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 communicate 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 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 VaHomeschoolers guidelines with the help of the area leaders. These leaders can coordinate with VaHomeschoolers by creating local events and opportunities like conferences and resource fairs, and now by 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.

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, andtreasuring their freedom to homeschool.

For up-to-date information about legislative issues, the logistics of homeschooling, and opportunities for networking with homeschoolers in your area, visit the website of The Organization of Virginia Homeschoolers.

Request for submissions: If you have an idea for a future Voice article, contact VoiceEditor@VaHomeschoolers.org. Submitting photos for use by VaHomeschoolers: Submissions may be made online at VaHomeschoolers.SmugMug.com. Permission to reprint: Permission to reprint content from VaHomeschoolers Voice may be requested by contacting VoiceEditor@VaHomeschoolers.org. Reprinting bylined articles requires permission of the specific author, in addition to permission of the editor.