Provides a forum for interchange of information between parents and VMI officials
- Enhances communication and understanding
- Develops “ambassadors” for VMI
- Assists in providing for cadet welfare and development
- Aids in the growth and development of the VMI Foundation



# Organization

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- Members invited from upper-three VMI classes
- Volunteers solicited in March of Fourth Class year
- Up to 30 parents per class for three-year terms
- Co-Presidents and Co-Vice Presidents preside over the Council
- Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs
- VMI staff liaison: Col Bill Grace



# Parents Council Officers 2011-2012

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- **Co-Presidents: Tom and Karen Johnson**
  - Elected in their cadet's 2nd class year, and serves through 1st class year
- **Co-Vice Presidents: Steve and Kitty Coor**
  - Elected in their cadet's 3rd class year, and serves as Co-VPs
  - Serve through 2nd class year. Usually elected Co-Presidents
- **Committee Chairpersons**
  - Appointed in cadet's 2nd and 3rd year. May serve one or two years
- **Committee Vice Chairs**
  - Appointed in cadet's 2nd or 3rd class year; may serve one or two years or move up to Co-Chairs



# Committees

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- **Activities:** Supports STP, Matriculation, orientation sessions, “The Tent”  
**Co-Chairpersons:** Stewart & Lynn Hargrove (Richard '12), Randolph Irby (Fayette '12)  
**Vice-Chairs:** Bill & Jean Bacci, (William '13)
- **Recruiting:** Assists in new cadet recruiting, “Open House” weekends, phoning accepted students to answer questions  
**Chairperson:** Rebecca Rivas (James '12)  
**Vice-Chair:** Rebecca Rivas (John '13)
- **Society of Friends and Family:** Assists with educating parents about VMI’s needs and fundraising  
**Co-Chairpersons:** Ric & Cherry Tharp (Jacob '12), Alan and Sandra Alvey (Douglas '12)  
**Vice-Chairs:** John & Kathy Wulfken (Philip '13)
- **Communication:** Assists with communications between parents and VMI  
**Chairpersons:** Jon & Jan Roberts (William Renfroe '12)  
**Vice-Chairs:** Curt & Jennifer Groat (Blaine '13)

All Council members pitch in!



# Meetings & Activities

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- **Scheduled meetings:**

- Twice yearly - Parents' Weekend & mid-February
- Committees meet during Council sessions

- **Current major activities:**

- Summer STP Orientation and Parent Outreach
- Pre-Matriculation evening social and Matriculation Day Outreach and Q&A sessions
- Admissions open houses, and alumni events for prospective cadets
- Council tent at home football games



# Thoughts

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- We are here to help
- We can be strong encouragers of other parents to
- Stay ahead of VMI news -- the Institute Report and the VMI website are fast and authoritative
- Use Parents Council as “rumor control” -- it has direct contact with VMI officials
- Be supportive of their cadets – but remember that s/he is learning new responsibilities
- Support VMI policies and procedures – they exist for excellent reasons
- Be flexible and remain positive



# Summary

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The VMI Parents Council strives to be a valuable source of information and assistance to parents, cadets, and VMI.

Our reward is seeing so many fine young people grow, mature, and learn for life.

