



# CONNECTION

*A publication of the Henrico County Council of PTAs*

*November 2007*

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## President's Message

The Virginia PTA Convention was a great success. Thank you to the following delegates who attended from Henrico County local units:

Colonial Trail Elementary:	Emilie Dube
Donohoe Elementary:	Lashawn Payne
	Linda Henderson
	Alice Miles
Elko Middle:	Suni Martin
Highland Springs Elementary:	Tonya Meyers
	Wanda Anderson
Montrose Elementary	Aisha Jones-Hunter
Rivers Edge Elementary:	Wendy Logan
	Emily Fagan
Ward Elementary/Varina High	Andrea Beck
	Kristin Beck

Anne Carson attended as Field Service Chair of the State PTA, and I attended representing the Richmond District.

Diane Florence finished her two-year term as President of the Virginia PTA, and Melissa Nehrbus began her term as President. The following statewide officers were elected for the 2007-2009 term:

President-Elect:	Morgan Bell
Vice President:	Debi Abadie
Secretary:	Phyllis Ayers
Treasurer:	Tricia Rudolph

Tricia Rudolph is with the Hanover County Council and was formerly the Henrico County Council President, so we are pleased to have her on the state board!

I appreciate the commitment from the local units, as well as the extraordinary commitment from all of the volunteers at the State PTA who work so hard to improve the health and welfare of all of our children.

Claire Pollock  
County Council President

## President's Checklist

### NOVEMBER

- Remind your Treasurer that all dues must be sent to the State Office by December 1 so your Local Unit remains in "Good Standing".
- County Council Dues must be remitted by December 1 as well.
- Recognize Reflections Participants

### DECEMBER

- Enjoy the holidays and rejuvenate yourself for the remainder of the year.



## Good Questions!



Leaders in local units turn to the County Council to advise them on all aspects of PTA. Some of the questions "stump" the County Council Board, but end up serving as an opportunity for us all to review PTA procedures, or work out a common-sense solution to an issue. Here is a recent Good Question:

*Does a PTA have to get a permission slip from parents when it hosts a PTA-sponsored event off school grounds?*

As with school field trips, or outings with girl scouts or boy scouts, the PTA leaders in charge of the children off school grounds should have a signed permission slip from parents. The permission slip could follow this format:

I, [Name of Parent], give permission for [Name of Student] to attend the [Name of Event] with the [Name of School] PTA on [Date] from [Time Frame]. In the event of emergency, please contact the following:

Primary Contact Name and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Contact Name and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Who should sign vendor contracts?

Local PTA units provide quality programs for the schools. Your arts and education programs coordinate Theatre IV and other groups or individuals to provide these programs. This year, there has been some confusion regarding who signs the contracts, the school principal or the PTA president. Hopefully, the following information will answer those questions.

1. **PTA program which occurs during school hours:** The principal from the school must sign the HCPS approved "Agreement for Services" contract form for the vendor/program. *They will not be able to sign the contract supplied directly from the vendor without getting it approved by the HCPS attorney's office.* The event/vendor information will have to be filled out on the Agreement for Services form and signed by the principal and vendor. These forms are available in the school's office. When the contract is signed, the school is then responsible for payment to the vendor for the program. The school would then generate an invoice for their local unit PTA to reimburse them for the PTA sponsored program.
2. **PTA program not during school hours:** The president of the local unit PTA would sign a contract directly with a vendor for a program, if the program occurs after school hours and is not a school sponsored event. Since the local unit PTA signed the contract, that PTA would be directly responsible for payment to the vendor.

Contact Claire Pollock [claire\\_pollock@juno.com](mailto:claire_pollock@juno.com) or Wendy Logan [wplogan@verizon.net](mailto:wplogan@verizon.net) with any questions.

**Continue to send your Good Questions to the County Council, and we will share our answer to help all local units!**

# DISTRICT NEWS

The **Brookland District PTAs** are off to a good start of the school year. We're looking forward to a fun and productive year. The schools in the Brookland District are: Dumbarton Elementary, Echo Lake Elementary, Glen Allen Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, Hermitage High, Holladay Elementary, Hungary Creek Middle, Johnson Elementary, Lakeside Elementary, Longan Elementary, Moody Middle, Mount Vernon Middle, and Trevette Elementary. Some schools are struggling with getting volunteers where needed. If anyone has any ideas on how to increase volunteerism, let me know and I'll share it with those schools. Also, someone recently asked me if a PTA could do a bingo game for a fundraiser. This is what I found out about "games of chance" from the VA PTA: "[For the complete information about Bingo, raffles, and lotteries contact the Charitable Gaming Commission. Their website at <http://www.dcg.virginia.gov/> has all the information you need. While the commonwealth allows non-profits to run these activities, you will also need to check with your local government/school district if you're doing it on school property.](#)" If I can help you with anything, just let me know.

Helena Lythgoe

VP – Brookland

[Brookland@hccpta.com](mailto:Brookland@hccpta.com)

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## THREE CHOPT DISTRICT

Submitted by: Emilie Dube, PTA President, Colonial Trail Elementary School

The **Colonial Trail Elementary Schools (CTES)** dedication was held on Thursday, September 20th, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. What an incredible night! Karen Chapman, the CTES Resource Teacher, greeted us all in the Auditorium.

Mr. Philip Cantone, our Principal, was introduced and he gave thanks to all in attendance. A slide show was then presented of the building of Colonial Trail Elementary School. Reverend Paul Johnson, Rector of Christ Church

Episcopal, gave the invocation for our dedication. The Deep Run High School ROTC then entered to give the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance. I led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone on behalf of the Colonial Trail Elementary School PTA. Mr. Cantone then returned to thank all the School Board Representatives in attendance as well as the Henrico County Board of Supervisors. Honorable Delegates from our Virginia House of Delegates were also present and thanked. Local area Principals in attendance: Mr. Mark Chamberlain of Short Pump MS, Dr. Aaron Spence of Deep Run HS and Mrs. Debra Smith of Greenwood Elementary. Dr. Lloyd Jackson, Chairman of the School Board and Fairfield District Representative; Mr. James Fiorelli, School Board Representative for the Three Chopt District; Mr. David Kaechele, Vice Chair for the Henrico County Board of Supervisors and Mr. Fred S. Morton, IV, Superintendent of Henrico County Public Schools spoke to all in attendance. It was then time for the 5th Grade Colonial Trail Chorus to sing, "Today is the Day!" The children were outstanding! Mr. Cantone was then presented a key, plaque and book by the BCWH Architects: Mr. Charles Piper and Mr. Bo Fairlamb. In closing, Mr. Cantone thanked his entire CTES staff, the parents and all the community represented. The 5th Grade Chorus then closed the dedication with the "Happy Trails" song. During the remainder of the evening, the Short Pump MS Jazz band played as well as the Short Pump Symphonette. At the close of the evening, Mr. Cantone hosted a special unveiling of a incredible mural painted by area artist Colleen Hall. The mural is on display in the main office at CTES.



It was an amazing experience to be a part of a new school dedication in Henrico County. I feel honored to be the first PTA President for such an amazing school! Thank you all who attended on September 20th! If you didn't get the chance to be there for the dedication, you are more than welcome to come and have a tour.

**Shady Grove Elementary named a Blue Ribbon School !!!!!**

[http://henrico.k12.va.us/newsroom/news\\_releases/100407.html](http://henrico.k12.va.us/newsroom/news_releases/100407.html)

# DISTRICT NEWS continued..

## VARINA DISTRICT

### The Eagle Has Landed

Submitted by Elko Middle School Staff

October 4, 2007, Elko Middle School proudly dedicated the building to the public. The Elko eagle mascot was out on the front lawn to greet all of the faculty, staff, parents, students, and local officials to the dedication ceremony. Katrise Perera, Elko's principal, welcomed everyone to the new school followed by the presentation of colors by a joint color guard from Highland Springs High School and Varina High School.

There were a variety of speakers to celebrate the night, including:

Dr. Gary H Threatt, *pastor of New Bridge Baptist Church*

Dr. Lloyd E. Jackson, Jr., *Chairman of the Henrico School Board*

Mr. Hugh Palmer, *Vice Chairman of the Henrico School Board*

Mr. James B. Donati, Jr., *Chairman of the Board of Supervisors*

Mr. Fred Morton, IV, *Superintendent of Henrico Schools*

Mr. Virgil Hazelett, *Henrico County Manager*

Mr. Bob Mills, *Moseley Architects*

Mr. Jim McCalla, *Moseley Architects*

Mr. Bob Mills from Moseley Architects then presented Mrs. Perera with the key to the building with the following words of wisdom, "This key doesn't open any of the doors in the building, but it symbolizes the key to unlock the minds of students." The ceremony was concluded with a stellar musical performance from the Elko band and chorus directed by Mr. Frank Chlorie and Mrs. Danielle Yonkers.

Following the program everyone was invited to take a tour of the building and mingle over some delicious refreshments. As the night came to a close, the beautiful artwork of the Elko logo by Gene Toutsy was unveiled.

Mrs. Perera accepting the key from Mr. Bob Mills of Moseley Architects



# State Convention



Henrico County's newest PTAs received their charters at State PTA Convention in October. Suni Martin (left) received the charter as President of the Elko Middle School PTA, and Emilie Dube (right) received the charter as President of the Colonial Trail Elementary School PTA, with Claire Pollock (center), President of the Henrico County Council of PTAs. Philip Cantone, Principal of Colonial Trail was also in attendance to receive the charter.

## Recognitions:

**The following Henrico County PTAs and individuals were acknowledged at the State PTA Convention:**

### Local Unit Standards Certification:

**Crestview Elementary**                      **Pinchbeck Elementary**  
**Ratcliffe Elementary**                      **Short Pump Middle**  
**Baker Elementary**                              **Tuckahoe Middle**  
**Godwin High**

### Membership Awards

**Tuckahoe Elementary School, Second Place in its division, for 125.40% total membership in 2006-2007.**

**Brookland Middle School, Third Place in its division, for 186.67% increase in its membership.**

### Outstanding PTA Newsletter:

**Tuckahoe Elementary School, Platinum Award**

### Reflections Awards:

**Arielle Leah Eisen, Shady Grove Elementary School, Award of Merit in the Film/Video Production Division,**

**Sererna J. Tang, Freeman High School, Award of Merit in the Literature Division.**

**Holden Vest, Varina/Mehfoud Elementary, Award of Excellence**

**Morgan Lynn McCleaf, Short Pump Middle School, Award of Merit in the Photography Division**

**Jennifer S. Ragone, Freeman High School, Award of Merit in the Visual Art Division**

### Scholarship Recipient:

**Kelly Baldwin, Godwin High School**

## Delegates act on bylaws, resolutions

Delegates to the 2007 Virginia PTA Convention approved 14 changes to the association's bylaws, rejected two others and referred another two - including a proposed 25-cent dues increase - back for further study.

Delegates turned down proposals to drop "PTSA" from the organization's commonly used name and to restrict candidates for elected officerships to those having served at least 18 consecutive months.

The proposed dues increase was referred for more study until after a delayed 2006-07 audit is completed and analyzed. That is expected next month.

Also deferred was another proposal that would have required local units to have their members vote on budget changes over \$250. Currently, individual PTAs are required to set their own dollar-amount limit.

All other bylaws changes were adopted, some after being amended. The changes take effect immediately.

Delegates also approved, with amendments, resolutions governing environmental mercury pollution, school bus drivers using cell phones in transit, career and technical education, heart defibrillators and athletics, low-cost health insurance for children.

Details about both sets of votes are to be posted on the web site soon.

*Reprinted from Virginia PTA Voice.*

## Electronic Voting

The Virginia Code mandates that non-profit organizations (like PTAs) must vote at a meeting face-to-face unless the organization's bylaws specifically permit electronic voting. Delegates at the Virginia PTA Convention in October voted to change the Virginia PTA bylaws to permit electronic voting.

The language that was added is as follows:

Article XIII, Section 3, subsection c, add (1)

(1) Only the President shall have the authority to call for an electronic vote. The established quorum of the executive committee shall prevail. Results must be recorded in the minutes. Rules governing electronic voting shall be established.

During the discussion that ensued, the following points were raised:

- Electronic voting should only be used for "emergency" issues that arise between regularly scheduled meetings.
- The results of electronic voting must be noted in the Board minutes, generally by ratification of the vote by the Board at the next meeting.
- The adoption of the State bylaws change was effective immediately, but each local unit must vote to change its bylaws.

## Public hearings on SOL revisions slated for November 26

The Virginia Board of Education will hold four public hearings throughout the state on November 26 to solicit comments on proposed revisions to Standards of Learning for history and social science and health education, physical education and driver education. The local hearing will take place at Godwin High School. The hearing will begin at 7 p.m. and will adjourn by 9 p.m. Registration of speakers will begin at 6 p.m.

## \$1,897 grants available; Deadline November 28

Your PTA can be rewarded for welcoming families into your school! Make plans to celebrate PTA Take Your Family to School Week Feb. 10-16, 2008; then apply for a cash award of \$1,897 to support your activities. PTA was founded on February 17, 1897. The \$1,897 Awards honor and further our founders' vision of building lasting family-school partnerships

The National PTA will send the PTA Take Your Family to School Week 2008 planning guide to your local unit president. The guide includes creative event ideas and the Take Your Family to School Week Award. The application is also available online at [http://www.pta.org/familytoschool/familytoschool\\_landing.html](http://www.pta.org/familytoschool/familytoschool_landing.html)

- Plan events and activities that encourage all families to participate in their children's education and the life of your school.
- Tell the PTA national office about your plans. Complete the Take Your Family to School Week Award Application and submit it to PTA national headquarters by Nov. 28.

This year's \$1,897 Awards are presented by the AXA Foundation, a national PTA sponsor. Award recipients will be notified before the New Year. All applications will be subject to competitive review. Awards will be given only to PTAs in good standing - bylaws current and dues paid on time.



### State and County Dues: Deadline December 1

Local units must pay their State/National and County Dues by December 1 to remain a "unit in good standing" with both organizations.

Both State and National membership dues should be included in one check payable to the Virginia PTA. Please remit both the National (\$1.75 per member) and State (\$.75 per member) to:

Virginia PTA  
1027 Wilmer Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23227-2419

A copy of the remittance statement was sent to PTA Presidents in the May 15, 2007, mailing. A copy of the Remittance Statement is available at [vapta.org](http://vapta.org).

County Council dues (\$.10 per member, based on 2006-2007 membership) to the Henrico County Council and should be sent to:

c/o Ingrid Johnson, Treasurer  
4509 Argonne Court  
Glen Allen, VA 23059

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**Specialty Centers.** The County is sponsoring open houses for its Specialty Centers. Go to [www.henrico.k12.va.us](http://www.henrico.k12.va.us) for more information.

**Fairfield District Elementary School.** Go to [www.henrico.k12.va.us](http://www.henrico.k12.va.us) for more information about the new elementary school opening in the fall of 2008 and the process of naming the school and redistricting.