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the **VOICE**

President's Message,

Virginia PTA is fresh off the National PTA Convention in New Orleans, LA last week. I am so proud to report that six of your state board members, two state committee chairs, our Executive Director, six council leaders and several unit leaders were in attendance for Team Virginia PTA! At the Convention, we voted on two resolutions - one titled "High Expectations for Students with Disabilities" and the other updating our position on Children's Emotional Health and Mental Health Awareness. Both were approved almost unanimously and I will provide you those links to the full text when they are available.

Beyond the governance work, though, we spent 4 days immersed in training workshops ranging from Board Development to Guiding PTA leadership through Finance, from Growing Membership to Developing Marketing Plans, from building Parent Academies to understanding the Opioid Epidemic. All of it was designed to reinforce our shared mission to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. The highlight of the week was celebrating the national Reflections winners in an incredible dinner and showcase on Saturday night. We even got to watch Virginia's own **Eric Poor** from Waples Mill PTA in *Northern Virginia* dance the closing number as an Outstanding Interpretation award winner!

Perhaps one of the most exciting announcements was that National PTA, along with its sponsors, would be increasing the number of grants available to units in a number of places - including STEM + Families math nights and Healthy Living grants! For more information on these grants, you can [click here](#) - and also look out for more information from us as it becomes available.

This is the time of year when we perhaps we have an opportunity to look around our units and schools and councils and districts - to see what where we can recommit, how we can tweak our goals, what we can get a jump start on for next year. If you want some help with that, please consider attending one of our fantastic Summer Leadership Trainings - which will be held in July in Northern Virginia, Central Virginia, Tidewater and Roanoke. For more information on these trainings, please [click here](#). Or if you want to jump straight to [registration - here you go!](#)

I will look forward to seeing you at one of these trainings! Thanks for all you do for PTA!!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah".

Sarah

Regional Summer Leadership Training is Coming to Your Area!!

Summer Leadership Training has always been one of our best events - now we are bringing it to four regions - Northern, Central, Hampton and Roanoke - so everyone can attend this full day of information, networking and training.

Plan to spend a great day with us as we help you and your board prepare for a successful upcoming PTA year. We are offering the **nuts and bolts of 'how to' officer training**, keys and tips for **establishing effective grassroots advocacy programs** and **building membership and family engagement!**

Summer Leadership Training workshops and table talks provide a great selection of hands-on learning and training opportunities to develop PTA leadership skills. ALL new and returning officers, chairpersons, and other interested parties are encouraged to [attend](#).

Don't miss the online registration deadline, available up until 7 days prior to each location's event date, so hurry and [register NOW!](#)

Be sure to share this information with your board and new officers.

WHAT'S YOUR ISSUE? [TAKE THIS SURVEY AND RAISE YOUR VOICE!](#)

Virginia PTA has been empowering our members to advocate for their students and schools at the

national, state and local level for almost 100 years. This process starts with YOU and YOUR ISSUE!

Every fall, we send out our Proposed Legislative Program (PLP) to all our members and they vote on new legislative positions. All our positions must be approved by our membership.

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO COMPLETE THIS [SURVEY](#). This helps us build a relevant and current legislative program. Feel free to post and circulate too!

If you have a concern related to our schools or if you just want to find out if we have a legislative position to support you, please send an email to advocacy@vapta.org. We will help you determine if it has statewide impact, write the position and possibly incorporate it into our PLP so we can get to work on MAKING CHANGE!

Thanks for all you do for our students and schools!



Give students confidence in their abilities to explore ideas and learn through the arts!

Enroll your school in the 2018-2019 national arts awards program starting July 1.

Each year hundreds of thousands of students in preschool through grade 12 create and submit original works in the areas of **dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography** and **visual arts**. Students may participate in the national awards program through their school's PTA.

The **2018-2019 theme "Heroes Around Me"** will spark imagination and creativity in school and at home. Encourage your school to imagine, create and celebrate with Reflections during **National Arts & Humanities Month** this **October**.

Membership Database News and Updates

The database is currently down for maintenance to prepare for 2018-2019 school year Do not enter any membership information for the 2017-2018 school term. Submit your dues remittance for any additional members to Virginia PTA, 1027 Wilmer Avenue, Richmond VA 23227. The state office will update your membership records with National.

If you are unfamiliar or learn what is new with the membership database; Virginia PTA will be conducting [Regional Leadership Trainings](#) this summer that includes the membership database.

As always, if there is anything that we can help you with, please reach out to the Virginia PTA office at (804) 264-1234 or email info@vapta.org.

Visit our Website

Virginia PTA | (804) 264-1234 | (804) 264-4014 | info@vapta.org | www.vapta.org

STAY CONNECTED

