



Onevoice

A Monthly Update from the
Fairfax District PTA

DECEMBER 6, 2006

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

Dec 13 - Alexandria PTA Council Meeting
@ Cora Kelly ES

January 6 - Council Reflections entries
due to the District Arts in Education
Chairman, Denise Bolton

January 8 - FCCPTA Board Meeting

January 8 - Arlington County Council PTA
Meeting @ Williamsburg MS

January 10 - Alexandria PTA Council
Meeting @ Patrick Henry ES

January 26 – Citizenship Essay Contest
entries due to Lisa Moore, District
Director
([http://www.vapta.org/Programs/
student_programs.htm#essay](http://www.vapta.org/Programs/student_programs.htm#essay))

April 24 - Fairfax District Annual Meeting
and Awards Dinner. Event will include
recognition of Reflections awardees,
Citizenship Essay Contest Winners,
Leader of the Year, Model Unit of the
Year, Volunteer of the Year, and other
District level awards. Dianne Florence,
Virginia PTA President, will be a guest of
honor assisting with awards
presentations.

February 2 - "May the Month for
Children" - Nominations due. See
[http://vapta.org/Cooperation/MayMonth
ofChild.htm](http://vapta.org/Cooperation/MayMonthofChild.htm) for more information on this
new awards program.

February 24 (snow date March 3) -
District Bylaws Workshop. The District is
sponsoring a Bylaws Workshop, in
coordination with the VA PTA. Phyllis
Ayers, VA PTA Bylaws Chairman will be
conducting the workshop. Further
details to follow.

In an effort to keep you up-to-date and informed of relevant PTA events and programs the Fairfax District PTA has established this monthly E-mail newsletter.

Not only do we hope that you find it helpful for your planning, but we also hope that you will contribute to its contents. If you have events or activities that you feel should be announced district-wide, please send a description, as well as dates, if appropriate, to Rob Horvath (rob.horvath@cox.net) for inclusion in this newsletter.

One Voice

"One Voice" is a term we hear often in PTA. It is part of the national logo and of the slogan. But what does it really mean? Children cannot vote, and are not organized and do not participate in the legislative process. Thus, they have no say in creating the policies that affect their lives and well-being. PTA's exclusive interest is the health, welfare, safety and education of our children. The PTA allows you to speak for the interest of your children when you cannot be there yourself.

Unit executive boards are often confronted with questions as to why their local unit should be concerned about what the District, State, or even National level PTA is doing and what role we have to play in these organizations. You may hear these same questions.

In response you may ask, do you and your children wear seat belts when riding in a vehicle? Does the school serve hot lunches? Have your children been vaccinated against polio? Have you ever attended a parent/teacher conference? If they answer "yes" to even one of these questions, then they had been affected by the advocacy efforts of the PTA. And the issues that PTA is tackling today are no less important: Internet safety, youth violence, education reform, and school class size to name just a few.

We are the voices of our children, but only when we speak up. Fairfax District PTA is the largest district PTA in the state of Virginia and we are in the top ten in the nation. Yet at the recent state convention in Roanoke, only twenty three of approximately two hundred and thirty schools were represented and less than two thousand of the nearly ninety thousand votes we carry were exercised.

PTA can make a difference....but only with your help.

Everychild onevoice. On behalf of your children, be that voice.

WANTED – Student Representative

Fairfax District PTA is looking for a student representative to serve on the District Board and be the voice of the students of the Fairfax District.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a student interested in governance issues, someone who needs service hours, or someone looking to enhance their college application.

Preference will be given to Junior or Senior level students.

If you know of someone who might be interested, please have them send an letter of interest describing their reasons for interest to [Lisa Moore](#) or [Debbie Kilpatrick](#).

What is OMDR?

OMDR stands for **Online Membership and Data Reporting** and is the National PTA's new online membership roster program. VA PTA is one of only nine states selected to implement this national program.

Some FAQs about OMDR

What are the benefits of using OMDR? – Local units are required to maintain membership lists. Many units maintain these lists on Excel-type spreadsheets and must update this information every year. OMDR makes this unnecessary. Information entered into the secure OMDR system stays there. So, in subsequent years, members can be renewed, instead of having to be reentered into a spreadsheet. Additionally, macro features in OMDR allow you to only have to enter some information once.

Is OMDR required? - OMDR use is being mandated by National PTA as part of their initiative to meet IRS guidelines as well as providing better service to PTA members and is **required** of all VA PTA units beginning this year. While there is currently no penalty if you do not use this system, this may soon change.

What if members do not want to provide their address? How should this be entered? First of all, assure your members that any information they disclose will neither be used to send promotional materials nor shared with anyone else. If they are uncomfortable sharing this information, you can use your school's address.

Where do I find my username and password? Instructions and ID numbers should have been sent out to unit Presidents in May 2006. If you do not have this information, you can contact [Michelle Davis](#), Fairfax District Treasurer for further assistance in accessing OMDR.

Photo Op



Lisa Moore, Fairfax DD and Debbie Kilpatrick, Fairfax Asst DD present Arlington County Council PTA President Anne Reynolds and Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools, Dr. Robert Smith with the "2006 Certified School of Excellence" award on behalf of Arlington Traditional Elementary PTA. (December 4, 2006, photo by Beth O'Connor Baker)

Executive Committee

[Lisa Moore](#), District Director
[Debbie Kilpatrick](#), 1st Asst. Director
[Lisa Lombardozi](#), 2nd Asst. Director
[Jevon Davis](#), Secretary
[Michelle Davis](#), Treasurer

Executive Board of Directors

[Denise Bolton](#), Arts in Education
[Tina Games-Evans](#), Public Relations/Fundraising
[Rob Horvath](#), Communications
[Sharon Sneed](#), Bylaws/Membership

*To send an Email, hover over name and click.