

A POSSESS Central Region Public Relations/Membership Committee Publication

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You can also visit the POSSESS website for more information on our organization:
www.vapossess.org

POSSESS CENTRAL REGION



*Partnership of Office Services
Support Employees in Social
Services :*

*To have positive attitudes
To obtain rightful recognition
To influence Virginia's tomorrow*

Purpose

The purpose of the Partnership of Office Services Support Employees in Social Services (POSSESS) is to provide office services support personnel with a statewide organization for professional identity, professional development (education and training), networking, and advocacy. By promoting these primary objectives, POSSESS will advance office services support as a profession, improve the understanding of office support responsibilities and, ultimately enhance the quality of services to the customers of the Social Services Systems.

Brief History

POSSESS was established in 1992. The original goals were to establish credibility, to promote awareness of jobs, training, career growth, innovation and information sharing, and to rewrite job descriptions. POSSESS was accepted as an affiliate of the Virginia League of Social Services Executives (VLSSE) in October of 1993. POSSESS members attended their first statewide conference in conjunction with the Virginia Alliance of Social Work Practitioners (VASWP) and the Benefit Program Organization (BPRO) in November of 1993.

Who are POSSESS Members?

POSSESS members function in office support roles in all areas of local and state departments of social services. POSSESS members work in finance, administrative support, benefit services, family services, and information technology. Position grade level is no longer a consideration for members from state offices.

Central Region Localities

POSSESS regional assignments are slightly different from VDSS assignments. The following localities are in the central region according to POSSESS regional assignments: Amelia, Brunswick, Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield/Colonial Heights, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Gloucester, Goochland, Greenville/Emporia, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, King & Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Nottoway, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George, Richmond City, Richmond County, Surry, Sussex, and Westmoreland.

2010-2012 Central Region Officer Team

President	Vice President
Crystal Thomas (Henrico)	Adriane Spicer (Petersburg)
Secretary	Treasurer
Niani Vines (Hanover)	Jean Coleman-Gaines (Hanover)

2010-2012 State Officer Team

President	First Vice President
Bonnie Peery (Clarke)	Sheila Jordan (Hampton)
Second Vice President	Secretary
Becky Hubbard (Wise)	Cindy Cotton (Southampton)
Treasurer	Parliamentarian
Robin Morris (Virginia Beach)	Phyllis Browning (Madison)

Activities

POSSESS members have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities on the regional and state level:

- Regional meetings four times a year: Some topics of discussion have included customer service, conflict management & behavioral communication, workplace leadership, and identity theft.
- Regional and state fundraising campaigns: Fundraising campaigns have included Krispy Kreme doughnuts, 50/50 raffles, prize raffles, and silent auctions.
- Regional informational and training events: Event topics have included carpal tunnel syndrome, POSSESS history, and Microsoft Office applications.
- Conferences two times a year: Conferences feature workshops, business meetings, and networking with other DSS workers.
- Community service: Activities have included collecting and donating school supplies, canned goods, and blankets.

Regional Committees

Committee work provides POSSESS members with opportunities to be leaders, bring about positive change, and work towards achieving the goals of the organization. The following committees are currently established in the central region.

Community Focus Committee

The committee shall oversee outreach projects that could include the Community Scholarship Program, the Adopt-A-School Project, and any other community outreach services determined by the committee based on the wishes of the membership. Chairperson: Jackie Hatton, Henrico DSS, (804) 652-3317, hat06@co.henrico.va.us.

Nominating Committee

The committee shall solicit nominations for all regional offices. The committee is responsible for preparing ballots and tabulating votes. The committee shall present the election results to the membership. Chairperson: Adriane Spicer, Petersburg DSS, (804) 861-4720 x 3158, adriane.spicer@dss.virginia.gov.

Scholarship Committee

The committee shall receive and review all partial and full scholarship applications for spring and fall conferences. The committee will choose which applicants will be awarded scholarships. Chairperson: Claire Goad, Dinwiddie DSS, (804) 469-4524 x 106, claire.goad@dss.virginia.gov.

Public Relations/Membership Committee

The committee shall prepare a public relations effort to be made available to all organization members and other interested parties. The committee is responsible for planning and conducting membership drives and preparing membership materials. The committee is also responsible for reviewing membership needs and determining appropriate means to address those needs. Chairperson: Crystal Thomas, Henrico DSS, (804) 501-5269, tho43@co.henrico.va.us.

Fundraising Committee

The committee shall prepare fundraising efforts for spring and fall conferences. The committee will also have the option of preparing fundraising efforts throughout the year. Chairperson: Darice Alexander, Henrico DSS, (804) 501-5597, ale04@co.henrico.va.us.

Regional Recognition Awards Committee

The committee shall acknowledge an outstanding member of the central region at least annually. Chairperson: Jean Coleman-Gaines, Hanover DSS, (804) 365-4112, jean.cgaines@dss.virginia.gov.

Sunshine Committee

The committee shall recognize members' birthdays and send sympathy cards when requested throughout the year. Chairperson: Renita Jenkins, Petersburg DSS, (804) 861-4720 x 3064, renita.jenkins@dss.virginia.gov.