

2017-2019 Slate of Officers



Debbie Kilpatrick, nominee for **President-Elect** is a strong advocate for all government levels to provide greater investments in student education and believes in the advocacy that PTA provides. In recognition of her passion for Virginia's students and families, she received NAACP Fairfax Community Service Award, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers President's Award, FCPS School Board Community Service Resolution, and National PTA Life Achievement Award. As an FCPS substitute teacher, Debbie sees firsthand the benefits of engaged families in education. Serving as NOVA District PTA Director with more than 220 PTAs and 58,000 members, Debbie provides mentorship, guidance, and support to local, council, and state PTA leaders. Past service includes: Virginia PTA VP Membership, Fairfax County Council PTA President, Governor's School TJHSST PTSA President, and Centreville HS PTSA President. Under Debbie's leadership, NOVA District received a National PTA and Bayer \$4000 grant, one of six national STEM + Families recipients, which support schools serving underrepresented students and low income families. Debbie authored articles in 2017 National PTA's *Our Children* magazine and *PTA Advocacy Changes Lives* publication, and a presenter of two 2017 National PTA Convention workshops focused on advocacy and STEM. *Debbie's blueprint for the future will engage, inspire, and amplify our Virginia PTA voice!*



Jill Burley, nominee for **Vice President of Membership**, and her husband, Bruce, reside in the Tidewater District, in Virginia Beach. They have two daughters, Camryn, who attends the University of Virginia, and Colbie who is a senior at Ocean Lakes High school. Jill's PTA career started in 2005, at her daughters' elementary school. She has held several positions with various PTAs including local unit president and vice president, council president, and district treasurer. She currently serves as Arts and Education Chair and Annual Conference Chair for Virginia PTA. Jill owns her own business, where she works as a hair stylist. This has been her occupation for over 30 years. In her spare time, she enjoys crafting, cooking, gardening, and spending time with her family and two dogs.



Sharon Abernathy, nominee for **Secretary**, has been an advocate for children for 10 years. When her son, Adam, started kindergarten in 2007 at Pole Green Elementary, she jumped into the PTA right away, serving on the PTA Board as Legislation Chair. Since that time, she has chaired various PTA committees, served as secretary and president of Adam's elementary school PTA, and president of his middle school PTA. She is the immediate past president of the Hanover County Council of PTAs, and presently serves as Richmond District Director. In her current role as a member of the Virginia PTA Board of Managers, she serves as Resolutions Chair, and is a member of several committees, including Annual Conference, Bylaws, Legislation and Membership. She holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Bluefield College. In her full-time job of 24 years with the Supreme Court of Virginia, among other things, she serves as secretary to several judicial policy-making bodies. The meetings of these groups are fast-paced, and, due to the high degree of accuracy that is required in law and policy, it is very important to capture specific and accurate details of the meetings. In addition to her experience recording minutes for her "paying job," she served for many years as Secretary to the Board and Church Congregation at Seventh Street Christian Church, where she took meeting minutes and prepared Board correspondence and communications. She has also served as Secretary on the Pole Green Elementary School PTA Board. She is very excited to be nominated as Virginia PTA Secretary.



Irene Smith, nominee for **Treasurer**, and her husband Jon Winoker live in Chesapeake. Together they have six grown children and seven wonderful grandchildren. Irene has been actively serving in the PTA at local, council, and district levels since 1999 and currently serves as Treasurer for Virginia PTA. Her other volunteer involvements have been fundraising, bylaws, and membership drive at Indian River High School PTSA where she was awarded the Virginia PTA Lifetime Membership. Irene currently works from home as Contract Administrator and Shop Drawing Detailer for a company she has worked for 30 years. In her spare time she enjoys salt water fishing, many family gatherings, and sewing.