

the VOICE

April 1, 2017

Virginia
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.®



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Virginia PTA
[Virtual Exhibit Hall](#)

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President's Note,

We welcome spring as you finalize your upcoming meetings and your plans for the coming year. Look over your bylaws. It tells you your officers, how long the terms last, when you should hold elections and when the current terms end. PTAs are sometimes surprised to see they haven't always been following their bylaws! You can go to [Nominating Committee and Elections](#) to get everything you need to carry on a proper election. To help your incoming leadership, share the [Officer Update Form](#), it will be their first step in continuing to be a Local Unit in Good Standing! It will automatically put those leaders on our mailing list so they can receive vital information and support, such as this Voice and Local Unit Leadership Update! Do you have your books and notes ready to pass on to your successor? Take the stress off yourself by getting them ready now!

Look for your PTA [Council](#) and [District](#) to provide training to help you finish your year. For the future of your PTA/PTSA, the best thing you can do is budget for our [Annual Conference](#). Not only is it your opportunity to have your voice heard, but every one of your leaders will have the best training, support and networking they need to ensure a successful year. In just a few days you'll receive the Call to our Annual Conference.

This is a good time to think of your next steps in PTA and advocating for our children. You may look at stepping up to your council or district or state as a volunteer or committee member. The Virginia Department of Education is also seeking members to serve on several advisory committees. Details are below.

Take a breath. Take time to share some of these glorious spring days with your family and your PTA family.

Sincerely,

Jane
Grow!

STEM in NOVA

Congratulations to Northern Virginia District PTA! National PTA and the Bayer USA Foundation awarded [Northern Virginia District PTA](#) a \$4,000 grant to engage families in STEM education. Northern Virginia District PTA is one of only six PTAs nationwide selected to receive a grant through the [STEM Plus Families](#) initiative. The grant recognizes Northern Virginia District PTA's leadership and commitment to increasing access to STEM experiences for Virginia children and families.

On **Sunday, April 23, 2-5 p.m.**, Northern Virginia District PTA will host a science-focused STEM event at Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria in collaboration with Bayer's Making Science Make Sense® initiative. During the event, families from the Mt. Vernon HS Pyramid Schools will engage with Bayer volunteers; visit experiment stations and participate in fun, hands-on activities to help students learn science the way scientists do-by doing it. Families will also hear



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

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](#)

PTA Members ONLY



Get exclusive PTA Member discounts and savings.

from local STEM associations, companies, community college and university STEM specialists, and there will be a workshop for parents and administrators to learn about hosting STEM events at their schools. Breakout Thought Sessions will also be offered to provide an opportunity to learn about STEM topics by leaders in specialized fields. Registration is available at: www.novadistrictpta.org

Apply for Virginia BOE Committees Deadline April 14

The Virginia Board of Education is seeking nominees to serve a three-year term on the following advisory committees appointed by the Board:

- Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL)
- Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted (VACEG)
- State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC)
- Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Committee (AELAC)
- Advisory Committee for Career & Technical Education

Educators, administrators, and other individuals, and organizations are invited to recommend nominees to fill current vacancies as noted in [Superintendent's Memo #088-17](#). Individuals are also welcome to nominate themselves.

Nominations may be made by completing the nomination form attached to [Superintendent's Memo #088-17](#). Please send the completed form to Board Relations Director Emily Webb, P. O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120. Nominations may also be submitted by e-mail at Emily.Webb@doe.virginia.gov.

All nominations must be received by Friday, April 14, 2017.

Child Advocate of the Year!

Do you know AN ADVOCATE who has made a significant statewide impact for Virginia's children through their efforts?

NOMINATE THEM as our 2017 CHILD ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR!

A Virginia PTA Child Advocate could be a legislator, public servant, PTA member, community leader...anyone who works to bring positive change to our children and schools.

- The nominee must be a resident of Virginia.
- The nominee must have made a significant impact for Virginia's children through their advocacy efforts.
- Their advocacy efforts must have had STATEWIDE impact.

NOMINATION FOR

Winner will be recognized at our 2017 Annual Conference in July.



Virginia PTA Annual Conference 2017

Registration is now open!

Join us for Grow with PTA - the 2017 Virginia PTA Annual Conference & Leadership Training! This is your opportunity to

[PTA Benefits Flyer](#)

connect and network with other dedicated volunteers in **Richmond, July 13-15, 2017**.

Register now and save money with our early-bird rates. For all conference information, [click here](#).

You don't want to miss out on best practices to grow your school community for all children and families!

At Grow with PTA you will:

- **Develop** ideas to use at school and at home.
- Be inspired by presenters with **flourishing** strategies for success.
- Learn to **produce** solutions to challenges PTAs face every day.

Every child deserves a chance to **grow** into their potential. Join Virginia PTA in celebrating how we have influenced the lives of children and families by engaging and empowering them to advocate for all children and their school communities.

Help Us Share Our News with Power Tweets!

Do you have a PTA and/or personal Twitter account? Do you follow [@VirginiaPTA](#) on Twitter?

As we expand our reach on social media, please consider 'following' our Twitter page to stay updated and share with your network what's happening in Virginia PTA.

We need you to help us build excitement by sharing our **Power Tweets**.

Power tweets are tweets that attract large attention and possibly go viral in the process. They spread far and wide on Twitter. Power tweets are crafted in such a manner that they are optimized for retweets, favorites, and interaction with our followers.

You will receive a notification that we need your assistance with an upcoming power tweet and we provide you with a customized message - in advance. You may post the message directly to your Twitter page or share the power tweet from our page - totally your decision.

Our first power tweet is **TODAY, April 1st!** Tweet the following to your followers:

Registration Open! 2017 #VAPTA Annual Conference July 13-15. Workshops, speakers & free resources.

<http://www.vapta.org/events/annual-conference#VPTAPowerTweet>

\$6,500 in Cash Awards for K-8 Schools in Northern Virginia

[Fire Up Your Feet](#) is an encouragement program created by the [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](#). **Register and track activity May 1-31** for a chance to win cash awards for your school! Anyone can register (parents, teachers, community members) and track physical activity for any K-8 school in North Virginia. Schools can have one person tracking activity or 100, it is up to you. Earn cash awards for tracking any and all types of physical activity, any time of day, and participation is FREE.



REGISTER

1.

2. Create a group and enter the total number of participants in your group.
3. Track activity by selecting the date, type of activity, minutes of activity, group that performed the activity, and the school tracking.

Colonial Williamsburg[®]

Another PTA Membership Benefit!

When you visit Colonial Williamsburg, the world's largest living history museum, you become part of one of the greatest stories ever told. It's the dawn of America, the place where dreamers with a bold vision quite literally changed the world. You can meet artisans and craftsmen (and women), talk with America's founding generation whose diversity, aspirations, and struggles shaped who we are today. It's not just history. It's where history comes alive.

[Colonial Williamsburg](#) supports fun and interactive education of Virginia's children. Your Virginia PTA membership provides access to discount pricing on admission passes to the 18th-century capital city of Virginia. Spring Break is just around the corner and Summer vacation is coming!

Google Express is Newest PTA Sponsor

[Google Express](#) is PTA's newest [Proud National Sponsor](#). As a Proud National Sponsor, Google Express will play a vital role in supporting the work PTA does for children and education.

Google Express is a shopping service that connects shoppers with popular retailers for fast, convenient delivery of groceries, household items, school supplies and more. Google Express strives to help families, PTA members and their communities save time by delivering everyday essentials right to their door from stores including [Costco](#), [Whole Foods Market](#) and [Walgreens](#).

From now until May 31, 2017, PTA members can get 25% off their first Google Express order, up to \$30 off*, with code PTAPOWER. Visit [Google Express](#) to start shopping.



Now in Prince William County!

The US Tennis Association Mid-Atlantic Section is excited to bring tennis to the Richmond, James River and Hunt districts...and we have recently expanded into the Patriot district! **TGA**, which stands for Teach, Grow, Achieve, introduces elementary and middle school students to tennis through our multi-level enrichment program that includes skill development, physical fitness, rules & etiquette, character development, and STEM subjects. Using portable, kid-friendly equipment, we get students playing and having fun right away! The USTA MAS provides all the equipment and handles everything from promotion and registration to staffing.

Contact your local TGA Chapter Director to find out more about bringing **TGA Premier Youth Tennis** to your school today!

TGA of RVA Shannon Scarvey, Chapter Director Tel: (804) 387-5927	TGA of Loudoun County Alex Chan, Chapter Director	TGA of Prince William County Morgan Abrams- Nicholas, Chapter Director
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Tel: (703) 556-6120 x7013 Tel: (703) 556-6120 x7005

Voice of Membership

Membership means belonging to a PTA/PTSA. Members have a vested interest in their PTA/PTSA. Members are engaged in what their children and schools are doing. PTA members make a difference!



You're still seeking members right? There's still time even as we enter the last few months of the school year. Have you seen [Why PTA?](#) Have any questions? Please email vpmembership@vapta.org

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](#).

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Virginia PTA, 1027 Wilmer Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227

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