

## 2014 Board Bio



**MARIA MILLS, Member-at-large**

Maria is originally from Lima, Peru but make Chesapeake, VA home for the last 28 years. She is married to Charlie and has two sons: Antonio is a 2012 graduate from Longwood University and Joseph is a sophomore at Tidewater Community College.

Maria has been working as an architectural project manager for the last 20 years in Hampton Roads. She received a M.A. degree in city planning from the Architecture School of Georgia Tech. She is currently working with Hudson & Associates Architects in Hampton as a project manager. She is a member of the American Institute of Architects. She is passionate about her career and loves helping in the community. She is currently serving as president of the Oakbrooke Meadows Subdivision. She has been part of the Virginia Council of Churches for 12 years serving in the Rural Family Development Board as a governance chairman. She is part of the leadership of Women in Design Hampton Roads which started on February 2011 and has grown to over 210 members. She has been part of the Great Bridge Rotary Club for the last 6 years. Maria is a cursillista with the Greater Hampton Roads Cursillo Council. She is currently helping to establish the first Spanish cursillo weekend in Hampton Roads.

She enjoys travelling, exploring new places and meeting new people. She likes being outdoors, hiking, biking and playing tennis with her family and friends. She also goes to the gym when time is available.



**LARA OVERY, Member-at-large**

Lara M. S. Overy is director of development securing public, private, corporate and foundation funding for Thomas Nelson Community College. She also coordinates the fundraising efforts of the Educational Foundation and represents the interests of both TNCC and the Foundation to current and prospective donors.

Prior to joining TNCC, Lara served as executive director of the Educational Foundation and director of development at Tidewater Community College where she successfully closed out The Campaign for TCC in 2011 with an historical final tally of almost \$12 million, exceeding the original fundraising goal by nearly \$2 million.

Lara graduated *magna cum laude* from Thomas Nelson Community College and went on to receive her B.A. degree from The College of William and Mary, where she was a recipient of the Benjamin Stoddert Ewell Award for Public Service. In 2014, Lara entered William and Mary's Mason School of Business M.B.A. program.

Lara brings not only education but experience from William and Mary. She served her alma mater as reunion and lead annual giving officer, where she was heavily involved in identification and cultivation of prospects, donors and alumni. She exceeded her goals in number of visits and gifts raised.

With nearly two decades of service in philanthropic community organizations, Lara is currently president of the Virginia Symphony Society of Greater Williamsburg and serves on boards for the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance. For eight years, Lara served as the troop leader for Girl Scout Troop 1377, which she founded. In addition to supporting the fundraising efforts of a broad spectrum of non-profit and community groups, Lara is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a graduate of the James City County Citizen Leadership Academy, served as a citizen representative on the Regional Issues Committee appointed by the James City County Board of Supervisors and served many years

on the board of Inclusion Inc., a Williamsburg non-profit benefitting children. Lara and her husband Rick reside in Williamsburg with their daughters Isabel and Madison.



**MARSHA RIIBNER-CADY, Member-at-large**

Marsha was born in Washington, DC and later moved to Nixa, MO where she grew up. Marsha earned her B.A. degree in biology and chemistry from Drury University in Springfield, MO. She completed her licensing requirements as a medical technologist with an emphasis in hospital blood banking. Her first job was in the blood bank at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. She continued her education in blood banking at the New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, MA. She then became a laboratory sales representative for Jouan, Inc. and transferred to the home office in Winchester, VA. Her hard work paid off at the Jouan World sales meeting in France in 1988 where she received recognition for highest sales worldwide. Marsha married Lyle in 1989 and had 2 sons, Mitchell and Roland, who are now college students. She started her own laboratory equipment telemarketing business which she ran for 3 years. She volunteered at school and with the Boy Scouts. The family moved to the Outer Banks in 2004 and Marsha began working with the Girl Scouts as a membership specialist in 2006 covering rural eastern North Carolina. She was the first recipient of the North Carolina Governor's Medallion Award for Director of Volunteers in 2012 for her work with the Girl Scouts. Marsha became the director of the After-School Enrichment Program for Dare County Schools in February of 2012 where she supervises programs in 5 elementary schools serving 400 students.

Marsha is currently the president of the Virginia Dare Business and Professional Women's Club where she has been a member for 4 years. In June of 2013, Marsha was elected the vice president of the North Carolina Business and Professional Women's Club. Marsha finished her certificate in early childhood education and volunteers as the chairman of the scholarship committee for the Roanoke Island Women's Club. She is a member of the board of directors for the following Dare County organizations: Friends of Youth, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Healthy Carolinians Taskforce, and NC 211. Marsha has finally achieved full red hatter status in the Red Hot Mama's of the Outer Banks!



**BARBARA TIERNEY, Member-at-large**

Barbara Tierney is the senior vice president and commercial credit manager at TowneBank. Barbara's office is headquartered at TowneBank's Member Service Center in Suffolk. She has been with the bank since 2005. She manages the commercial credit analysis department that provides financial analysis of commercial entities for loan officers, private bankers and branch managers. She also works closely with management associations providing credit skills training. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh.



**RAYMOND WILLIS JR., Member-at-large**

Raymond Willis, Jr. believes he's got big shoes to fill (his father's) but aims to achieve that goal.

As president and chief executive officer of Heritage Funding, Inc., he has to look no further than dad for a role model. "I want my legacy to be that I gave back to the world, like my father. My dad has been an influence in my life because of his community service."

Raymond graduated from Christopher Newport University in 1993 with a B.S. degree in political science and governmental administration. He was the founder and president of Heritage Funding Inc. until 12/2010. He is a former board member of Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and Christopher Newport University Alumni Society. He is a member of Raymond Willis, Jr. Scholarship Coalition of Young Black Professional Foundation, NAACP, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Governor School of the Arts and Hampton Roads Youth Foundation, Inside Business' Forty Under Forty and Zeta Phi Beta Man of Tomorrow.



**JENNIFER PALESTRANT, Member-at-large**

Jennifer Palestrant is currently the president of the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber represents businesses in Elizabeth City, Pasquotank and Camden Counties.

Jennifer has over 20 years of professional service marketing experience for law firms, accounting firms, investment banks and non-profits. She has a B.A. from the College of Wooster in Ohio and an M.B.A. from the Mason School of Business at the College of William and Mary. Before accepting the position at the Chamber, Jennifer was a professor in the Walter R. Davis School of Business at Elizabeth City State University and executive director for Wesley Hospitality House, the guesthouse for Albemarle Health.



**STACEY HUGO, Member-at-large**

Stacey Hugo joined Norfolk Southern Corporation in 2005 as administrator, political programs where she was responsible for the management of the political action committee as well as coordination of lobbying compliance. In her current role as manager of community outreach, she handles grassroots community relations and social media.

Stacey proudly serves on the South Norfolk Revitalization Commission and also as a board member for the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce (Norfolk Division).

Prior to joining Norfolk Southern, Stacey worked for United States Congressman Jon Porter (R-NV-03) and on the United States House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. She also spent nine years working for Ann Eppard Associates lobbying issues on behalf of such groups as the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Port of Corpus Christi and the City of Harlingen, Texas.

Stacey graduated from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia with a B.A. degree in art history. She is originally from Virginia Beach, Virginia.



**VAUGHNCHETTE RUDISELL, Member-at-large**

Vaughnchette Rudisill is an award-winning business professional with over 16 years of business-to-business management, executive level recruiting, contract negotiations, human capital development and new business consulting. Her passion to assist others in gaining employment is embedded in knowing what it feels like to experience not having gainful employment or being laid off. Vaughnchette is driven to establish solid connections with candidates and employers. She is a gifted, sought-after motivational and career speaker who knows what it means to seize opportunities and convey transformative information to audiences. She is known for her direct yet caring communication style, strong relationship building techniques, and the ability to encourage others to realize their worth and empowering them with constructive tools to make their dreams of success a reality.

Vaughnchette is President and CEO of Epiphany Consulting LLC of Virginia. She is a graduate of the Harambee Leadership Academy and the Pillars of Power Leadership Institute.

Not only is she a vigorous full-time career trainer and recruitment professional in addition to her other titles, but she is also a wife and mother.

In her community, she serves as a commissioner on the Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission, a board member serving the Girl Scouts Council of the Colonial Coast, a member of Final Destination Motorcycle Club and a die-hard Dallas Cowboy Fan.

Vaughnchette's enduring message is to be the best YOU that you can be. Start today



**KAREN TSIANTAS, Member-at -Large**

CAPT Karen A. Tsiantas, a first generation Greek-American, was born and raised in Newburyport, MA. She graduated from College of the Holy Cross in 1987 where she earned a B.A. degree in history and received her Navy commission as an ensign via the college's NROTC program.

CAPT Tsiantas has been stationed around the world. Over half of her career has been spent in locations outside of the continental United States on islands such as: Adak, Alaska; Oahu, HI (3 tours); La Maddalena, Sardinia, Italy; and Okinawa, Japan. She has held numerous leadership positions throughout her career such as J1, Joint Task Force-Full Accounting; Executive Officer, Naval Support Activity La Maddalena Italy; Northeast Asia Branch Chief, USPACOM; Chief Staff Officer, Fleet Activities Okinawa, Commanding Officer of Enlisted Personnel, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Fleet and Family Readiness Program Director at Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, and her present job, Operations Officer, Joint Forces Staff College.

CAPT Tsiantas is a graduate of the Naval War College (M.A. degree in national security), the Joint Services Staff College and is a joint specialty officer. In 1993, she was named the Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii Female Athlete of the Year.

CAPT Tsiantas has been living in Norfolk, VA since December 2007.



**MARIE VESELY, Member-at-large**

Marie Vesely and husband Mike Hoover moved to Virginia Beach in 2006 so Marie could take a job with the Norfolk Department of Human Services as manager of foster care and adoption. Marie, a social worker and lawyer by training, worked for over 40 years in child welfare, domestic violence and homeless services until retiring in 2011. Marie grew up in a Girl Scout Council in Cleveland, OH. She also served as a troop leader and worked at the camps. Marie was selected to attend Round-Up-1962 for the 50th birthday celebration. Marie has also been a professional Girl Scout in Boston, MA and a board member of a council in north suburban Chicago. Marie and Mike have 2 sons. Christopher is a resident in urology in Boston and Patrick is an administrator at a charter school in Chicago. Her granddaughter is a Girl Scout Daisy in suburban Chicago. In addition to her Girl Scout board responsibilities, Marie also volunteers with a first grade class in Virginia Beach, serves on a United Way funding committee and sings with Virginia Beach Chorale and Symphonocity Chorus.

## Board Development Committee Bios

Maria Mills (Please see picture and bio above)

## National Delegate Bios



**DINA CREWE**

Dina has been a Girl Scout for 23 years. She began as a Girl Scout Brownie in Virginia Beach when the council name was the Tidewater Council. She was a girl member for 6 years and adult Girl Scout for 17 years.

While living at Eielson Air Force Base, AK, she served as a Girl Scout Brownie leader in the Farthest North Girl Scout Council. She continued her adventure in San Angelo, TX. Then one to River Bluffs Council in IL where she took on the additional role of "cookie mom"---along with a few other volunteer roles. She was selected to attend the Girl Scout National Conventions in both Atlanta in 2005 and Indianapolis in 2008. In addition, she has received several adult awards such as the Appreciation Pin and Thanks Badge I and II.

In 2011, Dina moved back to VA began working with Girl Scout Juniors and a homeschool troop of Girl Scout Daisy/Juniors in Suffolk. Dina holds several certifications and you may have even seen her face out the front desk of our office. She does everything!

"I love being a Girl Scout!!! Having no children of my own does not dampen my enthusiasm to show girls how important they are and how I can mentor them into becoming fantastic leaders and citizens! And of course, I have fun being a Girl Scout leader and I am excited to represent our Council at the National Convention in Salt Lake City!!!!"



**MARIA NISSEN**

Maria was born and raised in Santa Barbara, CA. She joined Girl Scouts in 4th grade and remained a member through 9th grade, earning many awards and badges including the First Class Award. She graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1985 and served in the Air Force for over 7 years. After moving to VA, she worked for Pella Windows, first inside sales and then as commercial sales representative. A few years ago, she began work at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard as a health physicist. She began volunteering for Girl Scouts when her older daughter's troop didn't have a leader. That was 17 years ago. Both of her daughters have now both earned their Girl Scout Gold Award. She lives in Hampton and volunteers with as East Hampton Service Unit Juliette coordinator.



**JESSICA RICHARDSON**

Jesse is originally from Wilmington, NC and relocated to Moyock, NC in 2004. She is a happily married mother of 2! She previously worked in the medical field as an office assistant at New Hanover Regional Medical Center and Children's Hospital of the King's Daughter in the NICU. Jesse is proud to have worked with special needs and developmental delays. Currently the PTO Secretary of Moyock Middle School, member of the School Improvement Advisory Board for Moyock Elementary, leader for Girl Scout Junior/Cadette troop, Currituck Service Unit program chair and co-camp consultant.



**MEI STUKES**

Mei Stukes grew up as a military daughter and then became a military spouse. She has four children, Gabriella (14), Ashleigh(13), James(8), and Ethan(5) and has been a Girl Scout volunteer for 9 years. Both her daughters earned their Girl Scout Silver Awards this summer. Her and her husband Bob just celebrated their 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary together.

She is a Girl Scout alumnae from Sumter, SC. Her father served in the Air Force, and they moved around a lot. A friend suggested that she join her at a troop meeting on base when she was nine years old and she stayed a Girl Scout for more than four years. She vowed to make sure that her daughters were a part of this wonderful organization. In 2005, her oldest daughter became a Girl Scout Daisy and served as a troop assistant until becoming the troop leader in 2009. When her youngest daughter was ready to be a Girl Scout Brownie, she formed another troop so she could be a Girl Scout too.

She also volunteers on the service unit and community level. "At the heart of why I am still a Girl Scout is that I can continue to promote and support community service." She and the troop are active participants of the annual Operation School Supplies, Operation Homefront Freedomwalk, food drives, and peninsula pet pantry.

"Every year comes with new adventures, events, and friends. And I'm not talking about for the girls. I am so honored to share this experience with other fantastic and motivated adult volunteers." She is thrilled to be considered to be National delegate candidate.



**BAILLIE MCGOWAN**

Baillie is a member of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Princess Anne High School allowing Baillie to become involved in Model UN, Spanish Honor Society, and take both Spanish and Russian. Along with being a member of IB for six years, she has also been a Girl Scout for almost 12 years. Girl Scouting has provided her with the ability to travel to Australia and New Zealand, Hawaii, California, Savannah, Georgia, London, Dublin, Paris, and now New York. Her involvement in both programs has led her to a love for foreign affairs and international studies, including both language and politics. Baillie plans to attend college with a double major in conflict analysis and resolution and psychology and minor in legal studies and linguistics. Baillie cannot wait to return and share her knowledge and leadership experience with her Council and especially her Girl Scout troop.



**ABIGAIL SISTI**

Abigail is attending Ocean Lakes High School as a member of the Math and Science Academy. She has been a Girl Scout in three states including five years in VA. Before she graduates she would like to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. She plans to attend college to study biology and veterinary medicine. She is excited to represent the Council at the National Convention this year!



**SHANNON HEPP, Alternate**

Shannon Hepp is an accomplished 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who attends the Spratley Gifted Center in Hampton, VA. She maintains her Dean's List status while taking algebra II/trig. and French II high school credit courses. She is a member of the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, secretary of the National Jr. Honor Society, president of the C.H.R.O.M.E. Club (Cooperating Hampton Roads Organizations for Minorities in Engineering), member of the T.S.A. (Technology Student Association), member of the Japanese OTAKU Culture Club and plays the flute in her school's band.

Shannon aspires to become an aerospace engineer. Last summer she was one of 25 students, selected from an applicant pool of 185 6th-8th grade students from across VA, to attend a fully funded week long resident program provided by the Summer STEAM Academy for physics and applied mathematics, hosted at Old Dominion University. She now serves as an ambassador of the inaugural class of the Summer STEAM Academy and plans to attend their public residency high school. (The Virginia STEAM Academy is a residential public high school for science, technology, engineering and applied mathematics, slated to open in 9/2015, at Ft. Monroe, Hampton, VA.)

Shannon's Girl Scout experience includes being an active troop member for the last 7 years in councils across FL, GA and VA. She serves as an encampment planning member for her service unit recently attended the Society of Women Engineers Day at the VA Air and Space Museum participated in Hampton's Scouts in Government Day 2012 and 2013, completed the Red Cross Babysitting Training certification, NASA's Discovery Day and two years of Science Alive programs at Norfolk State University. She has earned the Girl Scout Justice Journey, is an avid reader, and enjoys camping, archery and the ukulele.

**MARIE VESELY, Alternate** (Please see picture and bio above)



**EILEEN LIVICK, Alternate**

Eileen is a Lifetime member of Girl Scouts and has been an adult volunteer for 19 years. She is currently a Girl Scout Junior troop leader and camp consultant in the Meadowlark Service Unit. Eileen is an adult learning facilitator and serves at the community level as the travel pathway coordinator. Additionally, Eileen serves on the council adult awards committee. When not volunteering with Girl Scouts, Eileen enjoys reading, traveling, walks on the beach and photography.