

# the VOICE

February 1, 2017

**Virginia**  
**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.®



Jane Brooks  
Virginia PTA 2015-2017  
(757) 425-1597  
president@vapta.org

## [Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Virginia PTA  
[Virtual Exhibit Hall](#)

### IN THIS ISSUE

[Parents Needed to Serve as Peer - ESSA](#)

[Do YOU Know a Super Teacher](#)

[Is Your PTA Ready?](#)

[Time is Running Out for the Power Plates Student Recipe Challenge!](#)

[Apply for Virginia PTA Scholarships NOW!](#)

[PTA Member Benefits](#)

[Training Half-Time Check](#)

[WHY the Emphasis on Training?](#)

[Voice of Membership](#)

[Teen Dating Violence Awareness](#)

[Plan an Unforgettable....Family Reading Experience!](#)

### STUDENT PROGRAMS

- [Power Plates Contest](#)
- [Scholarship Program](#)

### VIRGINIA PTA RECOGNITION

- [Child Advocate of the Year](#)
- [Family Engagement](#)
- [Outstanding Communications](#)
- [Power Partners \(Principal/Supt\)](#)
- [Volunteer of the Year](#)

### VAPTA Board Opportunities

- [Communications Committee Chair](#)
- [District Director - Big Walker](#)

## President's Note,

Monday, PTA advocates from across the Commonwealth met with our legislators. Parents, students and supporters shared our stand on key issues coming before the General Assembly. We are, above all else, advocates for our children and our voice will be heard. We thank all those who made the trip and took time out of their lives to work towards making a positive impact on all of our children's lives.

Soon our PTA leaders will receive their local unit leadership update. It will contain information for leaders and members. Included in this mailing:

- Sarah Gross will give us an update on where bills stand as they cross over from one legislative body to the other.
- Is your PTA eligible for a membership award? Donna Colombo will provide membership awards criteria. Membership is a year round program and you still have time to set a new goal!
- Michael French will have a Power Plates flyer you can share with your students. This program, similar to the Reflections Program, encourages students of all ages to enter their winning healthy recipes.

We are excited about the work Jill Burley and Donna Colombo have done on our July Annual Conference. They have looked at every element and are creating training sessions tailored to the real needs of our PTA members. Look for more coming soon!

Until next time,

Sincerely,

Jane  
**Grow!**

## Parents Needed to Serve as Peer Reviewers for ESSA State Plans!

The U.S. Department of Education is seeking highly qualified individuals to serve in a critical role as peer reviewers of State plans, as required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those interested in applying to serve as a peer reviewer must apply by **February 17, 2017**.

Find out more and [apply today!](#)

## Do YOU Know a Super Teacher?

Can your child's teacher do amazing things? Stupendous things? Do they inspire kids to leap, learn and soar higher than ever before? Then your child may know the most amazing of all super heroes - a Virginia Lottery Super Teacher - and we want to hear all about them!



Between now and **February 13, 2017**, you have the opportunity to

- [District Director - Blue Ridge](#)
- [District Director - Dan River](#)
- [District Director - Holston](#)
- [District Director - Lynchburg](#)
- [District Director - Natural Bridge](#)
- [District Director - Natural Tunnel](#)
- [District Director - Parkway](#)
- [District Director - Shenandoah](#)



### VAPTA MEMBER LINKS

- [Bylaws Library](#)
- [Dues Remittance Form](#)
- [501\(c\)\(3\) Letter](#)
- [Officer Contact Form - Print and Mail](#)
- [Officer Contact Form - Online Submission](#)
- [Take Action VA](#)
- [Contact VA PTA](#)



### NATIONAL PTA



### NATIONAL PTA RECOGNITION

- ..... ★★★★★ .....
- [Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grants](#)  
Deadline March 17, 2017
  - [Phoebe Apperson Hearst Innovation in Family Engagement](#)
  - [Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion](#)  
Deadline March 17, 2017 8pm
  - [Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year](#)

### News

- [Newly Formed Public Education Caucus](#)
- [One PTA - Annual Report](#)
- [Stakeholder Engagement in Every Student Succeeds Act](#)

### One Voice Blogs

- [Advocacy](#)
- [Arts in Education](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Education News](#)
- [Every Child in Focus](#)
- [Family Engagement](#)
- [General](#)
- [Health & Safety](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Money Matters](#)
- [Laura's Corner](#)

send your child's teacher into this year's league of Super Teachers! How do you get in the game? Visit [www.vasuperteacher.com](http://www.vasuperteacher.com) and you're just a few clicks away from submitting a nomination and helping honor one of Virginia's best teachers.

Prizes for the eight winning 2017 Super Teachers include \$2,000 from the [Virginia Lottery](#) and \$2,000 in classroom supplies from [The Supply Room Companies](#).

Thanks to the Virginia PTA for its tenth year of partnership and for helping us to honor 72 outstanding educators. We hope you're ready to join this game - the play action will definitely be worth it!



### Is Your PTA Ready?

Make it a weeklong celebration...visit [PTA.org/TYFTSW](http://PTA.org/TYFTSW) to download pre-made fliers, posters, social media graphics and more!

**National PTA wants to hear from you.** How will your PTA celebrate the diverse families of America during Take Your Family to School Week? [Tell us!](#) Share photos with us on Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #PTAPROUD.

### Time Is Running Out for the Power Plates Student Recipe Challenge!



Get out your aprons you only have a few more days to submit your entry for the Virginia PTA Power Plates program. Power Plates encourages students to practice healthy eating habits by submitting their recipes. It is open to students from grade pre-kindergarten through grade 12. There are five categories: breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner entrée or side dish, and dessert. Visit the [Power Plates page](#) for the official rules and entry form, deadline is **February 24**.

### Apply for Virginia PTA Scholarships NOW!

Each year Virginia PTA offers scholarships to graduating seniors from Virginia schools with a PTSA in good standing. Scholarships are based on a demonstrated commitment to and engagement in, community service, academic achievement and financial need. Let your graduating seniors know the deadline to submit their scholarship [applications](#) to Virginia PTA is **Monday, March 1, 2017**.

### PTA Member Benefits

2017 is going to be a great year to be a PTA member. National PTA and Virginia PTA are excited to share member benefits currently available - check them out [National](#) and [Virginia](#).

### Training Half-Time Check

Congratulations, you've made it halfway through the school year!! Here are some tools found in our "[Training Library](#)" to make sure your PTA is on track to finish your year successfully:

- Leadership Toolkit - a guide for all PTA leaders
- Support for Your PTA - documents you can customize

**PTA Members ONLY**

Get exclusive  
PTA Member  
discounts and  
savings.

---

**[PTA Benefits Flyer](#)**


---

- Treasurers
- National PTA Support - Quick Reference guides and short E-learning courses

It is time to elect your Nominating Committee, and we have everything you need in our [Nominating Committee and Elections](#) section of our Training Library as well:

- [Training presentation that explains the process](#)
- [Step by Step Guide](#)
- [Nomination Form for your PTA to customize](#)

**Share these training tools with your board!** For more info, contact your [District Director](#) or Amy Harbert at [vp@vapta.org](mailto:vp@vapta.org).

---

## WHY the Emphasis on Training?

As board members, it is our fiduciary responsibility to manage our PTAs in the best interest of members as a whole. To run programs and handle budgets responsibly, knowledge of the applicable state and federal regulations is key to operate your non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable corporation.

Training is what helps give our local PTAs credibility. A well-trained and informed board is a great selling point to encourage the community to join a local PTA. Trained board members should be proud of stepping up to the responsibility in their local PTA.

Grow with Virginia PTA - July 13-15, 2017 at the Downtown Richmond Marriott. Registration **begins April 2017**. Mark your calendar, confirm your PTA budget, check the [conference page](#) often for the latest information and join us at Virginia PTA Annual Conference!




---

## Voice of Membership

Is your PTA/PTSA planning a membership drive this winter and spring? Virginia PTA offers great membership incentive awards to support your PTA/PTSA growth to potential new parents, staff, and community members. There is the 100% Teacher, Principal, 25% Male Membership, and for PTSA's the 25% Student Membership Awards. Check all the valuable [membership tools](#) and awards detailing application requirements and submission deadline dates. Remember these awards show value to your school and your members. Contact Donna Colombo at [vpmembership@vapta.org](mailto:vpmembership@vapta.org)




---

## Teen Dating Violence Awareness

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Did you know that 1 in 3 high school students experience some form of dating violence in their relationships. Parents and teens are encouraged to visit [breakthecycle](#) for details on empowering youth to prevent domestic violence. The website also includes many resources for parents and teens.

---

## Plan an Unforgettable Family Reading Experience!



March is National Reading Month - is your school prepared? When families read together, they spark their imaginations, learn important lessons, start difficult conversations and

make memories that last forever. National PTA and Kindle believe family involvement is key to developing students who enjoy reading. That is why both groups are working together to engage families in reading through the PTA Family Reading Experience, a fun family literacy event hosted in schools nationwide.

Watch this [slideshow](#) and use this checklist to help you plan your own event!

- Choose a date and time that allows the largest number of families to participate. Reserve an open space or a few classrooms for hosting reading stations. Coordinate with your school administrator to avoid conflicts with other activities.
- Pick a theme, prepare reading station activities and print out take-home tips for parents. You can find options for these ready-made for you at [PTA.org/Reading](http://PTA.org/Reading).
- Recruit six reading leaders to facilitate station activities. Prepare each leader by sharing station instructions and reviewing your event schedule ahead of time. Be sure each station leader understands the importance of families participating in the activities with their children!

Invite your whole school community to attend! Send home an invitation using our templates at [PTA.org/Reading](http://PTA.org/Reading).

Disclaimer: Inclusion of content other than that provided by current Virginia PTA Officers and Board of Managers members does not constitute endorsement by Virginia PTA. Virginia PTA does not assume responsibility for content of linked sites and does not independently verify or exert editorial control over information on linked sites. Virginia PTA shall not be responsible or liable, directly or indirectly, for any damage or loss caused by or alleged to be caused by use of a linked site in any way.

Virginia PTA, 1027 Wilmer Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@vapta.org](mailto:info@vapta.org) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

Try it free today