



## Special points of interest:

- Membership News
- Bylaws Report
- Citizenship Contest Info
- Reflections District Deadline

## Director's Corner

Melissa Nehrbass

peninsuladd@vapta.org

Welcome back to school for the 2013-2014 PTA year. I am hearing great things about 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 from last year. It is so important to ask everyone to join your PTA. Never miss an opportunity to promote membership. Recognize your members, 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:

- \*Audits from last year must be adopted by your general membership.
- \*Budgets must be adopted by the general membership and any amendments over \$300 must also be approved by the general membership.
- \*File your 990s with the IRS on time.
- \*Turn in all required documents to the VA PTA office.
- \*Make sure you include leadership training/development in your annual budget. This builds a strong PTA and keeps it that way. Don't forget our FREE training in June!
- \*Make sure your unit renewed your insurance for this year.

- \*Remember memberships should be sold **all** year. Plan to send in your first dues payment early.
- \*Always follow your bylaws! Make sure all board members have a current copy of your bylaws and understand what is in them.
- \*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.
- \*Attend your council meetings if appropriate and make plans for the annual district meeting on March 27 in Williamsburg/James City County.
- \*Always be on the lookout for future leadership for your PTA.
- \*Take advantage of PTA websites: your district, [vapta.org](http://vapta.org) and [pta.org](http://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.

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



## 2013 District Training Event- A Great Success

The annual training meeting event was hosted the first Thursday of June by the Hampton Council of PTAs at Phenix K-12 School. Many thanks to the volunteers, trainers, school staff, PTA and administration.

Workshops were held for Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries and Membership Chairs. A number of local unit leaders attended and received a wealth of information at this **FREE** event.

You wouldn't take on a paying job with no training would you? Our training events help take the guesswork out of being a PTA leaders. Take advantage of these events. Make plans to send your board next year. **Mark your calendars for June 5, 2014.** Yorktown Middle School, 11201 Geo. Washington Highway (Route 17) Our hosts will be York County Council.

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## Reflections Theme - "Believe, Dream, Inspire"

Chair: Karen Peterson—Chair      Email: kedpeterson@verizon.net 757.232.5677

PTA Reflections is America's oldest and largest arts education program of its kind. The program was developed in 1969 to encourage students to explore their talents and express themselves, creating original artwork reflecting on a specific theme.

Each year, students in grades Pre-K through 12 are recognized for bringing the theme to life through dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. There is also a special artist division as an optional division for students whose physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges meet ADA guidelines.

The 2013-2014 Reflections program theme is "Believe, Dream, Inspire." 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 then forwarded on to the Peninsula District level. The date for all winning council submissions will be **Friday, December 6.** District winners will then proceed to statewide judging.

Feel free to contact the chair (see info above) with any questions or concerns.

## Citizenship Essay Theme - "Effecting Change...Starting with Me"

Chair: TBD

The Citizenship Essay theme for 2013-2014 is "Effecting Change...Starting with Me!". All Virginia students in grades 6 – 12 currently enrolled in schools with PTA/PTSA units in **Good Standing** are eligible to participate. A PTA in Good Standing is one who has paid state and National Dues by December 1, and bylaws are current, having been revised within the past five (5) years.

Essays should be 750 words or less for grades 9 -12 and 500 words or less for grades 6 - 8.

More details will be coming soon to your Local unit Presidents. Please allow time to collect the essays and forward to Melissa Nehrbass, District Director by **February 1, 2014.** Students may submit entries directly. Information and application are posted on the Virginia PTA website: [www.vapta.org](http://www.vapta.org)

# Legislation - What is the PLP?

Chair: Glenda Evans      glendaapta@aol.com

Your PTA supports your school with many fun-filled activities. It is now time to pass the message that the PTA is also an advocate for your parents and students. Please encourage them to visit <http://capwiz.com/npta2/va/home/> to sign up and receive more information. PTA-We advocate for you!

**Deadline for ballots to be sent to the District is October 30, 2013.** The actions that are on the PLP are very important because they can impact the time of day that school starts for some, the number of spaces available in school sports for Public School students and discipline actions taken by the school. Not sure how to get our the vote? Here are some ways to increase your voting numbers:

- \*Send an email to your members with the PLP in the message. Ask your members to simply reply to the email with the PLP Action # and a simple yes or no.
- \*Send the PLP home with your students
- \*Have a table with the PLP on it and ask members to sign it as they come in
- \*Ask your Principal to use *ConnectEd* to remind parents to vote
- \*Use the school website to promote the PLP
- \*Running late to get this info out? At least have your board members vote and **REPORT, REPORT, REPORT**

You can also use your Facebook page to get the message out. If you have any questions, please contact me at glendaapta@aol.com.

# Membership News

Chair: Debbie Selfridge      Email: dhselfridge@aol.com

Welcome to all the new and returning PTA leaders and membership chairs to the 2013-2014 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!

This year, the Virginia PTA is excited to announce when members activate their PTA membership cards, they will be directed to apply for a Staples discount card with 10% off school supplies and 25% off in-store copy and print purchases through September 2014.

FAQs about membership cards and Staples discounts are available online at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org). A membership card printing template is available online and membership envelopes are now available for purchase through the state office.

Membership Growth Awards information was mailed to local units and is available online to be shared with your membership. Learn about the 2013-2014 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 new form on our website or at [vapta.org](http://vapta.org).**

# Bylaws Report

Chair: Mary Jo Padula

Email: [mpadula@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:mpadula@ycsd.york.va.us)

Welcome to a new school year all, I hope you all have a stupendous year. I am your District Bylaws Chair, and as you can see from the following list some of you will have bylaws expiring shortly or already expired, if I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact the chair.

## HAMPTON

CESAR TARRANT ES	WILL EXPIRE	10/13/2013
CHRISTOPHER KRAFT ES	WILL EXPIRE	9/25/2013
PHILLIPS ES	EXPIRED	5/4/2013

## NEWPORT NEWS

HERITAGE HS	EXPIRED	3/9/2013
HIDENWOOD ES	WILL EXPIRE	10/13/2013
SAUNDERS ES	WILL EXPIRE	11/12/2013
LEE HALL ES	WILL EXPIRE	10/20/2013
MAGRUDER PRIMARY	EXPIRED	6/20/2013
PASSAGE MS	EXPIRED	11/29/2012
SEDGEFIELD ES	WILL EXPIRE	9/25/2013

## WILLIAMSBURG-JAMES CITY

BERKELEY ES	EXPIRED	5/29/2013
MATTHEW WHALEY ES	WILL EXPIRE	11/12/2013

## YORK

MT. VERNON ES	WILL EXPIRE	11/12/2013
WALLER MILL ES	EXPIRED	12/3/2012

## SAVE THE DATE:

October 30, 2013	-	PLP Reports due to District Director	Send PLP Tally Sheets to: <a href="mailto:peninsuladd@vapta.org">peninsuladd@vapta.org</a>
December 1, 2013	-	Dues/Roster deadline State/National	Forms available at <a href="http://www.vapta.org">www.vapta.org</a> and our District website
December 6, 2013	-	District Reflections Deadline	Council winners submitted to District Chair
January 26-27, 2014	-	PTA Day at General Assembly	Richmond, VA (more info soon on the Virginia PTA website @ <a href="http://vapta.org">vapta.org</a> )
February 1, 2014	-	Citizenship Essay Deadline	Mail to Melissa Nehrbass, District Director (must be postmarked by 2/1)
March 1, 2014	-	Volunteer of the Year Deadline	Mail to Melissa Nehrbass, District Director (must be postmarked by 3/1)
March 27, 2014	-	Peninsula District Annual Meeting	Williamsburg/James City County Council hosts—Location TBA
June 5, 2014	-	FREE Peninsula District PTA Training	York Council Hosts—Yorktown Middle School—5:30 p.m.

Check us out we are on the web!

<http://worknotes.com/VA/Peninsula/PeninsulaDistrictPTA/h6.stm>

Looking for the latest news, sign up for **NewsFlash**

# PENINSULA DISTRICT PTA BOARD 2012-2014

## OFFICERS

### **District Director**

\*Melissa Nehrbass  
757-930-1872 (H)  
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347 Lynchburg Drive  
Newport News, 23606  
peninsuladd@vapta.org

### **Assistant District Director**

Glenda Evans  
757-850-0327 (H)  
619-602-0819 (C)  
114 Pine Creek Dr.  
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glendaapta@aol.com

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Mary Jo Padula  
757-220-4657 (H)  
757-784-4836 (C)  
105 Flintlock Road  
Williamsburg, 23185  
mpadula@ycsd.york.va.us

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### **Bylaws**

Mary Jo Padula  
See Secretary/Treasurer above  
bylaws@vapta.org

### **Citizenship Essay**

TBA

### **Communications**

Jean Farrar  
757-872-7736 (H)  
jhfarrar@aol.com

### **Diversity & Inclusion**

Bertha Thompson  
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### **Legislation**

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### (Continued)

### **Membership**

Debbie Selfridge  
dhselfridge@aol.com

### **Military Family Support**

David Barbee  
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443-968-0751 (C)  
peninsulapta.milspt@gmail.com

### **Reflections**

Karen Pederson  
757-232-5677  
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### **Volunteer of the Year**

## COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

### **Hampton Council President**

Pam Croom  
757-865-0159 (H)  
757-754-5570 (C)  
pamelacroom@gmail.com

### **Newport News Council President**

Debi Abadie  
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### **Williamsburg/JCC Council President**

Kyra Cook  
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### **York County Council President**

Laurel Garrelts  
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