



## OneVoice Newsletter Special Edition – October 3, 2009

Serving Alexandria City, Arlington County, Fairfax City,  
Fairfax County and Falls Church City PTAs and PTSAs

<http://www.novadistrictpta.org>

### Greetings District PTA Members

NOTE: If you are no longer serving as President, please forward this information on to the new PTA/PTSA President. Also, please share this information with your Executive Board Members. Newsletter is available on web site for download.

Dear District PTA Members and Friends,

Please forward to your board members: Some of you may have seen the Washington Post article "Fairfax Schools drop out of PTA" in the Metro section on Monday, September 28. To review the article, [click here](#).

In response to the article, National PTA President Chuck Saylor submitted a Letter to the Editor on Thursday. To review the letter, [click here](#).

Also, President Saylor was a guest on the Kojo Nnamdi Show, WAMU, 88.5 FM, which aired at noon on Thursday. Please see information below about the segment and to hear the full interview, visit: <http://thekojonnamdishow.org/audio-player?nid=15739>

- Topic: Education & Parent Teacher Associations
- Guests:
  - Chuck Saylor, President of PTA
  - Michael Allison Chandler, Education Reporter, Washington Post and author of Sept. 28 article
  - Christine A. Woyshner, author, "The National Parent-Teacher Association, Race, and Civic Engagements 1897-1970"

The past, present and future of PTA - The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was founded in 1897. But parents, teachers, and students are confronting drastically different challenges in today's classrooms. We explore the evolution of parental involvement in local school systems, and how the nationwide leadership at PTA is positioning itself in education reform debates.

In light of the discussions following the Washington Post article, our councils, district, state, and national PTA associations wish to reassure our dedicated PTA/PTSAs that you have our support in meeting the mission and goals of your association. While each school community must decide for themselves the path they wish to follow, PTA continues to be the only nationally recognized child welfare and education advocate group who participates in all levels of the decision making process. We are at the table promoting parental involvement,

### Announcements

#### PTA Membership Benefits

#### 2009 VA PTA Primary Volunteer of the Year

**Congratulations** to Sue Bernstein, PTA Volunteer at Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus ES, Alexandria (FCPS), for being awarded the 2009 Virginia PTA Primary Volunteer of the Year!

**Congratulations** to Marshall Road Elementary School PTA for being awarded the 2009 VA PTA Outstanding Communications Elementary Division during the VA PTA Leadership Training Conference in July. Their winning entry is posted online in the VA PTA Public Relations Library.

#### National PTA Awards:

Congratulations to the following Fairfax County Public School PTAs for being awarded the 2009 National PTA Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Award of Merit for demonstrating their outstanding commitment to building family-school partnerships in their communities. A total of five PTAs in Virginia received this award. This recognition is posted on the National PTA web site.

- Fairview Elementary PTA, Fairfax Station
- Lake Braddock Secondary School PTSA, Burke
- Mosby Woods PTA Fairfax
- White Oaks ES PTA, Burke

student achievement, and school-family partnerships. As a member of the PTA, you are making a difference not only in the lives of your children, but in the lives of all children.

## Council Reports

### Arlington County Council Report:

The Council Update is published to provide current information for all 28 PTA/PTSAs. To show our school division's commitment to our PTAs, we would like to announce the partnership between Arlington County Public Schools, the School Board, and Council PTA in support of community residents becoming PTA members. An official statement of support for joining PTA was recently signed by Dr. Pat Murphy, Superintendent, Sally Baird, School Board Chair, and Dale Proctor, Council President. Please review the letter as [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions were distributed to all schools in Arlington County. Superintendent Murphy is joining each PTA/PTSA and we would like to commend ACPS for supporting the council, district, state, and national PTA in Arlington County. Congratulations!

*Dale Proctor*  
*President, Arlington County Council of PTAs*

### Alexandria City Council PTA:

To bring our community together for the common purpose of improving academic achievement for every student, all 17 of our schools have PTAs, and presidents meet for monthly discussions with the school superintendent. Earlier this year, the Alexandria PTA Council organized a community-wide book-reading event where 500 city residents read a best-selling book about education, met in small groups to discuss it and came together to hear the author talk about it. To improve communications we host a Google Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/alexandria-pta> You can also reach all the members by emailing: [alexandria-pta@googlegroups.com](mailto:alexandria-pta@googlegroups.com) and follow PTAC223214 on Twitter. As a service to all ACPS PTA/PTSAs to increase participation of parents and guardians that speak languages other than English, interpreters and headset equipment are available from ACPS. Download "[Multicultural Tips Sheet](#)" to learn more.

*Jeff Zack*  
*President, Alexandria City Council of PTAs*

### Fairfax County Council PTA:

As Council President, I have been fortunate to have participated in the many discussions held with Woodson parents and PTSA leaders over several months. That process provided the FCCPTA leadership with valuable feedback about a variety of concerns regarding our county PTA and about PTA in general. Most importantly, we recognize as an association we need to improve our communications with members, leaders, and the community.

The FCCPTA has appointed a Local Unit Liaison whose duties will focus wholly on this area. We have already begun considering new communications tools: redesigning our website to allow for easier and

## Action Items

- Virginia PTA Proposed Legislation Program (PLPs) for 2010 is now available [online](#). VOTE in October!
- PTA Membership cards were mailed to schools and membership card template for printing is available [online](#).
- 2009-2010 Local Unit Officer Contact Form ([electronic submission online](#))

## Dates to remember:

- \*Oct. 7: International Walk-to-School Day
- \*Oct. 9: Early Convention [registration deadline](#)
- Oct. 24: 2010 VA PTA PLP Tally Sheet due to Director (Ballots-Tally)
- \*Oct. 30: Reflections theme search 2011-12 ideas due
- Nov. 13-15: 2009 [State PTA Convention](#)
- Dec. 1: Membership [Dues submission](#)

\*Details online [www.vapta.org](http://www.vapta.org) and/or [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

## Contact Us

### District Executive Committee

- [Debbie Kilpatrick](#), District Director
- [Nina Austin](#), 1st Asst. Director
- [Rob Horvath](#), 2nd Asst. Director
- [Angela Nesley](#), Secretary
- [Donald J. Cantwell](#), Treasurer

### District Board Chairpersons

- OPEN, Annual Meeting
- [Denise Bolton](#), Reflections
- [Sonia Guzman](#), Bylaws
- OPEN, Communications
- [Terri Flowers Bull](#), Education
- [David Edelman](#), Legislative
- [Delia Valentine](#), Membership
- OPEN, Parliamentarian
- OPEN, Newsletter
- [Lisa Lombardozzi](#) & [Patricia](#)

more frequent input such as quick 1-2 question polls or surveys on current events; up-to-the-minute news and information about PTA activities, legislation, and more expanding the distribution lists and method for delivering our monthly newsletter broadening outreach efforts to local units to support leaders in running their PTAs, providing advice, training, and means for enhanced input and participation in FCCPTA decision-making, events and activities.

In addition to enhancing two-way communications with county members, the board will maintain an overall focus of Advocating for Advocacy. We all know that parents are a child's first advocates. PTA has long maintained a commitment to support parents in that role. It has become clear that FCCPTA needs to redouble our work in that area. Leaders can expect to see new and more messages targeted along these lines (to be finalized once members approve the FCCPTA budget).

PTA is a membership association. Each of us, whether members or leaders, will get out of this association what we are willing to put in; Some of us can share time, others can share treasure. The more we share our opinions, criticisms, compliments, concerns or questions, the richer our collective association will be. Regardless of the level or type of commitment, we share our collective commitment to a mission best stated in PTA's promise to speak for every child with one voice. FCCPTA is dedicated to this mission and constantly welcomes involvement and input from all our members.

*Michele Menapace*  
President, Fairfax County Council of PTAs  
[www.fccpta.org](http://www.fccpta.org)

Best regards,  
Debbie

Debbie Kilpatrick, District Director  
Northern Virginia District PTA  
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[novadd@vapta.org](mailto:novadd@vapta.org)  
[www.novadistrictpta.org](http://www.novadistrictpta.org)

[Franck](#), Special Projects

- [Alana Heng](#), Technology  
(If interested in any of the open positions, please contact the [District Director](#))

### Council Presidents and Representatives

- [Jeff Zack](#), Alexandria Council of PTAs
- [Dale Proctor](#), Arlington County Council of PTAs
- [Michele Menapace](#), Fairfax County Council of PTAs
- OPEN, City of Fairfax PTAs Representative
- OPEN, Falls Church City PTAs Representative

### VA PTA Board of Managers

- [Ramona Morrow](#), VA PTA Historian
- Ex-Officio  
[Melissa Nehrass](#), VA PTA President
- [Debi Abadie](#), VA PTA President-elect

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