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2019-21 Slate of Nominees



Debbie Kilpatrick, nominee for President-Elect, is a strong advocate to provide greater investments in public education and believes in the advocacy and benefits that PTA membership provides. In recognition of her passion for Virginia's students and families, she received NAACP Fairfax Community Service Award, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers President's Award, FCPS School Board Community Service Resolution, Fairfax County SEPTA's Champion Award, VA PTA Life Member and President's Honor Award, and National PTA Life Achievement Award. As an FCPS substitute teacher for the past 20 years, Debbie sees firsthand the benefits of engaged families in education. Serving as NOVA District PTA Director with more than 225 PTAs and 55,000 members, Debbie provides mentorship, guidance, and support to local, council, and state PTA leaders. Past PTA service includes: Virginia PTA VP Membership, Fairfax County Council PTA President, Governor's School TJHSST PTSA President, and Centreville HS PTSA President. Under Debbie's leadership, NOVA District received \$4,500 in grants from National PTA and Bayer, and a \$1000 grant from Symantec/LifeLock to host a District Safer Internet event. Debbie has authored articles in National PTA's *Our Children* magazine and *PTA Advocacy Changes Lives* publication and presented workshops at National PTA Convention focused on advocacy and STEM. Debbie and her husband, Bill, live in Clifton and have two sons. As President-Elect, Debbie's goals will be to amplify our Virginia PTA voice by supporting our Districts, Councils, and local PTAs.



Jenna Alexander, nominee for Vice President of Advocacy, has been an active advocate for students, families and schools for the past five years and has been recognized with a Virginia PTA President's Award. Jenna has served as PTA Treasurer and PTA President of her local unit and is currently the Director of the Hunt District PTA, which has 52 PTAs and more than 300 officers and 10,500 members. In this role, Jenna motivates, encourages, and empowers local unit officers to engage their parents, to partner with their principals, to understand the needs and interests of their community and advocate on behalf of their students. She often reminds her units that advocacy is simply turning a story or experience into an action item. Jenna believes that when we collaborate, and share stories from our own schools, we can identify opportunities to change policies, funding formulas, protocols and teacher training programs at the local, state and federal level to help ensure every student has an opportunity to reach their fullest potential. As Vice President of Advocacy, Jenna is excited to hear your stories and identify common themes to help us advocate with one voice for students across Virginia.

2019-21 Slate of Nominees (Cont'd)

OPEN POSITION - Vice President of Programs



Michelle Leete, nominee for Vice President of Training, has been an advocate for the ‘success of children and families’ for over 10 years. When her now teenaged daughter started kindergarten, Michelle was ‘voluntold’ that she should serve as Volunteer Coordinator. She hasn’t looked back since. Michelle has served as PTA President at the elementary school level, VP of Membership at the middle and high school levels and previously served as the Assistant Director for Northern VA PTA. Michelle currently serves as the VP of Communications for Edison High School PTSA and VP of Training for Fairfax County Council PTA (FCCPTA). She is also the FCCPTA representative to Fairfax County’s Successful Children and Youth Policy Team. Michelle has attended several council, district, state, and national PTA conferences and coordinated several leadership trainings during her tenure. She has never met a volunteer position she didn’t like and therefore also serves on the executive boards of the Burke-Fairfax Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Fairfax County NAACP, Washington DC Chapter of the Project Management Institute and the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. In her ‘spare’ time, Michelle enjoys watching British detective shows with her daughter, Sydney, and their cat, Frankey.



Katheryn Harrison, nominee for Treasurer, lives in Manassas with her husband, Russell and son, Ryan, a freshman at Osbourn High School. Kathy’s PTA volunteer career began in 2009 when Ryan entered Kindergarten. In 2013, she was elected President of his local elementary school and continued to serve in this position for five years as he progressed through intermediate and middle school. She joined the Patriot District PTA in 2013 as Assistant Director and became Director in 2017. Kathy has a Master’s degree from George Mason University in Statistics and a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from Allegheny College. Prior to becoming a mom, Kathy worked as a higher education policy analyst for a nonprofit and later as a mathematical statistician for the federal government. She is a published education policy expert whose work was cited by, among others, Senator Ted Kennedy as he worked to pass the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 1998. She currently works as a long-term 6th grade substitute math teacher.

2019-21 Slate of Nominees (Cont'd)



Sharon Abernathy, nominee for Secretary, has been an advocate for children for over 10 years. When her son, Adam, started kindergarten in 2007 at Pole Green Elementary, she jumped into the PTA right away, serving on the PTA Board as Legislation Chair. Since that time, she has chaired various PTA committees, served as Secretary and President of Adam's elementary school PTA, and President of his middle school PTA. She is past President of the Hanover County Council of PTAs, and previously served as Richmond District Director. In her current role as Secretary of the Virginia PTA, she serves as Chair of the Administration & Policies Committee. At the state level, Sharon has also served as Chair of the Bylaws Committee, and was a member of several other committees, including Annual Conference, Bylaws, Legislation and Membership. She holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Bluefield College. In her full-time job of nearly 25 years with the Supreme Court of Virginia, among other things, Sharon serves as secretary to several judicial policy-making bodies. The meetings of these groups are fast-paced, and, due to the high degree of accuracy that is required in law and policy, it is very important to capture specific and accurate details of the meetings. In addition to her experience recording minutes for her "paying job," she has served for many years as Secretary to the Board and Church Congregation at Seventh Street Christian Church, where she took meeting minutes and prepared Board correspondence and communications. She has also served as Secretary on the Pole Green Elementary School PTA Board. Sharon presently serves as President of the Hanover High School Football Parents' Club, Vice-President of the Hanover High School PTSA, and she teaches Sunday School to kindergarten and 1st grade students at Walnut Grove Baptist Church.