

# THE ADVOCATE

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## *PWEA Budget, Lobby Effort News*

*Talking face to face with our elected officials in Richmond makes a difference. Thanks to Meg Gruber, Jim Livingston, David Kinsella, Rick Stoppa, Amy Wise, and Bruce Smith for attending this year's Lobby Day, February 2, 2009. We met with Senator Colgan, Senator Barker, Del. Lingamfelter, Del. Miller, Del. Nichols, and the legislative aides of our other representatives. Check the VEA website [www.veanea.org](http://www.veanea.org) for legislative updates. I was pleased at the turnout we received for our information rally on February 4, 2009. Our All-*



*Bruce Smith, Rick Stoppa, Del. Jackson Miller, Bonnie Klakowicz, Amy Wise, Jim Livingston,*

*Member meeting on February 19, 2009, allowed members to talk directly to Dave Cline, Associate Superintendent of Finance. We need to be present at the Board of*

### ***PWEA Scholarship Applications Now Available Online!***

*PWEA offers four scholarships annually to members, member dependents, and PWCPS students.*

*PWEA believes everyone should enhance their professional growth by continuing their education. This year's scholarship information and applications are now available via the PWEA website at [www.pweaveanea.org](http://www.pweaveanea.org)*

## *Meet & Confer Results*

*The PWEA Meet & Confer chair, Jim Livingston, Parkside MS and team members Jim Amaral, Bennett ES; Robin Hilliard, Benton MS; Anita Jackson, Potomac HS; De'shauna Thornton, Forest Park HS; and Sharon Watts, Bennett ES met with administrators this past fall on issues related to sal-*

*ary, benefits, unencumbered planning time, and staff surveys. Salaries for Prince William school employees remain the lowest in the Northern Virginia region. The administrative team stated, "PWCS is committed to achieving competitive salaries for all employees." At the time of Meet &*

*Confer, the administrative team inferred that, despite PWCS's commitment, current economic conditions may prohibit the system from addressing the concern in the 2010 budget year.*

*PWEA proposed the following:*

- *Differentiated*

*Continued on page 2*

## PWEA Reaches Out to the



Bonnie Klakowicz presenting Denyse Carroll, of the Chambers Education Committee PWEA's donation to the

our joint efforts. This year we have contributed to Newspapers for Education, the Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical contest, the Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce Honor Roll Breakfast, and the Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce Winter Warm-Up Project. We were most pleased with our contribution to this last item. Our \$500 contribution purchased 50 "kits" of hat, gloves, sweatshirts, and pants for our most needy students at Yorkshire, Loch Lomond, and Westgate Elementary Schools. It is

It is our obligation and opportunity to make a difference in a child's life, so it is equally important to support community efforts whose missions are much the same as ours. That is why the Prince William Education Association supports programs initiated by community organizations contributing much needed funds for

**New to the Association?**

Or just want to understand more about the benefits of your membership?

If so, please join us for our last scheduled "New Member Orientation" to be hosted at the PWEA office. Topics will include: member rights, FAQ's, member benefits, review of committees and leadership opportunities, and structure of our organization.

**April 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM**  
Please RSVP to Jenni-

### Not Receiving your PWEA/VEA/NEA Publications?

If you have not been receiving your PWEA/VEA/NEA publications, we could have an incorrect address. If you have recently moved or had another change such as name or work location, please contact Kim Davis via e-mail at [kdavis@pweaveanea.org](mailto:kdavis@pweaveanea.org)

"It is the goal of PWEA to promote a positive public image in our communities."

## Meet & Confer, Continued.

- salaries for instructional assistants based on education and training.
- the ability to use up to two weeks of accrued paid sick leave.
- Establish a Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) regulation that is separate from the current Leave Without Pay (LWOP) regulation.
- All allotted planning time on both elementary and secondary levels will be duty-free.
- Addition of paternal leave that gives fathers
- PWEA asked how information from division-wide surveys is used.
- Identify and resolve any

## MODEL Teacher To Be Offered March 25th

The Virginia Education Association's newest professional development program, MODEL Teacher, will be presented March 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 PM at Central Library in Manassas. This three-hour workshop was designed by a Virginia teacher who saw the need to simplify the elements needed to become a more

effective and efficient teacher. This dynamic, interactive workshop includes more than 30 practical strategies for use in elementary, middle, and high school classrooms. Highlights include learning to manage your time and activities, organize yourself and students, differentiate

lessons for diverse learners, aid in professional communications with colleagues and parents, and focus on professional reflection and acceptance. Cost per participant is \$25 but will be refunded to members once the seminar is completed. Materials and dinner will be provided, as well as a cer-

### School Visit Update

We are on the road and in the schools, mostly on Tuesday's as part of our "Tuesday Talk Live- On the Road" campaign. We thank the individuals who have made us welcome at Battlefield, Freedom, Gar-Field, Stonewall Jackson, and Woodbridge High Schools; Fred Lynn and Graham Park Middle Schools; Pennington Traditional, and Fitzgerald, Glenkirk, Gravely, Kilby, Mullen, and Swans Creek Elementary Schools. Members are eligible for a drawing for Weg-

## PWEA Grant Winners Announced

Two \$500 grants were awarded to PWEA members from Fred Lynn Middle School and Stonewall Jackson High School. The recipients of the PWEA grants were selected because their proposals demonstrated a commitment to improving students' achievement, integrating technology, involving the community in their school, and encouraging staff collaboration. Roberta Bosak and Andrew Grupp, Fred Lynn MS, submitted a proposal for the Robotics Design Team. "The Robotics

Team will be engaged in concentrated mathematics and scientific explorations, experiments, games, and applications." "The Healthy Beginnings project is designed to raise the awareness of students to the impact of having children early in life." The proposal was submitted by Eleanor Doczi, Brenda To-



## NEA Member Benefit Spotlight



### H&R Block and NEA Member Benefits Make Tax Time Less Stressful!

H&R Block is the nation's largest tax preparation company and a brand that millions of Americans know and trust. NEA Member Benefits and H&R Block have again joined forces to offer discounts and special pricing on

- Receive \$20 off tax preparation in an H&R Block retail office or \$40 off in an H&R Block Premium office\*. H&R Block has over 12,000 offices nationwide, so there's always one close to you
- Save on a variety of Tax-Cut Online and TaxCut Software tax preparation

# Growing Opportunities...

## one PWEA member at a time

### Exclusive Products & Specials

- **0% Transition Loan** – for those new to teaching or new to school system
- **Professional Development Loans** – fund certification or re-certification programs, advanced training or degree work; **rates as low as 3.00% APR\***
- **\$350 Special Bonus<sup>+</sup>** – when you purchase a vehicle from Enterprise Car Sales

### Earn a FREE Month with PWEA

Simply open a **NEW FREE Checking account** with a **FREE Visa Check Card** by **March 31, 2009**, and get **one month's FREE PWEA dues** following your first Check Card transaction. Must present this flyer at the time of account opening to qualify.

### Two Convenient Prince William County Branches

**Woodbridge**  
Potomac Festival Shopping Center  
14229 Potomac Mills Rd.

**Manassas**  
Samantha's Corner  
8475 Mathis Ave.

**AppleFCU.org • 703-788-4800**

Visit  
**AppleFCU.org**  
then **Locations & ATMs**  
to search for branches  
by zip code.

**Apple**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
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\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate as of 2/05/09; is subject to change at any time and includes a direct deposit discount. †Restrictions apply; see branch for details. Membership eligibility requirements apply. This Credit Union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration. Equal Opportunity Lender.

## PWEA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February

- 25 *PWEA Focus Group, 4:45 PM, PWEA of-  
fice*
- 26 *VEA SPARKS Weekend, Wintergreen Re-  
sort*

### March

- 2 *NEA's Read Across America Day*
- 3 *Retirement Seminar, 4:45 PM, PWEA of-  
fice*
- 4 *PWCS School Board Meeting, 7 PM*
- 5 *PWEA Board Meeting, 4:45 PM, PWEA of-  
fice*
- 10 *PWEA pre-convention caucus*
- 11 *PWCS School Board Meeting, 7 PM*
- 13-15 *NEA ESP Conference, Orlando, FL*
- 18 *PWEA Focus Group, 4:45 PM, PWEA of-  
fice*
- 18 *PWCS School Board Meeting, 7 PM*

*The Advocate is published by the Prince William  
Education Association.*

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**PWEA** PRINCE WILLIAM  
EDUCATION  
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Teaching. Learning. Leading.