

Only Connect

Dear readers,

As the new Managing Editor of *VaHomeschoolers Voice*, I am learning to connect all the pieces together of the existing publishing process that includes the hard work of many talented volunteers who fit together seamlessly. I thank and appreciate the good work of outgoing Managing Editor Erin Scherger, who maintained this well-oiled machine and has made it a solid and informative publication.

I am also learning to fit this new role of magazine editor and VaHomeschoolers volunteer into my full homeschooling schedule. It is a worthy challenge to cement myself into the network of homeschoolers who are active across the Commonwealth, to be a part of this connection. As you well know, adding anything to this process is a challenge, but I am so thankful for the bonds and community that VaHomeschoolers provides me.

VaHomeschoolers connects us

VaHomeschoolers is more than an organization. It is a community of diverse, talented homeschoolers with rich experiences who benefit from the camaraderie that is facilitated through the organization. VaHomeschoolers is inclusive, focusing only on homeschooling, regardless of philosophy, approach, or dogma. Everyone has a place here.

The organization's current leadership is making a concerted effort to establish these bonds. President DeeDee Sauter has made it her mission to make virtual and physical contact with all membership-established homeschool community in area co-ops, and Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Jones, often accompanied by DeeDee, has been meeting up with members across the Commonwealth to connect in person.

Co-ops have a resource in VaHomeschoolers

VaHomeschoolers wants co-op leaders to become local leaders and liaisons to better connect new homeschoolers with their local communities. VaHomeschoolers can then direct new homeschoolers to area co-ops, to be connected with those who best understand those localities. VaHomeschoolers is reorganizing so that the co-ops and groups are best utilized as the expert in the field in their areas.

The long-term plan is to have satellite groups working independently under the VaHomeschooler guidelines with the help of the area leaders. These leaders can coordinate with VaHomeschoolers by creating local events and opportunities like science fairs, graduations, and dances, and VaHomeschoolers can advertise for and support them in a symbiotic relationship.

Connecting IRL

VaHomeschoolers connects us online with social media and in person at the yearly conference and resource fair, and now Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Jones has been travelling the Commonwealth engaging with local groups and making volunteer connections on the way. If you would like to travel along and meet other homeschoolers far and wide, or schedule a visit with your own co-op or group, contact Lisa at Lisa.Jones@VaHomeschoolers.org, and don't forget to post your photos and tag @VaHomeschoolers on social media.

We want to hear from you

VaHomeschoolers wants to hear from the area leaders and the diverse co-ops, as well as the homeschoolers who are not in established groups, to hear how VaHomeschoolers can best support its membership. Connect with VaHomeschoolers on social media or contact us directly through VaHomeschoolers.org to join this discussion.

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"We don't accomplish anything in this world alone... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something."

—Sandra Day O'Connor

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Managing Editor
Madonna Dersch, Petersburg

Art Director/Designer
Theresa Munt, Kents Store

Associate Editor
Zoë Woodson, Falls Church

Copy Editors
Rena Corey, Reston
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Photography Editor
Keely Noffsinger Massie, Clifton Forge

Roads Scholars Editor
Heather Cole, Staunton

Family Learning Ideas Editor
Angela Tuell, Ruther Glen

Submissions Manager
Vicki Wawrzyniec, Falls Church

Publisher
Karen Skelton, Annandale

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The Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers (VaHomeschoolers) is an independent, nonprofit, member-driven statewide organization. We are committed to providing homeschooling support to our members, as well as accurate information about homeschooling to Virginia's families, school divisions, legislators and policymakers, the media, and the community at large. VaHomeschoolers appreciates that homeschooling families are diverse in their beliefs and backgrounds, but united in loving their children, valuing their children's education, and treasuring their freedom to homeschool. For this reason, VaHomeschoolers is an inclusive organization and is neutral in matters of politics and religion.

Contact VaHomeschoolers
The Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers,
Post Office Box 5131, Charlottesville, VA 22905;
(866) 513-6173; Info@VaHomeschoolers.org.

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ON THE COVER

Friends Lia and Stevie compare skull sizes of various primates at their homeschool co-op.

Photo by Sabeen Burnette

Contact VaHomeschoolers

The Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers
Post Office Box 5131
Charlottesville, VA 22905
(866) 513-6173

General Information

Info@VaHomeschoolers.org
Address and Email Changes
Membership@VaHomeschoolers.org
Government Affairs
Cindy Staats, GovtAffairs@VaHomeschoolers.org
Web Administrator
Kim Cunningham, WebAdmin@VaHomeschoolers.org
Volunteer Coordinator
Cindy Staats, Volunteer@VaHomeschoolers.org
VaHomeschoolers Voice Managing Editor
Madonna Dersch, VoiceEditor@VaHomeschoolers.org
Outreach Materials Coordinator
Lisa Jones, OutreachMaterials@VaHomeschoolers.org

Homeschool Group Liaison
SupportGroups@VaHomeschoolers.org

VaHomeschoolers Board of Directors
All VaHomeschoolers board members are volunteers.

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VaHomeschoolers.org



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