VFMA&C ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HOMECOMING COMMITTEE REPORT
Chairman – Dan McSweeney ’88
Vice Chairman – Paul Lea ‘89C – 25th Reunion

March 2014

The Homecoming Committee continues to hold regular conference calls to discuss ongoing planning for Homecoming 2014.

During our March AABOD meeting, the Committee will present for information and discussion the following issues, in order to ensure appropriate and timely decisions are made on the spot and to inform final planning in the final six weeks before Alumni Weekend.

Dan McSweeney will be stepping down as Homecoming Chairman at the completion of this Alumni Weekend, to be replaced by Paul Lea, current Vice Chairman.

1. **Fundraising**: We will maximize efforts, particularly in support of the free Friday cocktail hour.
   a. **Raffle**: Mike Curley will lead the effort, working with Tom Goldblum. Prizes, as opposed to a 50-50 cash award will be used. Custom tickets will be developed. We will hold the raffle at the Friday evening cocktail party. Collected cash will be safeguarded and delivered to appropriate AABOD/VF staff.
   b. **Silent Auction**: Paul Lea is leading the effort and is actively seeking donated items/experiences through a letter to our networks. Several items have already been donated. The auction items will be advertised/displayed at key locations during the weekend.
   c. **50-50**: A 50-50 will be conducted during the Saturday barbeque.
   d. **Merchandising**: We need to do a full inventory of available items and consider re-stocking some items. Cufflinks and last year’s 85th Anniversary film will be available for sale. Pre-packaging of items pre-ordered online is a possibility.
   e. “Squares” or a similar credit card payment system will be used throughout the weekend for registration, purchases, and donations.
   f. A sponsorship brochure will be developed and will support the items above, as well as general donations.

**ACTION**: All AABOD members as asked to advertise our raffle, silent auction, and merchandising efforts as widely as possible, using the attached letter and in social media venues, in order to secure donated items and prepare attendees to participate (contribute financial support). Please consider donating something yourself.

2. **Logistics and Scheduling**: Planning is majorly complete. A meeting to fine-tune the tasker and schedule will occur on Monday, 17 March. Exemplary support, attention to detail, and flexibility has been demonstrated by the VF staff.
   a. A decision on specific tent/table/chair rentals will be made one week prior to Homecoming.
   b. The schedule remains streamlined, which reflects decisions made two years ago to simplify the weekend.
   c. An alumni choir rehearsal may be introduced to the schedule.
d. Existing members of the Order of Anthony Wayne may be asked to stand at their seats during this year’s induction ceremony.

3. **Volunteers:** The effort to identify an adequate number of volunteers remains a critical issue to the success of Homecoming 2014. The attached schedule clarifies the time slots for which we seek commitments. A Volunteer Coordinator will be named as soon as possible.

   **ACTION:** All AABOD members are requested to volunteer for at least one slot from the attached schedule.

4. **Registration:** Online registration for Homecoming has become the norm, thanks to the diligent work of VF staff and AABOD members. Price increases for Homecoming have been implemented and this has not negatively impacted registration numbers, which are on par with previous years. Save-the-Date cards, class letters/representatives, social media, and informal outreach have been implemented.
   
   a. An efficient plan for packet assembly will be developed and implemented well before Homecoming.
   
   b. Pre-registration will allow cadet yearbook photos to be used on nametags.

   **ACTION:** All AABOD members are requested to pre-register as soon as possible online.

5. **Awards:** Coordination with the Awards Committee is ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan McSweeney, ’88

Paul Lea, ’87/89C
Dear Sir or Madam,

In its 86th year, Valley Forge Military Academy & College (VFMA&C), a non-profit private educational institution, continues to fulfill founder, LTG Milton G. Baker’s dream, create a special educational environment for young people based on the military model which promotes growth in character, leadership, spirit, and intellect.

During our 2014 Alumni Homecoming Weekend, April 25-27, our Alumni Association will sponsor its Homecoming raffle and silent auction to raise funds for a variety of programs and opportunities that serve to enrich and inspire our cadets, their TAC Officers, and teachers. These projects include: Gold and Silver Stars Dinners to honor academic achievement, Military Dining-In, TAC Officers Appreciation Dinner, Graduation Dinner, Graduation Tree Planting, Customs and Traditions Tours, faculty wish lists for classroom supplies and capital improvements.

I hope you will consider donating items, services, gift certificates and/or corporate sponsorship in support of this important fundraising event. As a donor, your tax-deductible gift, along with your business name and address, will be recognized by over 8,000 alumni, cadets, staff and their families from here and all over the world. Your donation serves as a great way to gain new customers and enhance your visibility in our area. Also, materials such as brochures or business cards will be prominently displayed to help promote your business.

At this time, when the youth of today needs positive leadership, focus, discipline and respect more than ever, your support is very much appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Lea
Paul M. Lea IV, M.S., Ph.D. ’87, ’89C
Valley Forge Military Academy & College
Member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors
2014 Alumni Homecoming Co-Chairman
Chair, Silent Auction Donations Committee
paulmlea@verizon.net/240-672-5701

Donations may be mailed to:
VFMAC AABOD Auction
Attn: Tom Goldblum – Director of Alumni Relations
1001 Eagle Road
Wayne, PA 19087-3695
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your support is necessary to help make Homecoming 2014 a success. If you would, please select at least one shift from the schedule below to help us appropriately staff events during the weekend. This will help us ensure a smooth flow of events; it will also ensure that VFMAC and AABOD messaging is delivered appropriately. An added benefit is the networking that comes from filling event shifts.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Please e-mail djmcsweeney@gmail.com with your selection. (Please note that Museum volunteers will be separately requested and coordinated through the Museum Committee.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Staff members needed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0830 – 1800: Registration</td>
<td>2 (0830 – 1330); 2 (1330 – 1800)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0830 – 1800: Merchandise Table &amp; Silent Auction</td>
<td>1 (0830 – 1330); 1 (1330 – 1800)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1330 – 1600: State of the Forge Address Sign-In</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1730 – 2200: PRIDE IS WHY Sign-in</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1730 – 2200: Raffle</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>14 Shifts Needed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>0830 – 1800: Registration</td>
<td>2 (0830 – 1330); 2 (1330 – 1800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300 – 1700: Tailgate Sign-In</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1730 – 2200: Reception &amp; Dinner Sign-In</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1730 – 2200: Silent Auction</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1730 – 2200: Merchandise Table</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11 Shifts Needed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>0830 – 1100: Breakfast Sign-In</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>0830 – 1100: Merchandise Table</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 Shifts Needed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>28 TOTAL SHIFTS NEEDED</strong></td>
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