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Is on vacation this week.

Dear PTA Members,

Virginia delegates to the National PTA convention in Fort Lauderdale celebrated the adoption of Virginia PTA's resolution, *Dangers of Alcoholic Energy Drink*.

The resolution passed the national convention body with no amendments or dissenting votes. Michelle Prescott, Virginia PTA Health & Safety Committee chair, and Jean Farrar, Resolutions Committee chair, spoke in favor of the resolution on the convention floor.

Three other resolutions -- on *Child Trafficking*, *Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management in Schools* and *Education on the Danger of Tobacco Use and Secondhand Smoke* -- also passed. To read the text of all the adopted resolutions, [click here](#).

Another 500 old resolutions were rescinded because they were out of date, no longer relevant or their purpose had been accomplished.

Delegates attended workshops and general sessions June 26-29. On June 27, Betsy Landers of Tennessee was elected president-elect and will take office two years from now. Theresa Williams of Colorado was elected secretary/treasurer. They were installed by former Secretary of Education Richard Riley June 28, along with the first male national PTA president, Charles "Chuck" Saylor of South Carolina. Eight member representatives to the Board of Directors and two members to the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee were also elected and installed during the convention.

Convention attendees were inspired by keynote addresses by Laura Dean-Mooney, president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving; five-time Olympic swimmer and PTA National Ambassador Dara Torres, and 2009 National Teacher of the Year, Anthony Mullen of Connecticut. Also a new partnership with Parenting magazine to support the PTA Reflections program was announced.

A particularly powerful speech on our public education system and failing schools was given by James H. Shelton III, Department of Education assistant deputy secretary for innovation and improvement. Coupled with a renewed relationship and partnership with the new director of the Virginia Parent Information and Resource Center, Michelle Frappier who was also attending the convention, Virginia delegates felt a call to action for a greater promotion of parental involvement in Virginia.

Melissa Nehrbass  
Virginia PTA President  
[president@vapta.org](mailto:president@vapta.org)

## Virginia's delegation to National Convention



Pictured from left are, 1st row, Michelle Prescott, Johna Vazquez and Melissa Nehrbass; 2nd row, Anne Carson, John Hart, Phyllis Ayers, Rebecca Poma, Brenda Sheridan, Bill Levey and Jean Farrar, and 3rd row, Debi Abadie, Dan Phillips and Michelle Frappier.

### Sign up today for LTC!

The early-bird registration has passed, but PTAs can still mail in registrations today to attend the best PTA training in the state!

Make sure your PTA unit is ready for the 2009-10 school year by attending valuable workshops ranging from Presidents Basics to Health and Safety Issues for Middle & High Schools, from Avoid PTA Burnout to Fundraising 101. There is something for every leader in your PTA! Principals and teachers are



also welcome! Register now to reserve your space.

[Learn more about LTC.](#)

## State changes mind on 3rd grade SOL



Virginia's third graders will continue to take a cumulative Standards of Learning (SOL) test in history until 2011 when a new test is expected to be ready.

On June 25, the state's Board of Education approved developing the new history test as well as working social science and other core content into the third-grade SOL reading test.

The action came after a furor arose over a proposal to scrap the third grade history SOL as a way to reduce high-stakes testing burdens on the students, teachers and administrators. Patricia I. Wright, state superintendent of education, told the board that efforts to reduce testing burdens will continue, "but in a way that won't reduce accountability standards."

The new history test is expected to be given online and will encompass a 2008 update to the state standards.

## Committee chair nominations due Sept. 15

Nominations will be accepted until Sept. 15 for PTA leaders interested in serving as a standing committee chairman or historian.

Committee chairs are elected by the Board of Managers following Convention 2009, which will be held Nov. 13-15 at the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center. Nominees are forwarded with recommendations to the board by the Nominations & Leadership Development Committee.

Committee chairmanships and the historian position involve a two-year commitment. The historian is a non-voting member of the Board of Managers. The committees whose chairmanships will be filled this fall are Bylaws, Education, Field Service, Health and Safety, Membership, Parental Involvement, Public Relations, Secondary PTA/PTSA, Technology and Volunteers.

For more information, including detailed job descriptions and a nominations packet available for download, [click here.](#)

**Anne Carson, chairman**

Nominations & Leadership Development Committee

[field-service@vapta.org](mailto:field-service@vapta.org)

### Register for Back-to-School Kit



*Official PTA Kit-PTA's Big Box of Possibilities* began shipping to PTAs that have registered with national PTA on June 19 and will be shipped weekly to registrants through

October. For details and registration information, [click here](#).

### Briefly . . .

National PTA offices will observe **summer hours** until Sept. 4. Offices will operate from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

. . . . Seventeen high schools have been selected for the **2009 Claudia Dodson VHSL Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award**, which recognizes member schools for policies and procedures that make sportsmanship a priority and an expectation. The schools scored 90-percent or better on an assessment that takes into account both positive and negative behavior. For more information and the list of winners, [click here](#).

. . . . Schools and communities seeking to promote active transportation for K-8 students traveling from home to school are encouraged to form a **"Safe Routes to School"** team, create a school travel plan and to apply for funding to implement planned education, engineering and other strategies. School travel plans are due Nov. 27 and applications for funding are due Dec. 28. For more information, contact coordinator, Sarah Weisiger at 804-371-4868 or [click here](#).

. . . . National PTA is supporting the **"United We Serve" volunteer initiative** that began June 22 and lasts until Sept. 11. PTA is joining efforts with the White House and is asking all PTA members to participate. PTA members are encouraged to focus on projects that address education, health and serving military families. Getting involved can include helping families sign up to receive library cards, reading to students, or organizing a community health fair. For more details, [click here](#).

### Save the date!



**July 17-18:** Leadership Training Conference, James River

High School, Midlothian

**Aug. 7:** School Supplies and Clothing Tax Holiday

**Sept. 15:** Deadline for Committee Chair applications

**Oct. 7:** International Walk to School Day

**Nov. 13-15:** Convention 2009, Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

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