

# NAPSA NEWS



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Informing Pupil Services

Volume 6, Issue 1

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## NAPSA 51 — PITTSBURGH 2

### NAPSA Special points of interest:

- > Destination: Pittsburgh
- > NAPSA Election Results
- > NAPSA's National Input
- > Catch the Cyber Wave



NAPSA's 51st Annual Conference will be our second held in Pittsburgh, PA., from October 30 — November 2, 2016. A city of 90 neighborhoods, three rivers and year-round fun! Spend time in Pittsburgh and see why everyone, from the Travel Channel to National Geographic Traveler, is raving. Conde Nast Traveler named Pittsburgh one of the "Top 15 Places to Go in 2015!" They've got it all - great food, outdoor adventure, history at every corner, tax-limited shopping, a thriving cultural district, and a sports lover's dream. Enjoy a gastronomic feast at the famous Primanti Brothers Restaurant where the biggest challenge is to open your mouth wide enough to take a bite. Enjoy a leisurely ride with an amazingly scenic overview of Pittsburgh on the Duquesne Incline Cable Car.



*Primanti Brothers Original Site*



*Duquesne Incline*

All this is just the setting. NAPSA has continued to sponsor conferences of high quality in a personal setting,



Sandwich with "the works"

where attendees can interact with the nationally known speakers to derive full value for their professional knowledge and development. Conference and accommodations will be at the Sheraton Station Square, located on the water from where the river excursions depart. The many shops at Station Square will keep family members occupied. It is close enough to downtown to provide easy access to all Pittsburgh attractions. You don't want to miss this one. Watch the NAPSA website for registration.

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## Executive Director's Report – Wayne Fausnaught



Wayne Fausnaught

In Dublin Ohio, NAPSA's 50th anniversary conference was a huge success, providing cutting edge initiatives for all those who attended. Evaluations ranged from very good to excellent. On behalf of the executive board, I want to express appreciation to OAPSA's executive board and James Tatman, NAPSA trustee from Ohio and

OAPSA President, for assistance in making this year's conference a success. In addition, Dr. Susan Zake, Director of the Office for Exceptional children and the Ohio Department of Education were very supportive. They provided a grant to financially assist OAPSA members attending the conference and to sponsor the conference's speakers. On January 1, 2016, Mr. Vernice Thomas (North Carolina) began his second year as NAPSA's president. Dr. Frank M. Bruno (Pennsylvania) is completing his second year as president-elect and will assume the presidency in January 2017. Our organization continues to re-

ceive outstanding leadership. With their vision and knowledge, NAPSA is moving forward. In January, two new trustees assumed office. It is a pleasure to welcome Cheryl Beaudoin-Stehlin (Virginia) and Kim Dahlem (Illinois) to the executive board. Although not new to the executive board, Debora Dennis (Ohio) has been elected to serve as treasurer. As allowed in the NAPSA Constitution, the executive board appointed Lynne Lang (Missouri) to fill Debora's position as a trustee. Lynne's term will be completed on December 31, 2016. In addition to serving as president-elect, Dr. Bruno con-

tinues to provide our quarterly publication entitled "NAPSA NEWS". The organization is fortunate to have Frank volunteer to serve in this role.. NAPSA congratulates Dr. Richard Scott on his retirement as school counselor specialist for the Maryland Department of Education. Dr. Scott will continue to serve as NAPSA's legislative liaison. NAPSA has begun planning for the 2016 Conference to be held at the Pittsburgh Sheraton in Station Square, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The conference dates are October 31 - November 2.

*Exec. Dir. continued on page 3*

## President's Message – Mr. Vernice Thomas

The Executive Board thanks you for your continued commitment to serving our students, staff and parents during a time of much confusion and frustrations in our society. I also want to thank you for your membership in NAPSA and for your participation at last year's conference. Our members from the State of Ohio are to be commended for helping make this one of our most successful conferences. The year 2016 will bring about more changes for Pupil/Student Services administrators as more will be expected of us in addressing the complex needs of students. As we move forward we cannot forget the importance of implementing prevention services in our daily work. We are constantly being celebrated for resolving issues but we must not forget the role we play in

We have to be upstream focusing on early prevention and intervention services to assure student success.

preventing some of the causes of these acts. I am reminded of the story where the fish at the lower

end of the lake were found lying on the banks and everyone relying on their instincts began throwing them back in the water trying to save each one. It was then that someone began to think and realized that it was important to go upstream and find out how they were getting in the stream and look at rerouting the healthy fish so they would not enter the contaminated waters. We have to be upstream focusing on early prevention and intervention services to assure student success. Untreated mental health issues and substance use continue to be areas that interfere with student success leading to poor academic performance, bullying incidents, fights and affrays, car accidents, conflicts in the classroom as well as many issues that we are called upon to address. As



Vernice Thomas—President

discussed throughout the conference, we must continue to advocate for ways to systemically implement services that are crucial in developing great citizens. NAPSA is your organization and we want to know how we can assist you at the local level by bringing these concerns to the national level. Please share some of the great things you are doing thru our publications and possibly as presenters at our annual conference. Thanks and I hope this continues to be a successful year for you and your students.

# What's Happening On The Hill



Richard Scott  
Legislative Liaison

NAPSA as an affiliate member of NASISP, the National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel, is taking a proactive stance on the new educational legislation, 'ESSA,' (Every Student Succeeds Act) by co-

signing a letter to The Department of Education offering recommendations for ESSA, guidance and technical. The letter explains what SISP means, how SISP is referenced in ESSA and how SISP can support a positive school climate. Below is an excerpt from the letter: "NASISP is a coalition of national professional organizations whose members provide and support a variety of school-based prevention, early identification, and intervention services that remove barriers to learning and assist students in becoming effective learners and productive citizens. Our organizations represent over a million professionals, including school counselors, school nurses, psychologists, school psychologists, social workers and school social workers; occupational and physi-

cal therapists; art, dance/movement, and music therapists; and, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists. The major national organizations representing general and special education teachers and student support administrators are also coalition members. We are pleased that this new authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) includes the updated term "specialized instructional support personnel" (SISP) and uses this term deliberately and strategically throughout the Act."



## Executive Director—Continued

Several members of the planning committee have met with Jeanne Knouse, PAPSA's president, and Dr. Robert Cornany, PAPSA's executive director to begin planning the conference. After the February executive board meeting, conference information will be available on the website. The National Association of Pupil Services Administrators is committed to assisting its membership meet the challenges of today and the future. I encourage you to get actively involved in NAPSA today! May you all have an outstanding 2016!

## A Great Partner

For the past half-decade, Virtual Learning Network (VLN) Partners has been a tremendous supporter of NAPSA, acting as a sponsor for our annual conference. Along with providing such valuable support for our organization, VLN Partners has also proven to be an invaluable resource for public schools and students. As has become apparent to educators, sitting in a traditional classroom at a standard desk and taking in a typical classroom lesson is not necessarily for everyone. For some students, learning at home and proceeding at their own pace could make a positive impact on their academic career. In Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and many other states, such a notion has given rise to cyber schooling, which has taken two basic forms: cyber charter schools and cyber "academies" run by school districts. For school districts in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, cyber charter schools are siphoning huge amounts of money from local school budgets. There is also a growing need for cyber-based non-traditional

schooling options. Before school districts started hosting their own cyber academies, students were choosing cyber charter schools, which required their home school districts to pay the tuition for each student enrollee. By law, the amount the school district is obligated to pay is based on the school district's tuition rate. As a result, Monroe County school districts have been typically paying over \$12,000 for a regular education student to attend a cyber charter school. For special education students, the fee has been well over \$23,000. In response to this financial drain, and to provide students with an additional option for learning, Pleasant Valley School District opened its own cyber academy in 2008 – the Pleasant Valley Cyber Academy (PVCA), which provides the opportunity for cyber schooling to students enrolled in grades five through 12. Subsequently, over the years the school district has saved millions of dollars and students have benefited from a quality cyber education. The foundation for Pleasant Valley's cyber school program is

## by Dr. Douglas Arnold

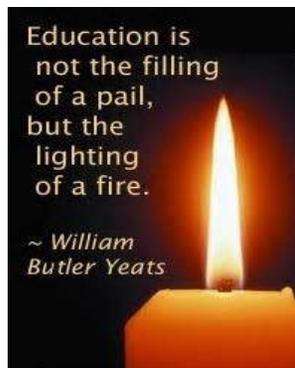
VLN Partners, a Pittsburgh-based cyber services firm that provides school districts with a customized turnkey cyber school solution that focuses on curricular needs. VLN works with school districts to transform their lessons into an interactive and engaging online environment, matching the scope and sequence of classroom instruction. This ability to create programs that reflect each school district's individual needs and desires make VLN an outstanding resource. In fact, perhaps VLN's greatest strength is its ability to effectively and efficiently address its clients' needs with a spirit of collegiality and collaboration. To boot, VLN's fee is between 30 and 40 percent of what school districts would be paying cyber charters. Currently, VLN serves over 50 school districts in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. Its services can also be obtained in many other states. If your school district is looking to implement a cyber school program, conferring with VLN Partners is an absolute must so your decision will be well informed.

# Anita S. O'Neal



Anita O'Neal

NAPSA President 2010-2012



Anita S. O'Neal, of Berkeley Heights, N.J., peacefully passed away on Dec. 3, 2015. Born in Newark and a longtime resident of West Orange, N.J., Mrs. O'Neal was assistant superintendent of schools for the Westfield school district. As NAPSA President, she titled her column in this publication "SOMETHING TO WATCH." Indeed she was! I joined NAPSA as a new Pupil Services Director to establish a network of contacts with whom I could exchange ideas and seek help when facing a problem. I met this open, friendly, energetic lady who was quick to help and demonstrated a dynamic leadership style that did not hesitate to "think outside of the box." She was always professional and mindful of the people involved and the possible outcomes of her suggestions. Her guidance and leadership were instrumental in developing NAPSA's current initiatives and focus. Anita was also instrumental in encouraging me to assume leadership roles in NAPSA. NAPSA President, Vernice Thomas recalls "Anita was a Golden Soror of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She always had that "Jersey" dialect and would be straight forward about her commitment to her sorority, NAPSA and her family. She always represented AKA in her stylish dress, wearing the Pink and Green. She was a friend that supported NAPSA as an active trustee and President." NAPSA Past President, Dr. Douglas Arnold, in his first message as President wrote "Over the past two years, NAPSA has enjoyed the sage, energetic and dedicated leadership of Anita O'Neal. Anita did a terrific job of moving our organization in the right direction, while displaying wisdom and vision." He notes "Anita provided strong leadership at a time when NAPSA greatly needed it. She led with class, dignity, purpose, and dedication. She was highly respected. She led by example. She cared deeply about our organization and was a wonderful colleague and friend. Most importantly, she was genuinely loved by those who served with her. She leaves a compelling legacy." Dr. Larissa

Henderson, NAPSA Trustee and sorority sister added "Anita had a special flair. She knew how to conduct herself in a very professional manner while representing NAPSA, her loyalty to her sorority sisters of pink and green and her school district. She was a pleasure to be around and I looked forward to conferences and meetings to see what "news" she would bring as she brainstormed ideas regarding NAPSA. With her lead as president, NAPSA was able to finally gain financial stability. She will be missed by me during NAPSA conferences/meetings and especially during national sorority functions where we often met for dinner. Our last dinner "date" was at the national AKA conference in Charlotte. I will think of her and miss her in Atlanta this summer." Executive Director Wayne Fausnaught states "I would describe her as a classy lady dedicated to her work and family. Anita was full of life and was loved by everyone who knew her. Joining NAPSA in 2003, Anita served on the executive board from 2006 through 2015. In 2010, she became the first person to serve a two-year term as president. She was intelligent and extremely well organized. Anita was a person of integrity and possessed great wisdom." The entire Board mourns the loss of a leader, friend and colleague. Anita will be missed but her spirit and influence will live on in NAPSA. We are inspired by and remain dedicated to the charge below, from her first message as President.



*"Our role is to continue to follow the ongoing debate and ensure that all students are afforded the appropriate rich, rigorous, fair and challenging academic instruction and support services that enhance their development and allow them to soar."*

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