

October 2014

Volume 2, Issue 1

PTA Mission:

To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Stay Connected:

National PTA
Webpage -
<http://pta.org/>

Virginia PTA
Webpage -
<http://vapta.org/>



Director's Corner ~ Melissa Nehrbass

Welcome back to school for the 2014-2015 PTA year. I understand great things are happening with membership drives at open houses and even a few Back to School nights. We would love to see each unit work to increase their membership this year over your totals for last year. It is so important to ask everyone to join your PTA and never miss an opportunity to promote membership. Recognize your members and always make everyone feel welcome and always look for ways to reach out to your non-traditional parents and families. We represent ALL CHILDREN.

A couple of reminders for this year:

1. Audits from last year must be adopted by your general membership.
2. Budgets must be adopted by the general membership and any amendments over \$300 must also be approved by the general membership.
3. File your 990s with the IRS on time and send a copy to the state office.
4. Make sure your officer information is up to date with the state office. You must turn this in every year even if your officers do not change.
5. Make sure you include leadership training/development in your annual budget. This builds a strong PTA and keeps it that way.
6. Make sure your unit renewed your insurance for this year.
7. Remember membership is sold all year. Send in your first dues payment early.
8. Always follow your bylaws! Make sure all board members have a current copy of your bylaws and understand what is in them.
9. Open all mailings and emails from your council, district, VA PTA, and National PTA. There are tons of great programs and opportunities for you to take advantage of.
10. Attend your council meetings if appropriate and make plans for the annual district meeting in March.
11. Always be on the lookout for future leadership for your PTA.
12. Take advantage of PTA websites: vapta.org and pta.org. Visit them often!

My last reminder to you is to me the most important. Always remember that PTA is first and foremost an advocacy association. We all know that we must do something to raise funds to support our advocacy efforts but never lose sight of what we are really about. Thank you for all you do for our children today and to help build a better future.

Melissa

peninsuladd@vapta.org



*"If you aren't lighting any candles,
don't complain about the dark."*



Reflections Arts Program

Chair: Karen Peterson

Email: kedpeterson@verizon.net

The Reflections Arts Recognition Program is a national arts recognition and achievement program for students.

The excitement and enthusiasm that the program generates for students, parents, schools and communities is unmatched with the majority of Peninsula District PTAs participating in the program at all PTA levels.

The 2014-2015 theme is "The world be a better place if..." All local units should check with their council chairs or presidents to find out the deadline for their submission of winning entries. After judging at the council level, winners are forwarded to the Peninsula District level. The date for all winning council submissions will be Friday, December 5. District winners will then proceed to statewide judging.

Feel free to contact the District chair with any questions or concerns.

Citizenship Essay

Chair: RoJeana Hudson

Email: twinhudsonboys@gmail.com

The Citizenship Essay theme for 2014-2015 is ***"I can positively influence my peers by..."***

New this year is the addition of Primary, Intermediate and Special Writer divisions. All Virginia students in grades K – 12 presently enrolled in schools with active PTA/PTSA units in Good Standing. A PTA in Good Standing is one who has paid state and national dues by December 1, and whose bylaws are current, having been revised within the past five (5) years.

More details can be found by visiting <http://vapta.org/resources/for-students/citizenship-essay.html>.

Please allow time to collect the essays and forward to RoJeana Hudson at Lee Hall Elementary, Attn: PTA President, 17346 Warwick Blvd, Newport News.



VISIT OUR **NEW** WEBSITE:

<http://peninsuladistrictpta.weebly.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/PeninsulaDistrictPTA>

Legislation – What is the PLP?

Chair: Phil Harris

Email: phil.harris@nn.k12.va.us

The 2015 Proposed Legislation Program (PLP) is available. For all the documents you need to conduct the vote in your unit, visit <http://vapta.org/legislation-education/legislation-program.html>.

Proposed legislation positions this year include:

- Increased availability of mental health services for students
- Clarification of position regarding local revenue increases for public schools

All votes must be returned to your District Director by October 31. Consider an electronic ballot OR the paper ballot (not both).

Circulate this link and QR Code: <http://goo.gl/jxMKmC> -



Help get out the vote! Advocacy is a priority at Virginia PTA - make sure your voice is heard.



PTA Membership

Chair: Debbie Selfridge

Email: dhselfridge@aol.com

Welcome to all the new and returning PTA leaders and membership chairs to the 2014-2015 school year!! One of the most important tasks you have ahead of you this year is to grow your membership. Share with your local units, families, students, and teachers the importance of being a PTA/PTSA member. By being a member of a local PTA/PTSA, you are connected to other members locally, state-wide and nationally, making the PTA/PTSA one of the largest advocacy groups for children!

Information about membership cards are available online at <http://vapta.org/members-only/local-unit-leaders/membership-homepage.html>. A membership card printing template is available along with how to order additional membership cards and envelopes.

Membership Growth Awards information was mailed to local units and is available online to be shared with your membership. Learn about the 2014-2015 Membership Growth Awards so you can start planning Fall and Mid-Year membership campaigns now! Best wishes for a great year and a successful membership campaign!

Remember all membership dues remitted MUST include a roster of your members. Look for the template at <http://vapta.org/members-only/local-unit-leaders/membership-homepage.html>.

Meet the Peninsula District Executive Board

OFFICERS

Melissa Nehrbass, District Director
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Faith Gilliam, Secretary/Treasurer
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COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

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VACANT, Williamsburg/James City County Council President

[Williamsburg/James CC Council PTA Website](#)

Laurel Garrelts, York County Council President
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BYLAWS CHAIR

Rebecca Henderson
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CITIZENSHIP ESSAY

RoJeana Hudson
twinhudsonboys@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS [NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE]

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MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Selfridge
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REFLECTIONS ARTS IN EDUCATION

Karen Peterson
kedpeterson@verizon.net

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Bertha Thompson
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Save the Dates

October 31, 2014

Virginia PLP Tally Due

December 1, 2014

Virginia PTA Membership Dues

February 1, 2015

Virginia PTA Membership Due

March 1, 2015

Virginia PTA Membership Due

June 4, 2015

Peninsula District PTA Leadership Training
Newport News - Location TBA

November 15, 2014

IRS 990 Tax Filing Due

December 4, 2014

Reflections Arts Program
Council level 1st Place Winners Due to District

February 2015

*Citizenship Essay Project - Council level
winners due to district **February 1, 2015**

*Volunteer of the Year - Council level
winners due to district **February 15, 2015**

March 2015

Peninsula District PTA Annual Meeting
York County - Location TBA

July 9-11, 2015

Virginia PTA Annual Conference
Richmond



Unit and Council – Good Standing Checklist Guide

Item	Format Sent	Due to VAPTA Office	Date Sent	Notes
Officer Information Sheet	Electronic, mail, or fax	June 15 th		Officer information is submitted every year even if there are no changes.
Membership Dues (for local units only)	Mail, w/Dues Remittance Form	December 1 st		Monthly submission starting in August is recommended.
Audit	Electronic, mail or fax	October 31st- or once approved by general membership		Refer to Local Unit Resource Guide and VA PTA website for forms.
Copy of IRS 990	Electronic, mail or fax	Within 30 days of filing.		990N-forward email receipt to liaison@vapta.org . 990-EZ and 990, send full copy.
Bylaws	Mail with original signatures	Every five years		Bylaws are reviewed, utilizing the most current template, and updated with new requirements.

All forms can be found at www.vapta.org. As part of our service to you, all submitted information is kept in the state office in each unit/council's file.



everychild.one voice.®

2014 – 2015 Membership Growth Awards

www.vapta.org

Membership Awards information available on web site at:
Member Log-in/Local Unit Leaders/Award Programs/Membership

Eligibility: Must be Unit in Good Standing - Current membership dues paid,
Bylaws revised every five years, current audit, 990, and officers' contact submitted.
For more information contact: vpmembership@vapta.org or info@vapta.org

Growth Awards and Submission Dates will be posted monthly in the VOICE!
STAY TUNED AND BE CONNECTED! Subscribe to the VOICE at: www.vapta.org

Back to School Great Ideas Membership Incentive

PTA/PTSAs submit their favorite Back to School Membership "Great Ideas" Campaigns to be highlighted in the VOICE newsletter and on the state web site. Submit Membership application with article and photos.

Early Bird Advance Award for Dues Submission

Be automatically entered to receive a Virginia PTA Advance Award certificate by submitting dues payments on or before October 31 that equals at least 70% or more of the previous year's membership. No application required.

PTA Founder's Day Celebration Award

Increase unit membership by 17 during the month of February to celebrate National PTA Founders Day on February 17 and receive a special recognition award. Submit application with membership list.

Winter Great Ideas Membership Growth Campaign

Submit article about "Great Ideas" for the Winter Membership Growth Campaign resulting in a 5% increase in membership over **December 31** paid dues. Submit membership application with article and photos.

100% Teacher and Principal Membership Award

Units enrolling 100% of your school's Teachers, Principal, and Assistant Principals in your PTA/PTSA, qualify for this award. Submit application with membership list.

25% Male Membership Award

Units achieving 25% male membership qualify for this award. Submit application with membership list.

25% Student Membership Award

PTSAs achieving 25% student members qualify for this award. Submit application with membership list.

New PTA Charter Membership Award

PTA/PTSAs chartered in 2014-15 with a minimum of 50 founding members qualify for this award.
No Membership application required. Criteria based on dues submission.

100% Local Unit Membership Award

Units achieving 100% membership receive special certificate and pin. 1st Deadline: March 1; 2nd Deadline: June 30 – must have at least one member for each enrolled student based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM). No Membership application required.

VA PTA President's Challenge of 5% Growth, Outstanding %Growth, Superior #Total

Increase membership by 5% over May 30, 2014 membership totals. Awards will also be given to the highest percentage growth, and greatest memberships paid within seven divisions (criteria online) as of May 30, 2015. No Membership application required for these three awards.

About Our Organization...

Peninsula District



everychild.one voice.®

We are here to serve all the units and members of the Peninsula District. We cover the areas of Hampton, Newport News, York County, Williamsburg/James City County, Charles City County and Poquoson.

It is our pleasure to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns regarding a PTA unit in the Peninsula District, please contact District Director Melissa Nehrbass via telephone at [757] 870-0128 or via email at peninsuladd@vapta.org.