



Onevoice

A Monthly Update from the
Fairfax District PTA

MARCH 18, 2007

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

- March 14 – Alexandria PTAC Mtg. 7pm
- March 19 – Arlington CCPTA Mtg. 7pm
- March 21 – FCCPTA Reflections Award Ceremony. Robinson Secondary School, 7pm
- March 27 – Fairfax District Reflections Award Ceremony. Yorktown HS, Arlington. 6:30pm.
- April 12 – Fairfax District PTA Board Meeting. 7:30pm, Hammond MS, Alexandria
- April 12 – Drop Everything And Read ([D.E.A.R](#)) day.
- April 22 – [Earth Day](#)
- April 24 - Fairfax District Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner
- May 6-12 – Teacher Appreciation Week
- June 15 - VA PTA Unit of Excellence Award deadline. Applications available at www.vapta.org
- June 28-July 1 – National PTA 111th Annual Convention and Exhibition, St. Louis, MO
- July 14-15 – VAPTA Leadership Training Conference (LTC) and Legislative and Education Conference, Farmville, VA

Check out our new web site: FairfaxDistrictPTA.org

We're pleased to finally be online! Please check us out, but also pardon the dust, as the site is still under construction. If you have suggestions on ways the web site could be made more helpful and useful to you, please contact [Rob Horvath](#). If you are willing to provide a small bit of time to maintain and update the web site, please let Rob know.

District Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner

Mark your calendars now, the District Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner is just around the corner. This is a time when you, the membership of the district, speak out and vote on crucial items. Amongst other issues, this year the District will be presenting its revised bylaws.

This event is also a time to celebrate the accomplishments of our units, our teachers, parents and students.

The event will feature a number of speakers and honored guests including Dianne Florence, VAPTA President, National PTA Secretary/Treasurer, Chuck Saylor, and Congressman Tom Davis.

This year, we are pleased to be holding the event in the South Ballroom of the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington. The evening will begin with dinner. We will be offering a Tuscan buffet for the reasonable price of \$35/adults and \$25/children. This will be immediately followed by our awards ceremony where we will honor Volunteer of the Year, VAPTA Citizen Essay contest winners and meritorious units. The evening will conclude with our business meeting, including a vote on our bylaws as well as a nomination committee for the 2008 slate of executive officers. Throughout the evening we will celebrate the Reflections program through art displays and music performances.

For more information and to make your reservation now, contact Annual Meeting Chairman, [Lesley Aschenbach](#). A Call Letter to Unit Presidents will be sent soon containing an invitation/reservation and notifications of business items

Volunteer of the Year

All too often individuals that make a difference in children's lives are not recognized or acknowledged. The Fairfax District PTA and VAPTA know the importance of having volunteers in our schools and recognize those outstanding volunteers through their Volunteer of the Year Award programs. *Nominations for Fairfax District PTA Volunteer of the Year are due by April 1st.* The award will be made at the April 24th Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner. District Nominations will be forwarded to the VAPTA for consideration of a state award.

Nominations Committee

We need volunteers to serve on the district nominating committee. This committee will solicit and propose district officers for 2008-2010 school years. Contact [Debbie Kilpatrick](#) if interested.

District Reflections

Fairfax District Reflections Ceremony will be held March 27, 2007 at Yorktown HS in Arlington. Congratulations to all the students who participated in this great program.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Do you need some ideas on new ways that you can celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week? [Click here](#) for some activity ideas from the National PTA. If you have some innovative ideas, please send them to us. We'd love to help you share them with everyone.

Newsletters

Do you publish a newsletter? Do you need some ideas on how to spice it up? [Click here](#) to view some award winning newsletters. Who knows, maybe yours will win a VAPTA Outstanding PTA Newsletter award this year.

District Board Executive Committee

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

District Board Chairpersons

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

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

Bylaws

As you may know, the District recently held a bylaws workshop, facilitated by Phyllis Ayers, VAPTA Bylaws Chairman and Debi Abadie, VAPTA Bylaws Co-chair.

The workshop was a success in many respects. Most important, twenty-five schools from all over Northern Virginia came to North Springfield Elementary School, did wonderful networking, and left with new respect and understanding of their units bylaws. Several participants felt that the workshop was so helpful, they suggested that the District offer it every year.

A number of important questions and points of clarification were made that would be useful for all units to know:

- Many units want to incorporate items into their bylaws which are better described as "standing rules." Standing rules are your procedures book covering items such as how motions can be made, how to deal with excessive board absences, etc. Standing rules are established by the executive board and can be changed at any time by the board. Bylaws, on the other hand, is the legal document of your association.
- Only the general membership can vote to make revisions or amendments to your bylaws. The executive board or executive committee does not have this authority.
- Thirty (30) days notice of proposed revisions or amendments must be given to your general membership. You do not have to give copies to all members. Instead consider posting them on a web site and providing the web address for viewing.

Other news...

- PTA has launched the second annual "Unit Recognition Program" for the 2006-2007 membership year, and local units may be eligible to receive an award. The application process is fast, easy, and free! Go to: http://www.pta.org/local_leadership_subprogram_1157664409109.html and fill out the application, and either fax it to (312) 670-6783 or email it to <mailto:info@pta.org>. The application deadline is March 15, 2007.
- On the third Tuesday of each month during the school year, the Department of Education, in collaboration with WETA, produces *Education News* live at WETA's studio in Arlington. The program offers parents and anyone else with an interest in education vital information about getting involved in children's learning. Contact [Dustin Watson](#) to arrange free roundtrip transportation, a reception, and attendance at these live broadcasts. More information, including a listing of upcoming programs can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/news/av/video/edtv/index.html>
- Although the Reflections program has moved to the State and National levels, continuing to support and encourage the arts in school is important. Did you know that early exposure to the arts (visual, music, or drama) promotes brain activity or that it helps children to understand mathematics, the sciences, and even history better? The Council for Arts Education celebrates [Youth Art Month](#) in March. If you celebrated a Reflections program, or even if you didn't, consider a program this month in your school that emphasizes the importance of the arts in our schools and the value of art for our children.