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CONNECTION

A publication of the Henrico County Council of PTAs

March 2006

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President's Message - Planning Ahead

It is hard to believe that we are into the second semester of classes in our schools and it is time to start planning for next year. Time flies when you are having fun! Most PTAs have begun the process of selecting next year's leaders. Your nominating committee has been elected and is recruiting candidates for next year's board. Take the time to review your bylaws for guidance on the process for your PTA. Nominating committee members should represent various groups within your community. Candidates for the slate should not be selected by individual officers or by the principal, although their assistances in recruiting interested parents and then submitting those names to the nominating committee is always welcome. There are often questions about multiple candidates for an office, types of balloting, notification of the membership about candidates and meetings. Always check your bylaws and standing rules first. If your question is not addressed there, please contact the HCCPTA. We will be happy to help you in any way we can. For those who are leaving office at their local PTA, we hope that you will consider moving up to the County Council or Richmond District board.

This is the month that we focus on our high school students with the George H. Moody Scholarship Walk. It will be held this year on March 4th at Regency Square Mall. The proceeds from the Walk and local unit donations help to fund several scholarships for graduating high school seniors in Henrico County planning to attend post- high school training or education programs. It is a needs based scholarship. Thank you for your support of this countywide endeavor! Please contact our G. H. Moody Scholarship Chair, Sharon Dunkum with any questions you may have.

Our April meeting will focus on how our schools are helping our children choose healthy lifestyles. Please join us on April 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Hermitage High School. We will also have a meet and greet at 6:30 p.m. before hand to allow PTA leaders to share ideas. Elections for County Council Officers for 2006-2007 will also take place. Please make sure that your school is represented.

Don't forget to RSVP for the HCCPTA Annual Awards Banquet on May 2 at Hermitage HS. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Anne Carson, HCCPTA President

PRESIDENT'S CHECKLIST

MARCH

- Review your PTA budget.
- Arrange for the Audit of the books when they close at the end of the fiscal year.
- Have the Nominating Committee report the slate of Officers to the executive board (may be done in April).
- Remind board members to update their procedure books and include any recommendations for next year.

APRIL

- Attend Richmond District PTA Annual Dinner.
- Recognize outstanding contributors to the PTA by giving them one of Virginia PTA's Honorary Awards.
- Honor all PTA volunteers.

The HEF will sponsor a parent seminar featuring:
John Rosemond, family psychologist, author and syndicated columnist

April 22
"Bringing Out the Best in Your Child"
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Book Sale

"3 Keys to Discipline"
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Book Sale

Hermitage High School – Auditorium

Tickets: \$15. per person for each session

Tickets available by sending check to:
Henrico Education Foundation
Attn: Susan Stanley
P.O. Box 23120
Richmond, VA. 23223

Contact: Xenia Murphy
Title: Local Coordinator, AIFS
Academic Year in America
(W) 804 290 6491
(H) 804 562 6786

Host a Foreign Exchange Student: Explore the World without Leaving Your Home

Interested in hosting a foreign exchange student? Academic Year in America, a not-for-profit sponsored by the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) Foundation, brings international students to the U.S. from more than 30 countries around the world. Please contact Richmond's AYA coordinator, Xenia Murphy, at xenia_k@hotmail.com or 562-6786 for more information. Further information regarding the AYA program can be found at www.academicyear.org.

2005 – 2006 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Every year, in the spring, our schools honor one of their many volunteers as the Volunteer of the Year. This person is recognized for his or her contributions and commitment to the school and the PTA during the school year, as well as his or her enthusiasm and creativity in making those contributions. The Volunteer of the Year will be honored at the annual Henrico County Council of PTA's award banquet in early May, and at our May PTA meeting. Additionally, PTA's provide recognition at the school level, and many of them make a contribution to their schools in honor of their Volunteer of the Year; e.g., the individual may choose to have a tree planted on the school grounds or a book donated to the library in his or her honor. If you know of someone who has gone above and beyond in volunteer service to your school, please nominate that person. Watch for news from your school's PTA on how to go about doing this. Recognize your Volunteer of the Year!!

WARNER GETS NATIONAL PTA HONOR.

Former Gov. Mark Warner has just been chosen to receive the 2006 National PTA President's Recognition for Outstanding Advocacy Award. This award is presented to individuals in the legislative or policy arena who have made a continuing and significant contribution on behalf of children. He was chosen for this award "in recognition of your fiscal commitment to and innovative policies regarding education, including the your 'Education for a Lifetime' initiative" and for the Partnership to Achieve Successful Schools (PASS) program. He will receive this award March 14 in Washington.

Question & Answer corner is BACK!!!!

How do you select your volunteer of the year?

Please respond to Communications Chair, Helena Lythgoe at lythgoes4@comcast.net

Brookland District - Trevvett in the Spotlight!

Maude Trevvett Elementary has been named one of 23 schools nationally designated a **Showcase School** by CIGNA Health Care Foundation and Healthy Kids Challenge. This non-profit organization's goal is to present programs to schools nationwide that will allow teachers, parents, students, and our community to learn and improve the health and fitness of our students. Our school was selected on the basis of our commitment to actively participate in developing a consistent, healthy school environment. We will work with CIGNA and the Healthy Kids Challenge to develop programs that deliver fun, simple ideas that will motivate our students and their families alike to be more active and to enjoy a variety of healthy food choices. We are very honored to be chosen a **Healthy Kids Challenge Showcase School**.

Information provided by: Judy Hall, Gym Teacher

2006-2007 Candidates Announced!

HCCPTA's Nominating Committee has approved a slate of nominees for the 2006-2007 officer positions. The Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates for election:

President - Anne Carson
Area VP – Brookland District - Mirinda Lawrence
Area VP - Fairfield District - Lula Lamb
Area VP - Three Chopt District - (Vacant)
Area VP - Varina District - Andrea Beck
Area VP – Tuckahoe District - Sharon Dunkum
Secretary - Tammy Zimmer
Treasurer - Kim Harris

Here is some background on the impressive group of people volunteering to lead the Council for the next year:

President – Anne Carson

Anne has been a PTA leader for many years at the local and Council levels. Currently she is completing her first term as Council President. She is past President of Tucker HS PTSA and is currently serving as Committee Chair at the District level and serves on the Short Pump MS PTA.

Area VP – Brookland District – Mirinda Lawrence

Mirinda is completing her first term as a Council Area VP. She also currently serves as Hungary Creeks PTA President and is past PTA President of Chamberlayne ES.

Area VP – Fairfield District – Lula Lamb

Lula Lamb is currently serving her first term as a Council Area VP. She is also PTA president at Fairfield Middle and she has been a PTA leader for many years.

Area VP – Tuckahoe District – Sharon Dunkum

Sharon has been a PTA leader for several years at the local, Council and District levels. Currently she chairs the Councils G. H. Moody Scholarship Committee. She is currently serving as the Richmond District Secretary and on the Byrd MS PTA Board.

Area VP – Varina District – Andrea Beck

Andrea has been active in PTA for many years. She is currently serving on both the Ward ES PTA board as Treasurer and the John Rolfe MS PTA board.

Secretary – Tammy Zimmer

Tammy is new to PTA and is currently serving as Secretary on the Montrose ES PTA.

Treasurer – Kim Harris

Kim is currently serving her first term as Council Treasurer. She has been a PTA leader for several years. She is currently serving on the Springfield Park ES PTA and as Treasurer on the Moody MS PTA board.

As you can see we still have an open position for VP of the Three Chopt District. If you would like to be considered for this position, please contact Anne Carson, HCC President at dcarsonva@comcast.net

Voting for the Slate of officers will be held at the County Council meeting on April 5th at 7pm at Hermitage High School.
It is important that you attend this meeting so that officers can be elected.

BECOME A BETTER LEADER WITH PTA LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Training is an integral part of developing effective leaders. When PTA leaders capitalize on the training opportunities all levels of PTA have to offer, they are better able to support units, increase membership, build community partnerships, and cultivate future leaders.

Upcoming training opportunities include:

- **Richmond District Leadership Training**
The Richmond District of PTAs will hold it's annual training on Saturday May 20, at Mary Munford Elementary School. This is a one-day training event for all PTA positions. An information packet will be sent to local unit PTA presidents in late March along with registration forms and directions.
- **Incoming PTA Presidents training** conducted by HCCPTA June 6th at Greenwood ES, 7:00 p.m.
- **Virginia PTA Leadership Training Conference**, July 14-15, 2006 at Longwood University. Go to: www.vapta.org for additional details.

Of course there are additional training opportunities available at the National PTA level that include E-learning and National PTA's leadership conferences. Go to: www.pta.org for additional information on these training opportunities.

Leadership conferences are a wonderful way to build skills and make connections. They are also a great way for both new and experienced leaders to receive training on topics critical to their success as leaders and the success of their PTA's. Leadership training is a justifiable PTA budget expenses. Don't miss these opportunities!

(Portions Reprinted with permission from Our Children February/March 2006)

Volunteer of the Year

Nominate an outstanding individual as the Virginia PTA Volunteer of the Year. One PTA member from the Elementary level and one from the Middle/High School level will be chosen to be honored at our 2006 Convention in Roanoke. The deadline for submission is June 1st. Further information can be found on the State PTA website at www.vapta.org

County Council Annual Banquet

This year's Henrico County Council PTA banquet will be held on Tuesday, May 2nd at Hermitage High School. Registration is at 5:30 p.m. and the banquet will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. Registration forms are due by April 3rd. The packet was sent out to all PTA presidents on Monday, February 6th, 2006 via the pony. Please, check your PTA boxes for this information. The cost is \$16.00 per person. If you have any questions, please contact me at 264-0930 or crystalsarvay@aol.com.

Thank you,
Crystal Sarvay, Banquet Chair

Let's keep in touch...

Please help HCCPTA stay in touch with you and your fellow board members. Send any contact information changes to Helena Lythgoe, *Communications Chair* at: lythgoes4@comcast.net

STAY TUNED FOR OUR NEW
WEBSITE:
WWW.HCCPTA.com

Victory at Yorktown Poster Contest

Virginia PTA in partnership with Jamestown 2007 is sponsoring a poster contest. This poster contest allows students to be creative visually in presenting their views on the "Victory at Yorktown." One of the 10 signature events of the 400th Anniversary celebration is the 225th anniversary of the final battle of the Revolutionary War at Yorktown in October. This event will last for three days from October 19-22, 2006. PTAs received details in this months mailing from the State PTA office. For additional information go to: www.vapta.org.