

the VOICE

March 15, 2017

**Virginia
PTA**
everychild.onevoice.®



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President's Note,

We just returned from attending National PTA's Legislation Conference where we were proud to have our own [Congressman Bobby Scott](#) receive National PTA's Voice for Children Award.

We went to Capitol Hill to speak to our members in Congress. We sought support of PTA's issues from both Lauren Marshall, Legislative Assistant to Sen. Mark Warner and Karishma Merchant, Legislative Assistant to Sen. Tim Kaine. We also met with Jacque Chevalier, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Scott. Jacque is the Senior Policy Adviser, U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee. Sarah Gross said it best: "Jacque encouraged Virginia PTA and parents across the Commonwealth to lend their voices and be loud to preserve and invest in the U.S. public education system. All children have the right to a high-quality education with no funding tricks or schemes. Period!"

What can you and every PTA member do? Contact [your congressman and our senators](#). It takes a little of your time but can have an immense impact. Let them know PTA's seven major issues from [PTA's Legislation Checklist](#). Here are more [details](#) for a better understanding of the nature of and vital need for this legislation.

We are advocates for all children and our elected members of Congress need to know our position on these critical needs. Thank you for your efforts!

Sincerely,

Jane
Grow!



Barron Elementary School PTA Celebrates Read Across America with Dr. Seuss Activities

Earlier this month schools and PTAs celebrated Read Across America! The Barron PTA, *Peninsula District* sponsored Dr. Seuss activity stations for the students and both the Principal and Assistant Principal read a story. The stations included making a cat in the hat, pin the hat on the cat, free book exchange, one fish two fish signs and bead making.

Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Awards

Deadline: Friday, March 17, 8 pm



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](#)
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NATIONAL PTA



NATIONAL PTA RECOGNITION

[Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grants](#)

Deadline March 17, 2017

[Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion](#)

Deadline March 17, 2017 8pm

News

- [Newly Formed Public Ed 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](#)

Does your PTA demonstrate outstanding achievement in the areas of diversity and inclusion? If so, apply today for a [Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award!](#)



One local PTA, one district/council PTA and one state PTA will be honored for their efforts at the [2017 National PTA Convention & Expo](#) in Las Vegas, June 22-25.

Jan Harp Domene, a former National PTA president, was committed to reaching out to the diverse families in the United States and bringing them into the PTA family. [Learn more](#) about Domene and the award.

How to Apply:

1. Review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
2. [Preview application questions](#) and draft responses prior to applying online
3. [Submit finalized responses](#) through the online application by **March 17, 8 pm**

Email supplemental documents to Diversity@PTA.org

2017 Mary Lou Anderson Grants

Deadline: Friday, March 17, 8 pm



The [Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant](#) provides up to \$1,000 in matching funds to support local PTA arts projects within their school community. Funded projects will increase access to learning opportunities in the literary, media, visual and/or performing arts for at-risk or under-served audiences. Arts projects must actively engage families and community partners to strengthen family-school partnerships. Eligible applicants must be a PTA in good standing, as determined by the State PTA.

[Apply Now ▶](#)

Preventing Theft in Your PTA

Does your PTA have solid internal controls to prevent theft, fraud and embezzlement? Now is a great time to do a financial "check-up" with your president and treasurer.

- Our "[Fraud Prevention Checklist](#)" gives you a list of steps your PTA should be taking each month to ensure you are being financially responsible.
- The "[PTA Financial Management Checklist](#)" is a complete review of financial management practices. This is completed by the president and treasurer together. Completing this review now will help your PTA prepare for your annual audit, budgeting for next year, ensure you have financial controls in place, insurance in place and have filed IRS and tax forms.

Want more info?

- "[Preventing Theft in Your PTA](#)" e-learning course will teach you how to detect theft in your unit and what to do if you suspect it is happening.
- The "PTA [President's Quick Reference Guide](#)" explains the president's role in managing money (page 16).

PTA Members ONLY



Get exclusive PTA Member discounts and savings.

[PTA Benefits Flyer](#)

- The "[PTA Finance Quick Reference Guide](#)" explains the role of the treasurer as the steward of your PTA's finances.
- The BTS Kit (www.ptakit.org) is a wealth of information on everything PTA!
- Your PTA's bylaws describe how your unit functions and are a must read ... if you do not have a copy ask your president or contact Deborah in our Virginia PTA office at laison@vapta.org or 804-264-1234.

Sharing these resources with your board and following the guidance in the checklists will help keep your PTA financially safe and sound. Questions? Contact Irene Smith at treasurer@vapta.org or Amy Harbert, VP of Training at vp@vapta.org.

Make a Trip to Great Wolf Lodge



Did you know if you're a member of Virginia PTA - you're in Great Wolf Lodge's "Preferred Pack"??? You are! And that means discounts! In 2017, go to any of the 14 Great Wolf Lodge around the US, and SAVE 30% on reservations. Log into the [Benefits and Discounts](#) page of Virginia PTA's website for more information and the code to use when making reservations. And...have a great time!!!

Voice of Membership

Interested in knowing what your PTA membership brings to the table? What it stands for? Or what it does at the legislative level? It's your membership, our members that give us the strength to stand up and speak on behalf of our children. It's being in the schools, going to school board and local government meetings. And more.



PTA's cannot do all of the work alone. They need support from parents, students (PTSA's), staff, community leaders, and local businesses. PTAs need committed leaders at all levels, local, council, district, state and national. They need your leadership and voices.

Now is the time when you will be planning for the rest of this year and looking forward to planning next year. Be part of the PTA. Join. Speak. Volunteer. Most importantly, engage in your schools.



Virginia PTA Annual Conference 2017

Virginia PTA is ready to head back to Richmond for Grow with PTA -- our summer training event. Join us to elect your state officers for 2017-2019, training, networking, and having fun with your fellow PTA leaders from across Virginia! After this event is over, you will go into the 2017-2018 school year with more confidence in your role as a Volunteer Leader. We look forward to seeing you July 13 - July 15 in Richmond! [Registration](#) begins in April.



All-in-One Turnkey Solution for PTA Online Communication, Collaboration, and Payments

You can create a volunteer Sign Up for teacher appreciation week, send out monthly newsletter, schedule email reminder for chick-fil-a dinner, conduct online silent auction, sell spirit wear, create registration for after school activities ... PTBoard has all the online tools you need to run your PTA.

New Features

Silent Auction- the exciting new feature you have been waiting for is here

Guest Checkout - parents do not need to login to purchase fundraising items or make a donation

Upcoming Events - PTBoard will be at Northern Virginia District Annual Meeting on March 30th.

Webinar - Register for next free webinar at ptboard.ptboard.com and enter to win \$15 Starbucks gift card.

Learn more at PTBoard.com

National Nutrition Month® 2017



National Nutrition Month® is a nutrition education and information campaign created annually in March by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The campaign focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

The theme for 2017 is *"Put Your Best Fork Forward"*, a reminder that each bite counts. Making small shifts in our food choices, can add up over time. The 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans suggest starting with small changes in order to make healthier lasting changes you can enjoy. This year's theme for National Nutrition Month® inspires us to start with small changes in our eating habits - one forkful at a time. So whether you are planning meals to prepare at home or making selections when eating out, Put Your Best Fork Forward to help find your healthy eating style.

Visit www.eatingright.org to learn more about National Nutrition Month.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

This is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities and promote prevention across the country. This year's theme is "Building Community, Building Hope." Communities have a great influence in families' lives. Everyone can get involved and play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect and promoting child and family well-being. This section provides information on getting involved to strengthen families and your community.

Get involved to strengthen your community! For more information please visit [Prevention Month](#).

Virginia National Security Agency's Day of Cyber School Challenge

Get your school division involved with the Virginia National Security Agency's Day of Cyber School Challenge. In addition to providing students with opportunities to understand the skills & education

pathways needed to achieve exciting futures in the lucrative cybersecurity market, schools & teachers with the highest student participation will be recognized at a special Cyber Education reception in Richmond. [Registration](#) deadline is **March 31**.

Service Academy Day 2017

Senator Mark R. Warner invites high school and middle school students, their parents, and guidance counselors to Academy Day 2017. Attendees will be provided a comprehensive overview of the United States service academies and their admission process. To [learn more about](#)

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