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the **VOICE**

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## **President's Message,**

Finally, some real fall weather - just in time for Halloween, too. Hope you and your kids all enjoyed the trick or treat holiday - I know I am just trying to figure out where to stash the candy so I can't find it!

Falling leaves usually mean an election is around the corner and it seems like you can't turn on the TV or check or your mail without finding a campaign ad. As you all know, the cornerstone of our PTA work is advocacy but we are a non-partisan association. Our mission is to make EVERY child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering ALL families and communities to advocate for ALL children. PTA leaders don't take political sides and PTA's don't endorse candidates. We do, however, encourage our communities to register to vote and to GOTV! Have you seen this acronym lately? It stands for Get Out The VOTE. It's so important that all our registered voters get to the polls on November 7. Please [click here](#) for a fantastic guide to elections from National PTA.

And falling leaves also means it's time to send in those dues if you haven't already. Many of you know that Virginia is participating in the beta roll-out of a new, all-inclusive membership database. Alas, new products come with all kinds of bugs and complications so we appreciate your patience as we work with National PTA's programmers to fix the issues you have uncovered. We had hoped that the database would be up and running completely by now - that you could upload your members and pay your dues all in one place. Unfortunately, this is proving to be more complicated. Therefore, if you do not yet have access to your membership database account and are worried about the December 1 dues deadline, you may still stay in good standing by sending your [membership list](#) to Virginia PTA and submitting your dues manually, as before. For more information about membership and awards, check out the article below.

Fall leads to winter - and winter is our SEASON OF ADVOCACY! Please put January 29, 2018 on your calendar. This is our annual lobby day - PTA DAY AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. And while you're marking the calendar, please also be sure to put January 27-28, 2018 down as well. This is our inaugural ANNUAL MEETING AND ADVOCACY CONFERENCE. On Saturday, participate in the business, the "how" of your PTA. On Sunday, attend a variety of advocacy training and learn the "why" of Virginia PTA. On Monday, we set you loose on the General Assembly with talking points and appointments with legislators so you can put your training into action.

So don't forget to hit the polls on **November 7!** Bring a friend, bring your kids, wear that "I voted" sticker proudly.

PS - my first [Facebook LIVE for Presidents](#) is tonight - November 1. Log in, ask questions, share ideas - looking forward to 'seeing' you.

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

Sarah

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## **Save The Date for 2018 Advocacy Conference!**

Be sure to add January 27-28, 2018 to your PTA calendar as we launch our inaugural Annual Meeting & Advocacy Conference, followed by our annual PTA Day at the General Assembly! Join fellow PTA leaders and advocates to conduct important PTA business, receive advocacy training on many different topics, and meet your Legislators! This will be an exciting event to share information with our members about the **WHAT, HOW, and WHY** we advocate.

- **WHY?** Because it's so important to have a **VOICE** at our local, county, state, and federal levels of government.
- **HOW?** So we can become better informed to speak up about the issues in our communities.
- **WHAT?** PTA advocates for all of our children's future!

Scheduled Workshops will focus on issues, education, and legislative policy. This is an opportunity for you to focus on **Education, Engagement, and Advocacy** while representing your PTA community at our first

combined Annual Meeting and Advocacy Conference! Be sure to allocate funding in your PTA budget to send a representative. **Watch for registration to open SOON!**

Debbie Kilpatrick, 2018 Conference Chair  
Questions? Contact: [conference@vapta.org](mailto:conference@vapta.org)

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## Earn Your Virginia PTA Degree

Leaders are born, created and dedicated! Virginia PTA members each year choose to say yes to leadership at the local, district, and state levels of PTA. Leadership is one main ingredient that drives the mission and vision of our organization. The growth and development of leaders at all levels of PTA are critical to our success!

Our commitment is to provide a bounty of opportunities to build, grow, and continually inspire leaders to learn. Any member may participate in this program. Participants will be accepted into the Virginia PTA University beginning this winter at the Annual Meeting & Advocacy Conference, January 27-28, 2018. Other opportunities to enter the program is at summer leadership training events or district and council events. [Learn more](#) about the Virginia PTA University.

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## 2018 Virginia PTA Membership Awards

Interested in Membership Awards for this school year? Visit Virginia PTA's [Membership page](#) to learn about the different types of membership awards available and information to help you grow your membership.

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## Proposed Amendments to Virginia PTA Bylaws and 2017 Template

Just a gentle reminder, now is the time to submit any recommended language change to the bylaws template.

This request is for [recommended changes](#) to the Virginia PTA and 2017 bylaws templates.

Remember this is not the process to change the language in your currently bylaws, it is only for request of proposed language changed for the Virginia PTA bylaws and 2017 bylaws Templates.

Please submit any bylaws proposed amendment to the Virginia PTA office no later than Nov 10, 2017.

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Visit our Website

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STAY CONNECTED

