



everychild.one voice.®

the VOICE

President's Message,

Happy March PTA family - definitely living up to 'in like a lion'...here's hoping for 'out like a lamb'.

Speaking of lions and roaring, we've been getting a lot of questions about student marches, walk outs, school safety and gun violence prevention. I've got two kids in high school - so I know how hard these weeks have been trying to balance your sense of outrage with actions that support your children, teachers, schools and also personal beliefs.

This is when it's helpful to rely on your PTA family. Last week, National PTA put together several thoughtful [documents](#) that will support you in your advocacy efforts around school safety, gun violence prevention and student voice. First, PTA believes in the power of the student voice. Students should be encouraged to gather and express themselves. But these expressions should consider school division policy and possible disciplinary action. I would encourage you to reach out to your school division and ask them to provide their policy on student walkouts. If they don't have one, offer to help write one. If you don't like the one they have, reach out to your school board with ideas for changing it. Be considerate of safety concerns, too - this will show you are a thoughtful partner in our schools.

Second, National PTA and Virginia PTA believe that all students should be guaranteed a safe and non-violent learning environment. Familiarize yourself with [our positions](#) as you think through your own PTA efforts. As a non-partisan association, we work very hard to create positions that speak to the widest variety of people - always building off our base of student safety. Remember that you can use any of these positions to galvanize your membership and speak as one voice. If, however, you would like to go further in your position, you will want to have that approved by your membership to insure you are accurately reflecting their views. Strength in numbers begins with communication to those numbers.

Lastly, please know you can reach out to your council president, district director or to me with any questions or concerns. Before I let you loose to read the through the rest of this information-filled VOICE, I wanted to remind you that it's time to start thinking about next year and your next set of leaders. PTA units should have a [nominating committee](#) in place and be looking for a slate of leaders. Talk about time commitments and skill sets to help people fully understand the commitment. And remember that we are hosting 4 regional trainings this summer to help these new leaders (and you!) enter the new school year with all the PTA tools you need.

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

Sarah

Virginia PTA Membership Approves Two Resolutions at Conference

At our Annual Meeting and Advocacy Conference on January 27-28, 2018, the [membership voted to approve two resolutions](#). Resolutions are an important part of our legislation library and can now be used by local units to advocate for changes to their schools. Please take a minute to read through each of these resolutions to get familiar with how you might use in your school and division. The Mental Health Safety Net resolutions encourages schools divisions to put robust plans in place for students when they return to school after a mental health crisis. The Small Schools resolutions offers a strategy for funding smaller schools in order that they stay competitive with larger schools. If you have any questions or if YOU have an idea for a resolution, please contact resolutions@vapta.org.

Parents for Healthy Kids Grants | Parents for Healthy Kids

Make a positive change in your children's school next year by applying for a [grant](#) from our partners Action for Healthy Kids!

[Parents for Healthy Kids grants](#) allow you to give students a health boost through nutrition and physical activity programs that get kids healthy, focused, and ready to learn.

Grant applications are due by **Friday, April 6**, so don't miss out on this opportunity!

SNAPCORRECT™

Truly Invisible Aligners™

Raise Money for Your School and Save Parents Thousands

SnapCorrect is offering PTAs a fundraising partnership that not only helps raise significant funds but which also saves parents thousands of dollars on their children's orthodontic treatments. SnapCorrect manufactures invisible aligners similar to Invisalign®, but at a fraction of the cost, plus our aligners are much clearer.

Costing up to 70% less than Invisalign® and traditional braces, SnapCorrect saves parents thousands while kids get "braces" that they love because they are so transparent. We actually refer to them as "Truly Invisible Aligners" because they are so much clearer than all other aligners in the market.

Besides saving thousands versus other options, SnapCorrect is offering everyone affiliated with your school (parents, employees, alumni, friends and family) a \$200 discount over our already super low prices. On top of this, we will contribute \$100 to your school for every aligner treatment purchased by your affiliates.

Learn more at www.snapcorrect.com/pta

Membership Database News and Updates

THANK YOU for all of your efforts in setting up your PTAs in the National Database.

There continues to be some confusion about how dues are paid using the database. National does **not** do an ACH withdraw from your account for dues. This is so a unit does not get inadvertently overdrawn.

The ACH form is so they can deposit into your account when you have online joins. To pay your dues, please print out the report called "*Unpaid PTA Members Invoice*" from the details page in the database. Then complete the portion at the bottom and mail the entire form with your check to the Virginia PTA office.

Not in the database yet? Now is a great time to get set-up. Then you will be ready to go for the fall! National is going to send emails out in July and August to those members with email addresses in the database asking them to renew so when school starts in the fall you will hopefully have lots of members already!

Reminder: National has created a great resource to help with database usage- <https://www.pta.org/membershipdatabase> - it walks you through the steps and even has video tutorials!

As always, please reach out to the Virginia PTA office at (804) 264-1234 or email info@vapta.org or ed@vapta.org if you need assistance.

Family and Youth Leadership Summit

The 2018 Family and Youth Leadership Summit will be held in Richmond, VA on **Saturday, April 14, 2018**. The Summit is a free one day event for families in Virginia dealing with mental health and co-occurring challenges. The focus of the Summit is to promote parent and youth voice through knowledge, skills and networking. For more details and registration info click [here](#).

Announcing Power Partner Awards Application

VAPTAneds your help recognizing outstanding principals and superintendents from across the state who share PTA's vision of "Making every child's potential a reality". Nominate your elementary or secondary principal and your superintendent who demonstrate a commitment to education and student achievement and who encourage family engagement within your school. Please email your [District Director](#) for the District Due Date. Questions can be directed to familyengagement@vapta.org.

Recognize Someone with a Virginia PTA Service Award

As you begin thinking about ways to thank and celebrate your PTA volunteers, school administration and staff, and other people who are special to your PTA, please consider recognizing them with a Virginia PTA Service Award. Not only are these awards the perfect way to show your PTA's appreciation, but the purchase of one of the many Service Awards is a reinvestment of your dollars into the PTA because all of the proceeds are used to help fund the Virginia PTA Scholarship Program. For as little

as \$20, or up to \$100, you may choose from the President's Honor Award, Honorary Life Memberships, Distinguished Service Awards, Student Leadership Award, and Certificates of Appreciation. Visit the [service awards](#) section of the Virginia PTA website for information and purchasing instructions.



The Smart Talk

Parents have you ever wanted to talk to your kids about using digital devices responsibly and didn't know where to start? [The Smart Talk](#) helps through the conversation. Start talking today and get your whole family on the same page. Visit [TheSmartTalk.org](#) for more information.

Visit our Website

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

STAY CONNECTED

