



Onevoice

An Update from the
Northern Virginia District PTA

NOVEMBER 12, 2007

WWW.NOVADISTRICTPTA.ORG

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

PTA Parent Programs – for dates and locations, check out [Events and Calendar](#)

November 14 – Alexandria City Council Mtg, 7 p.m., Hammond MS Cafeteria

November 15 – IRS 990 due

November 19 – Arlington Council Mtg, 7 p.m., Education Center Annex

November 28 – Northern Virginia District PTA Mtg, 7:30 p.m., TJHSST Career Center

December 1 – 2007/08 National/State PTA Membership Dues deadline

December 3 – FCCPTA Mtg, 7:30 p.m. FCPS HQs, Falls Church

December 3 – Arlington Council, 7 p.m. Yorktown HS (school tour at 6:30 p.m.)

Check the District web site for more information on the following:

- 2008 VA PTA Citizenship Essay
Theme: "Education, the Foundation of Freedom"
Students in Grades 6-12
Deadline: Feb 1 to District
- 2008 Phoebe Apperson-Hearst National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award
Deadline: February 1 to VA PTA
- 2008 District Volunteer of the Year. Deadline: March 10 to District. Primary and Secondary Nominees will be submitted by June 1 to Virginia PTA
- Virginia PTA Scholarship Award for students - Deadline: March 1
- 100% VA PTA Membership Award

2007 Virginia PTA Unit of Excellence Award was presented to Robinson Secondary PTSA, Fairfax, at the Virginia PTA Annual Convention for their outstanding programs, membership, leadership, and partnership in all areas of their organization during 2006-2007 school term. This is the inaugural year for this state PTA award and we are pleased that a PTSA in Northern Virginia District received this prestigious recognition from the Virginia PTA. Awards include an engraved glass award, a paid registration to state convention, and a \$500 check. Elementary, Middle, and High School PTAs are eligible for this award. **Congratulations, Robinson Secondary PTSA!**

Is Your Teen Wired? The places we hung out as teens...the mall, the playground, and the school are rapidly being replaced by virtual spaces and places. Does your teen have his/her own MySpace and/or Facebook page? You may be surprised to learn that most do and that it is there that they do most of their social networking. ([Read more online](#), including recommendations for parents from Anastasia Goodstein, author of "Totally Wired: What Teens and Tweens Really Do Online")

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VA PTA Reports on National PTA Programs attended by NOVA district board members, Alana Heng and Rob Horvath, are available on web site:

2007 Emerging Minority Leadership Conference
October 19-21, 2007

The three day conference taught parents effective leadership skills to apply in school and community environments, and techniques on how to bring homes, schools and communities closer together to make the greatest impact on children.

The issues affecting minority families were openly discussed. Strategies were offered to increase the involvement of these parents in their children's education by overcoming the barriers of today's society. ([Read more online](#))

Training Capacity Building Initiative (TCBI) Report

Building Blocks for Successful Training - Train the Trainer Workshops
September 27 – 30, 2007

This four day conference is a new initiative of the National PTA. TCBI is an initiative to develop a cadre of nationally certified trainers who, under state PTA leadership, will be available to develop and conduct effective trainings for local units. Four people were selected from Virginia to attend. These trainers will now work with the VAPTA to identify topics and local units who can best benefit from additional training. ([Read more online](#))

**Units Receiving Awards at VA PTA
Convention held Oct. 26-28, 2007**

Plaques Presented to:

McKinley ES PTA, Arlington Council

Awarded VA PTA Outstanding
Membership, **First Place**, Division 2

Langley HS PTSA, Fairfax Council

Awarded VA PTA Superior Membership
First Place, Division 7

VA PTA Local Unit Standards Awards

**Forest Edge ES PTA; Garfield ES PTA;
Island Creek ES PTA; Joyce Kilmer
MS PTA; Liberty MS PTA; Lynbrook
ES PTA; Marshall Road ES PTA;
Newington Forest ES PTA; Oak Hill
ES PTA; Oakton HS PTSA; Robinson
Secondary PTSA; White Oaks ES PTA**



White Oaks ES PTA Honored

PTA President Angela Nesley was
presented the Virginia PTA Phoebe
Apperson-Hearst Award at the
convention banquet. Pictured:
Debbie Kilpatrick, Melissa Nehrbass,
Dianne Florence, Angela Nesley,
and Morgan Bell

District Board Executive Committee

[Debbie Kilpatrick](#), District Director
[Deborah Aceto-Milton](#), 1st Asst. Director
[Lisa Lombardozi](#), 2nd Asst. Director
[Nina Austin](#), Secretary
[Vickie Cattaneo](#), Treasurer

District Board Chairpersons

[Lesley Aschenbach](#), Annual Meeting
[Denise Bolton](#), Arts in Education
[Liz Bradsher](#), Legislative
[David Edelman](#), Education
[Alana Heng](#), Technology
[Rob Horvath](#), Communications
[Sharon Sneed](#), Bylaws/Membership

**National PTA Healthy Lifestyle Grants in the amount of \$500
each are awarded to two PTAs in Northern Virginia District**

Beech Tree ES PTA, Fairfax Council, is one of four Virginia PTA recipients of the Healthy Lifestyle grant from the National PTA for their innovative healthy lifestyle program. Because of the diversity of cultures represented at Beech Tree the school wanted to explore the fact that many of our food choices are culturally-based. To help students understand this concept Beech Tree ES will be designing and working on developing 3 "International Gardens" in their outdoor garden classroom space. Beech Tree is the first Fairfax County Public school to be offering Arabic language instruction during the school curriculum, a part of the FLEX program, and will incorporate this into their garden program by implementing a Middle Eastern, Spanish and Vietnamese garden as part of the project. **Congratulations, Beech Tree ES PTA!**

Barcroft ES PTA, Arlington Council, is the second PTA in our district to receive a PTA Healthy Lifestyle grant to use in establishing a family-oriented fitness program focusing on yoga. Their plan includes Family Pajama Yoga Nights, After-School Yoga Enrichment Classes, and Pre-Test Yogathons to be held next spring in the mornings of the statewide testing. The PTA community believes that a yoga program can positively affect academic achievement, as students learn ways to improve their focus and attention span, as well as relieve stress in a fun way so the entire family can benefit. **Congratulations, Barcroft ES PTA!**

2007-2009 Virginia PTA Officers and Chairmen Elected

Virginia PTA convention delegates elected four new officers and welcomed its president for the next two years during the recent state convention.

New officers are:

- President: **Melissa Nehrbass**
- President-elect: **Morgan Bell**
- Vice President: **Debi Abadie**
- Secretary: **Phyllis Ayers**
- Treasurer: **Tricia Rudolph**

Following the convention, the Virginia PTA Board of Managers elected nine of its 12 state standing committee chairs. They are:

- Bylaws Committee, (bylaws@vapta.org) **Robin Grove**
- Education Committee, (education@vapta.org) **Stella Y. Edwards**
- Field Service Committee, (field-service@vapta.org) **Anne Carson**
- Membership Committee, (membership@vapta.org) vacant
- Parental Involvement Committee, (parenting@vapta.org)
Marion Akins
- Public Relations Committee, (public_relations@vapta.org)
Denise Bowman-Scott
- Secondary PTA/PTSA Committee, (2ndaryPTA@vapta.org)
Dan Phillips
- Technology Committee, (technology@vapta.org) **Carla Rogers**
- Volunteers Committee, (volunteers@vapta.org) **Joyce Erdossy**
- Historian (non-voting), (monamorrow@aol.com) **Ramona Morrow**

Arts in Education and Legislation Committee Chairs are filled in the spring. Standing committees are seeking volunteers to serve as at-large members, helping to do the work of the statewide panels but not required to attend voting business meetings. For information about these at-large committee positions, contact the chairman above.