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President's Message,

CHANGE is my word of the month. First of all, the time change gets me every year - early dark, shortening days, less sun - well, let's just say I'm a summer person, but I digress.

Let's talk CHANGE in our government. Last week, hopefully you voted in our Virginia elections. All of the House of Delegates seats were up for election as well as our Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and all kinds of local races. Ralph Northam (our current Lieutenant Governor) won his race for Governor, Justin Fairfax for Lieutenant Governor and Mark Herring was re-elected as Attorney General. The biggest shake up, though, was in our House of Delegates where the Democrats won 15 seats in the House. Three races are still too close to call - but we will keep you posted! You may have a new Delegate - [click here](#) check out all the election results.

Here at Virginia PTA, we are always looking at ways to CHANGE how we get engaged and how we engage our members in our work. We are in the middle of implementing the beta roll-out of National PTA's membership database so we can reach you and all our members easily and effectively. Like lots of big, new projects, there have been plenty of hiccups and bugs to work out but we appreciate your patience and help in providing us the feedback we need to build this database to better serve you.

If you are used to our Annual Meeting taking place in the summer, you'll notice a CHANGE in that. Advocacy is at the core of our mission - we are the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the US. To help our members more easily engage in the process of advocacy, we will be holding our Annual Meeting on January 27, 2018 and launching a new full day Advocacy Training on January 28. Both of these exciting events take place right before PTA Day at the General Assembly on January 29. Engage in the business of the association, participate in robust training and then meet with your legislators to advocate for your schools and communities.

CHANGE is exhilarating to me - but it should be undertaken thoughtfully. If you are working through some kind of CHANGE, remember to communicate clearly with your team, create buy-in through compromise and cooperation and surround yourself with other hard-working and committed people.

Not everything changes though - our Membership dues submission deadline to be in good standing is still **DECEMBER 1**. Check out our website for more information about [membership dues](#), [the database](#) and [resolutions](#). Take a minute to read through the rest of this publication for all the news you need!

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

Sarah



2018 Annual Meeting & Advocacy Conference is Ready to Launch!

Plan to join us January 27-28, 2018 for our inaugural Annual Meeting & Advocacy Conference, followed by our annual PTA Day at the General Assembly on January 29! Online Registration will open this week so please look for this important announcement to share with your members. Conference Registration includes workshops focused on advocacy, legislative policy, and topical issues, voting on PTA business, keynote

speakers, networking with fellow PTA advocates, PTA Day training, and an exclusive Legislators Fireside Chat Reception – you won't want to miss this opportunity! We are so excited to share information with our members about the **WHAT**, **HOW**, and **WHY** we **PTA!**

Look forward to seeing you there!

Debbie Kilpatrick, 2018 Conference Chair
Questions? Contact: conference@vapta.org

Advocacy Matters!

Today! Here are 3 easy steps you can take to jump start advocacy in your unit:

1. Lots of shake ups in the Virginia House of Delegates last week. Want to find out the results of your local election? [Click here](#). Now is a great time to reach out to your Delegate and Senator and introduce yourself if you haven't met them already!
2. If you aren't sure your district - here is an easy [link](#) to find that out. Post this link to make sure all your members know who's their legislator!
3. Signup for Action Alerts – No hassle [alerts to get timely updates](#) when your voice is needed to advocate on behalf of our public schools and our children.

Get ready for our 2018 Annual Meeting and Advocacy Training on January 27-28 in Richmond. Stay in town for our PTA Day at the General Assembly on Monday, January 29!

What's Your Issue? Call for Resolutions

A PTA **Resolution** expresses the position or belief of its members. It interprets the PTA mission and justifies action as members undertake programs and projects. Resolutions guide the work of PTA and are an important piece of our legislative agenda.

Resolutions allow PTA members to take action on proposed legislation or regulations that impact the health, education, and general welfare of all children and youth. Any local, council or district PTA can submit a resolution to Virginia PTA for consideration.

If your members have an issue facing them that also has a broader **statewide** concern, think about submitting it to Virginia PTA for consideration.

All accepted resolutions are presented at the Virginia PTA Annual Meeting for adoption.

For more information on [resolutions](#), or contact Art Wayne, Resolutions Chair at resolutions@vapta.org.

!!! ALERT TO TREASURERS AND PRESIDENTS !!!

Please note there are fraudulent emails going to PTA units asking treasurers to transfer (wire) money to unknown accounts. Because **they look to be sent from your PTA's officers email addresses**, please do not respond or wire money to unknown accounts without first doing due diligence on the request. This is happening quite often - even I receive them. They get names and email addresses from websites.

Irene R. Smith
Virginia PTA Treasurer
treasurer@vapta.org

Membership Database News, Updates, an Upload Tips

1. New users should start with a TEST upload using the [template](#) filled with only 10 or so memberships. This will enable easy edit to those records. If the error is on multiple records, then you can change the spreadsheet with the remaining memberships. This is a far easier method.
2. The single "member add" button is currently not working but will be fixed shortly.
3. Membership cards are being processed and will be mailed to members with home addresses in the system before October 23. They are set to arrive by Thanksgiving. If you entered a school address, please reach out to your school office and let them know they are coming. Those added from October 24- Dec 1 should arrive by Christmas. Monthly mailings will be done after these initial two mailing with data being pulled on the 1st of each month.
4. National is working on creating "micro learnings"- 2 minute videos to help users learn how to do operate different functions within the database.
5. There has been a new report added- Simple Membership Roster (with total memberships) – you run it from the details page for your unit.

Thank You

Your patience and persistence related to the database is especially appreciated. National PTA is taking our feedback and making some changes to ease the process and learning curve. Please send any suggested edits/additions to the Local Leaders Manual for the database to ed@vapta.org. The better we can get the manual, the easier it will be for new users, making next fall easier on everyone!

December 1st Dues Deadline is Coming Soon...

To be a Unit in good standing, one of the criteria is to send in your membership dues by December 1st. This doesn't mean you stop collecting dues, it just means that this is the first deadline. Please remember membership is a year round collection of not only dues, but also of spreading the message of how important it is to join your school's PTA/PTSA and the benefits involved.

For units that are having a difficult time getting their information into the database by the Dec 1 deadline, please remit your dues using this [spreadsheet](#) and the [Local Unit Dues Remittance Form](#). PLEASE know that this does not mean that you do not need to begin using the database, it simply means that while we work through the implementation and kinks in the system, we do not want to keep units from being in good standing and able to qualify for awards.

What if an Officer Resigns Before the Term Ends?

A vacancy that occurs during a term is filled according to your bylaws, which essentially states the Executive Board seeks to fill the position. The board would conduct a search to fill the vacancy by using the same qualifications and eligibility criteria of the nominating committee. [Here](#) are some quick tips to guide your PTA unit through the proper process.



Time to Promote! Thank a Teacher Art Contest Coming Soon

For the past two years, we have partnered with the Virginia Lottery and Virginia Tourism Corporation to encourage parents, students and the general public to send thank-you notes to public school teachers around Teacher Appreciation Week. Thanks to your support, in just two years, Virginians have sent more than 70,000 thank-you notes across the state! To enhance the campaign's third year, the Lottery is launching the Thank a Teacher Art Contest, and it's time to start promoting.

Print [this flyer](#) and use it to encourage your teachers, schools and K-12 students to participate in the Virginia Lottery's inaugural Thank a Teacher Art Contest this January. The three contest winners will not only get to see their artwork featured on the 2018 thank-you notes, they'll also receive a cash prize, in addition to winning money for their school's art department.

We'll share more information about the Thank a Teacher Art Contest in the coming weeks, so be on the lookout. In the meantime, visit www.ThankaTeacherVA.com for entry requirements and prize information.

Thank you for your support!

Visit our Website

