



Orange County, CCPTS, National PTA  
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*President's Message*

## Do You Have a Grip on PTA?

*by Jackie Wood*

Golfers are always aware of their grip on the golf club, for it can affect the shot they are taking. There are different grips (the part of the club that you hold) that golfers can choose to have put on their clubs and there are different grips for various shots.

PTA leaders also need to decide on the grip they want to have on their PTA.

You are turning the corner into a new year. By now, you should have a good grip on PTA as an organization: its structure, policies, procedures, bylaws and resources. If there is something you don't understand or are having trouble with, now is the time to ask for help. One of the wonderful things about PTA is the structure that links all levels together. Units should request help from their councils and councils should turn to their district.

Golfers are taught that holding on with a tight grip will cause a shot to veer off to the right or left. Tense golfers are not good golfers. The same goes for PTA leaders. Those with tight grips can cause others to be too tense, affecting the outcome of meetings, programs and projects. PTA leaders with really tight grips may scare off potential volunteers. Do you really want to do every PTA job yourself? Ease up on your volunteers and let them do their jobs. People will come back if they are given a chance to perform and know they have made a difference.

Another potential problem is PTA board members who won't let go of their past positions and hold on too long. Their tight grip is doing their PTA a disservice.

Sometimes, a tight grip is required to get out of a rough situation, but you need to know just how much pressure to apply to get out of the jam you're in.

On the other hand, a golfer with a grip that is too loose is in danger of accidentally losing control of the club. It can slip right out of a person's hands.

That can happen with PTA, too. If your grip is too loose and the rules and resources mean nothing to you, your fellow board members and entire association may follow that mindset and hold you and your PTA in low esteem.

You may have chosen to loosen up the financial checks and balances that PTA should be following. Beware of financial mismanagement. Our PTA rules are meant to protect our organizations and volunteers. Do not take them lightly. The members, students, staff and administration are all watching your board and the examples you set.

After a little practice, golfers know what grip feels right for them. It's usually the one between too tight and too loose.

Sit back and assess the grip you have on your PTA. A slight adjustment can make a big difference to you and your entire organization.

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# The Book Corner



By Tuly Huntington, Fourth District PTA Reading Chair

The 'Silk Road' is a term used to describe a group of trade routes that once stretched from eastern Asia to the Mediterranean Sea. Over the centuries, the Silk Road also made possible the exchange of religious beliefs, cultural ideas, stories, and inventions that connected people from these many different lands.

Here are some books that deal with the Silk Road and people who traveled or lived in its regions:

- 📖 *Stories from the Silk Road*, by Cherry Gilchrist, illustrated by Nilesh Mistry, (Grades 3-7). Seven stories are set in towns along the Silk Road route, from eastern Xi'an in China to western Samarkand. Lively stories accompanied by brightly colored artwork make this an enjoyable book to read.
- 📖 *Alexander the Great*, by Peter Chrisp, illustrated by Peter Dennis, (Grades 3-5). This is a wonderful biography of Alexander the Great. Each double-page spread includes diagrams and photographs of artifacts to illustrate the events and battles that changed history.
- 📖 *Buddha*, by Demi (Grades 4-6). Demi, a Buddhist herself, uses traditional Chinese brushes, paints, inks, silk, and paper to tell the story of Siddhartha's birth and life.

## OCDE Expands School Safety Website Feature

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) has expanded and updated the "School Safety Tips for Administrators and Parents" feature on its website, [www.ocde.us](http://www.ocde.us).

"The safety and well-being of students is paramount to their ability to learn and thrive in school." said William M. Habermehl, County Superintendent of Schools. "District administrators and school staff across Orange County work hard to promote safe school environments and implement effective emergency preparedness plans. This expanded portion of our website will aid parents, schools, districts and community agencies in working together to address school safety issues."

The School Safety website will provide resources in addition to the "Emergency Preparedness for Schools" materials already on the OCDE website. For further information, log on to [www.ocde.us](http://www.ocde.us).

# NCLB Requires Schools to Give Student Information to Military

By Patty Christiansen , Fourth District PTA Executive Vice President

“Why is a military recruiter calling our home? How did they get the information that our son is graduating next year?”

Tucked into the pages of the No Child Left Behind Act is Section 9528, which states that schools are required to release high school junior and senior students’ private information to military recruiters. A second law, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2002, reaffirms this requirement. School districts are required, by law, to hand over the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of students to the military.

What does the military do with this information? The Department of Defense (DOD) has created a massive database for recruiting and other “routine” purposes. The Pentagon has been building this database of information on more than 25 million children over the past three years. The database is updated daily and distributed monthly to the Armed Services for recruitment purposes.

Parents and students can “opt-out.” The term “opt-out” refers to a parent’s or student’s ability to request their records and contact information not be disclosed. Your school district is required to provide notice to you of the types of student information that it releases, and must include information on how to “opt-out” of the release of your personal information. Opting-out of being included in the military database does not mean that your child’s information will be deleted. It is moved to a “suppression file,” where the Pentagon will retain but not release the information.

PTA will continue to support legislation and policies that protect the rights to privacy. PTA supports a change in the current law by providing for an “opt in” policy where interested students and parents can choose to request contact, rather than the current “opt-out” policy.

For more information, go to <http://www.pta.org/documents/military.pdf> . National PTA has provided sample letters which you can use to “opt-out,” along with additional information and resources.

—Source: National PTA website, [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

## CAPTA Honorary Service Awards Recognize Outstanding Volunteers

By Christie Parker, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Workshops

It is time to start thinking about honoring your volunteers who have gone above and beyond in their service to children. Please consider awarding PTA Honorary Service Awards at your unit or council.

The various awards, order forms, and procedures for HSA chairmen and committees may be found in the *California State PTA Toolkit* and on the California PTA website, [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).

Last year 764 HSA awards were bestowed in Orange County!

The money contributed through the HSA program is used to fund the scholarships and grants that California State PTA awards each year.

### Fourth District PTA Calendar

#### December

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | <i>Reflections entries from councils due to 4th Dist. Office</i>                                       |
| 7  | Council Presidents Roundtable<br>9 a.m.; General Meeting<br>10 a.m.; Luncheon 12 noon<br>Bowers Museum |
| 22 | 4th Dist. Office closes for Winter Break   |
| 28 | <i>Orange Leaves</i> articles for February issue due   |

#### January

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 8  | 4th Dist. Office re-opens  |
| 16 | Council Presidents Roundtable<br>9 a.m., 4th Dist. Office<br>Due: <i>Insurance Premium, Worker’s Comp Form.</i><br>Due to CAPTA: <i>My PTA/PTSA Award Applications</i> |
| 18 | Executive Committee meeting<br>9:30 a.m., 4th Dist. Office   |
| 22 | <i>Orange Leaves</i> articles for March issue due  |



## Council Corner



### Laguna Beach Council

Laguna Beach Council is made up of five units. We have three elementary units (Top of the World, El Morro and The Community Learning Center), Thurston Middle School, and Laguna Beach High School. All total, we have over 1,700 members. Our council meets the first Thursday of every month at Laguna Beach district offices. We are very fortunate to have our superintendent, both assistant superintendents and a principal at our meeting every month. We are able to collaborate and work together closely.

The council hosts a monthly Parent Education program, which we call Coffee Breaks. Normally they are on the third Wednesday of the month at the Surf and Sand Hotel at 8:30 a.m. We have had many different topics presented by renowned authors, our police department, and the district leadership team. Recently, Dr. Jerry Weichman and Capt. Danelle Adams from the Laguna Beach Police Department give a talk on My Space and the Social Teen Networking that included a live demonstration of teen chat rooms.

Our district is following that with educational seminars on how to keep our kids safe on the Internet. Topics have included how to teach money management and time management to children. Every year we have a frank discussion with our police department on the party scene in town and how to keep our kids safe. Our Coffee Break series has been one of our most successful programs.

This year, our council and unit PTAs teamed up with the local chapter of the League of Women Voters to put on our first ever School Board Candidates Forum. Five candidates (all parents in the district) were com-

peting for three seats. About 150 people came to ask questions. We were very pleased with our first effort and will consider it again in the future.

This year, our district will search for a new superintendent, as our current superintendent will retire. We will have the privilege of participating in the process of hiring a new superintendent and giving feedback on community fit.

This is my last year as council president. I have enjoyed working with all the great volunteers in our schools as well as working with the community. It has been a great growth opportunity for me personally and I have enjoyed working with Jackie and all the great people at Fourth District PTA. Thank you to all of those great volunteers (you know who you are) who have worked so hard and continue to do so.

Thasa Zuziak  
President

### Buena Park Council

The Buena Park Council PTA covers three cities: Buena Park, La Palma, and Anaheim, and two school districts: Centralia and Buena Park. Our PTAs cover kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Buena Park Council PTA was chartered in 1958 and has been serving the surrounding community ever since. We currently are comprised of eight units, all within the Centralia School District: Buena Terra PTA, Centralia PTA, Danbrook PTA, Dysinger PTA, Miller PTA, Raymond Temple PTA, San Marino PTA and Walter Knott PTA. All of our units are very active, participating in Reflections and Red

Ribbon Week, hosting carnivals, and boosting parent involvement. This year's goal for the Buena Park Council PTA is that all officers will be provided the proper training. Training provides empowerment!

The council is currently making quilts from fabric used for our Honorary Service Award dinner decorations. These quilts will be donated to the Buena Park Police Department for use when a child has encountered a tragedy. Last year's council motto was "Stitching Together the Fabric of Our Community."

Our district enrollment is approximately 5,000 students and we have over 2,000 PTA members. I thank all PTA members for your hard work and dedication. Our children and schools are very successful because of you!

Sue Peterson  
President

### Important Dates for the PTA State Convention

#### January 23

Fourth District PTA Office  
Convention Chair Orientation

#### February 1

Registration begins  
Housing reservations open

#### Week of March 19

Fourth District PTA's  
Open House Registration

#### March 31

Registration fees increase by \$45

#### April 17

Convention Delegate Orientation

For details, see page 5.

# Registration Information for the California State PTA Convention

## Sacramento, May 3-6, 2007

By Meg Cutuli, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Convention

Registration packets for the California State PTA Convention will be mailed to all unit presidents the first week of January. The packets will have all the information delegates need to register and to have an outstanding convention experience.

Registration will be handled online, by fax, or by regular mail. Delegates registering online will receive confirmation letters by email and will be able to make changes themselves using a personal password.

Registration starts February 1, 2007, and the State PTA fee is \$125 until March 31, 2007. After that, the State PTA fee increases to \$170. One of the great improvements of the new registration system is that units, councils and districts can wait until after their elections to register their delegates. These delegates will know what their upcoming jobs will be and will be able to sign up for the appropriate workshops.

Housing reservations open February 1, 2007, and all arrangements are made through the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau. Housing requests must be faxed on forms that will be in the packet you receive in January. The Sheraton Grand is the official PTA hotel, but there will be other options as well.

Fourth District PTA will help you every step of the way to convention. We will have a "District Page" on the

State PTA registration web site where you can sign up for our dinner (which will be at least as much fun as last year's!) and a Fourth District PTA t-shirt.

Council Convention Chair Orientation will be held on January 23, 2007, at 10 am in the Fourth District PTA office. We strongly recommend that each council send a representative.

The week of March 19, 2007, Fourth District will hold an "Open House Registration Week" for delegates who would like assistance with registration. We will have computers available for online registration. More information on this will be provided in the future.

Delegate Orientation is scheduled for April 17, 2007. The place and time will be determined at a later time.

This is shaping up to be one of the best state conventions. Sacramento is always an exciting place to attend our PTA Convention. It gives us a great opportunity to be advocates for the children in California. Plan on attending to strengthen your leadership skills and your PTA!




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## Electing the Nominating Committee

By Shelia Henness, Fourth District PTA Parliamentarian

All unit parliamentarians should check their bylaws to determine when their units need to elect their nominating committees. The *Bylaws for Local PTA/PTSAs* state that the nominating committee is elected by the membership at an association meeting at least two months prior to the annual election. In most cases, this election meeting is scheduled for March or April – meaning that the nominating committee needs to be elected at an association meeting by January or February.

The bylaws also specify how many members and alternates are elected and who is eligible to serve on the committee. No member is eligible to serve on the nominating committee for two consecutive years. The president shall not serve ex officio or be elected to the nomi-

nating committee. The committee elects its own chairman.

The members of the committee have tremendous influence on the future of your PTA and should be carefully selected. Nominating committee members should have a broad acquaintance with the membership and an understanding of the organization's purposes and functions. The committee should include both experienced leadership as well as newer members. The *California State PTA Toolkit* lists the qualities of nominating committee members and the responsibilities of the committee under Section 2.2.

Remember to elect your committee at an association meeting. Once elected, this committee continues to serve until the election meeting.



## Internet Safety Tips for Children and Teens

By Lindell Belote, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Community Concerns

Even though in most cases kids seem to know more about the workings of a computer and the Internet than do their parents, here are 10 worthy tips to pass along to your children:

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### Fourth District is Working on 2007 Convention Resolution

Fourth District PTA hopes to present a convention resolution at this year's California State PTA Convention, to be held on May 3-6 in Sacramento. The resolution deals with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which requires school districts to provide a "free, appropriate public education" to children with special needs.

The IDEA funding formula stipulates that states are to receive 40% of the national average per pupil expenditure. Annual federal appropriations have never been sufficient to provide states with the maximum allotment allowed; in fact, the highest federal funding provided has been only 18% of the average per pupil expenditure. As a result, school districts have been forced to use large portions of their general funds to fulfill IDEA requirements.

The goal of the proposed resolution, entitled "IDEA Encroachment: Effects of Under-Funding," is to encourage California State PTA, and its units, councils and districts, to advocate for the level of federal funding specified in IDEA for special education programs. This would release general fund money currently used by school districts to support special education and allow that money to be used for education purposes that benefit all students.

This is a work in progress; we will provide updates on our progress as we move into the new year. We appreciate your support in this endeavor.

The members of the Resolutions Committee are: Julie Redmond, chairman, Patty Christiansen, Celia Jaffe, Patty Jordan, Gisela Meier, Barbara Paxton, Shereen Walter, Juli Warnick, and Jackie Wood.

1. Never give any personal information to anyone you meet online.
2. Never meet with anyone you don't already know.
3. Don't fill out any "fun" questionnaires that are forwarded to you, even if they're from your friends.
4. Make sure you know everyone on your buddy list.
5. Don't answer emails or instant messages (IMs) from people you don't know.
6. There's no such thing as "privacy" on the Internet.
7. Don't post pictures of yourself (but if you must, don't post sexy ones or ones showing behavior you wouldn't want your mom, teacher, boss, or potential college advisor to see).
8. Don't send pictures of other people.
9. Don't download content without your parents' permission.
10. Never share your password with anyone but your parents.

Remember, it's all about keeping safe!

—Adapted from [www.common sense.com](http://www.common sense.com)

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## Mid-Year Audits Must be Done Now

By Barbara Ledterman, Fourth District PTA Auditor

The mid-year audit should be done during the month stated in your bylaws--usually during the month of January, with December 31 being the end of the "accounting period."

The auditor will need to get the minute book from the secretary and all authorizations for payment with receipts attached, the check register, the bank statements, the treasurer's/financial secretary's reports, the budget, and the original ledgers.

Information on how to perform an audit can be found in the *California State PTA Toolkit*, Section 5.4, or online at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org) by clicking on "Finance. Basic Policies. PTA Audit."

If you have specific questions, your first contact would be your council auditor.

# Good-Bye, Cupcake! Hello, Good Nutrition!

By Michelle Graham, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Health

There has been a lot of press recently about nutrition at schools – not just what students eat at recess, nutrition breaks and lunch, but what they might consume at other times, such as class parties. One of the hardest things for parents and students to accept under the new state guidelines will be the absence of the cupcake at birthday parties. For many people, cupcakes and birthdays go hand in hand!

However, with the new concerns about childhood obesity and all the problems that go with that, times are changing and new regulations are being put in place. Take a look at your school district's Wellness Policy to learn about the new guidelines regarding party foods. Some districts have outlawed sweets completely, and others have limited the use of foods with high sugar or high caloric value.

We need to educate parents about these new policies and the reasons behind them. This will not happen overnight and there may be protests from some parents. The regulations come in response to serious problems. Nearly 19% of children ages 6 to 11 and more than 17% of adolescents ages 12 to 19 were overweight in 2003-04, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Pre-



vention. These figures just keep rising.

Let's put on our PTA thinking caps and come up with some ideas to help our school districts implement their new policies. Start with your district's nutrition department, which has a wealth of information and ideas, and can guide you to websites with alternative party items.

Some nutritionists endorse promoting healthful eating in schools, but question the logic of making any popular food taboo. Dr. Nancy Krebs, co-chairwoman of the American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on Obesity says, "You want to have a kind of pragmatic approach that sweets and desserts are OK in moderation and not put them up on a pedestal."

As PTA members, we can help in this process by getting involved in the decision-making and brainstorming sensible solutions. Let's take the cupcake off its pedestal and put it where it belongs.

—Some information taken from "Sorry, Cupcake, You're No Longer Welcome in Class," *Los Angeles Times*, September 27, 2006.

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## Facts from Finance

### Tips For Your Treasurer

By Julie Redmond, Fourth District PTA Treasurer

Since we are about halfway through our school year, here are some gentle reminders about what treasurers and financial secretaries should be doing on a monthly basis:

- Prepare monthly treasurer's report for both executive board and association meetings.
- Deposit all monies on a daily basis.
- Make sure to have all monies counted by two people and have deposit slips signed by two people.
- Prepare payment authorizations for all expenditures with the signature of both the president and secretary.
- Prepare monthly bank reconciliations for all bank accounts.
- Make sure that all financial transactions are recorded in the minutes of both the executive and association meetings.

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## Nutrition Issues Are An Ongoing Problem

Excerpt from an article by Margaret H. Strong, president of the California Congress, in the October 1941 issue of *California Parent-Teacher Magazine*:

As we read the records in old Yearbooks, we find that over 20 years ago our chairmen were pointing out the importance of adequate nutrition in much the same words that are being emphasized by so many agencies today. Because we have a background of experience, we should be able to plan a valuable program.

There is another factor operative in some cases of poor nutrition, a factor which is based upon conflict of desires. We have known girls who deliberately go without food in order to remain thin. They prefer figure to health. Then there are the men or women who could buy food but instead buy drink. If their choice means deprivation for the children, it is a tragedy.

Can we do something about such cases? In the last, we can only give aid to the children, see that a hot lunch, medical care, clothing are available. In the former, there is again need for education.

*Orange County Superintendent of Schools' Message*

## More Leaves From OCDE

*By William M. Habermehl*



As 2006 rolls to an end, we can take pride in the accomplishments of so many dedicated individuals in our schools who work hard to support the learning and well-being of over 500,000 students each day. The good work that is done by so many in and out of the classroom is supported by the involvement of parents and families in countless ways. The involvement of parents, grandparents and significant others connects families and schools to help our children succeed.

Research has shown that, regardless of the economic, racial or cultural background of the family, when parents are partners in their children's education, the results are improved student achievement and school attendance, and a decrease in behavioral problems (2003 Child Trends). Furthermore, family involvement has positive effects on student attitudes and social behavior. The more actively parents are involved in advocacy, governance, as fundraisers and boosters, as volunteers and paraprofessionals, and supporting their student's learning at home, the more beneficial the effects.

Family and school partnerships are exemplified by the dedicated work of the Fourth District PTA in our schools and communities. PTA members are effective champions for all children and youth. You tackle tough issues that face families and schools in an ever changing world. Your work on a school, county, state and national level impacts the lives of all children through your advo-

cacy, leadership and educational programs. Your collaborative efforts with other organizations promote a quality education for each and every child.

The work of the Fourth District PTA on a school campus does much to improve the school climate. Through activities and programs, PTA members encourage students and other family members' connection to school through activities and programs. The rapport fostered by PTA members with school staff goes a long way to impact students, families and the school community in meaningful ways to promote student achievement and well-being.

We have a lot to be thankful for here in Orange County! Orange County is the best place to live, work and be educated. It takes a partnership of parents/families, schools, communities and businesses to make our schools as great as they are. In this day, when we all have competing priorities, each of you takes the time to be of service to your school and the Fourth District PTA. You make a difference in so many ways that affect our schools and communities. Your work contributes to the success and well-being of our students and lightens the load for our teachers, school staff and administrators. Your efforts move us closer toward Orange County's goal of a world class education where every student succeeds. Thank you for all you do!

### Ideas from National PTA...



PTA members of Union City (Oklahoma) PTA held a fundraiser with its own style—a basket raffle for themed baskets. Among the basket themes were car wash, movie, and kitchen. Members made lists of the appropriate items for each basket and asked teachers to send the lists home with students. Parents were asked to donate one item from the list by a specific date. PTA members collected the items from school and put the baskets together. At the local fair, they set up a booth and sold raffle tickets for \$1 each.

### Oklahoma PTA Holds Theme Basket Raffle

The PTA members were excited because participation was high and new members enrolled when they experienced a PTA activity and saw results. The leaders remarked that, "Not only did we receive many donated items, but parents, teachers, and PTA members all enjoyed this project and were pleased when they saw the baskets on display. Next year, the plan is to include the junior high and high schools."

—From *PTA Local Leader News*, National PTA

**Mensaje de la Presidenta:**

## ¿Tiene control de su PTA?

Por Jackie Wood

Los golfistas siempre tienen control de su palo de golf, ya que puede afectar su tiro. Hay diferentes tipos de control (depende de donde se agarra el palo) que los golfistas pueden escoger para sus palos de acuerdo al tiro.

De la misma manera los líderes de PTA deben escoger el tipo de control que desean tener.

Estamos por empezar un nuevo año. Ahora usted debe saber que tipo de control tiene en su organización: su estructura, políticas, procedimientos, reglas y recursos. Si hay algo que usted no entiende o tiene problemas, ahora es el momento de preguntar. Una de las cosas maravillosas de PTA es la estructura de apoyo a todos los niveles. Las unidades deben pedir apoyo a los consejos y estos a su vez deberán de pedir ayuda al 4º Distrito.

A los golfistas les enseñan que demasiado control sobre su palo puede ocasionar que el tiro se vaya a la derecha o a la izquierda. Los golfistas que son tensos no son buenos. Este tipo de juego va con los líderes de PTA. Aquellos que

estén tensos ocasionan que los otros por consecuencia también lo estén, de tal manera que afectan el resultado de las juntas, programas y proyectos. Los líderes "controladores" pueden asustar a potenciales voluntarios. Piense ¿realmente quiere hacerlo todo usted? Haga que sus voluntarios se sientan cómodos para hacer sus trabajos. A la gente le gusta que se le de la oportunidad de hacer un trabajo pues sienten que han marcado la diferencia.

Otro problema potencial son los miembros del consejo de PTA que no quieren dejar de ocupar sus posiciones. Su control esta ocasionando un daño a su PTA.

Algunas veces un control riguroso será necesario para salir de alguna situación adversa, pero usted necesitara saber cuanta presión aplicar para salir de dicho problema.

También hay golfistas que agarran el palo muy ligeramente y lo pierden accidentalmente.

Este puede ser el caso con su PTA. Si su control es muy débil y las reglas y

recursos no son importantes para usted, sus miembros del consejo y la asociación entera seguirán sus pasos y no respetaran a su PTA.

A lo mejor usted escoge un control ligero en el lado financiero. Tenga mucho cuidado de malos manejos financieros. Nuestras reglas de PTA están hechas para proteger nuestras organizaciones y voluntarios. No los tome a la ligera. Los miembros, estudiantes, empleados, administradores y todos están observando su consejo directivo y el ejemplo que otorgan.

Después de un poco de práctica, los golfistas saben que tipo de control es el que les funciona. Usualmente es un balance entre mucho y poco control. Siéntese y evalúe que tipo de control necesita su PTA. Un pequeño ajuste puede hacer una diferencia enorme en su organización.

## Ahora es el momento para la auditoria del 1er semestre

Por Barbara Ledterman, Auditora del 4o distrito de PTA

La auditoria de mitad de año deberá ser presentada según sus reglas- usualmente durante el mes de enero teniendo como fecha límite del periodo contable el 31 de diciembre.

El auditor deberá obtener el registro de las minutas del secretario y las formas de autorización de pago con recibos incluidos, el registro de la chequera, los estados de cuenta del banco, los reportes financieros del tesorero y/o secretario financiero, el presupuesto y los libros originales.

La información de como hacer una auditoria puede ser encontrada en la *Guía de la PTA de California*, en la sección 5.4, o en el sitio de Internet *capta.org* presionando le sección "Financiera. Políticas básicas. Auditoria de PTA".

## Como elegir a su comité nominador

Por Shelia Henness, Parlamentaria del 4o Distrito de PTA

Todos los parlamentarios de la unidad deben de revisar sus reglas para elegir a sus comités nominadores. Las *reglas locales de la PTA o PTSA* declaran que el comité nominador es elegido durante la junta de la asociación al menos dos meses previos a la elección anual. En la mayoría de los casos, las elecciones se programan para marzo o abril, lo cual significa que el comité nominador necesitara ser elegido en dicha junta de asociación en enero o febrero.

Las reglas también especifican cuantos miembros y alternantes son elegidos y quien puede servir en el comité. Ningún miembro podrá servir en dicho comité por dos años consecutivos. El presidente no podrá ser elegido para servir en el comité nominador. Este comité

es responsable de elegir a su director.

Los miembros de este comité tienen una influencia muy grande en el futuro de su PTA por lo que deben ser debidamente seleccionados. Los miembros del comité nominador deben tener una clara visión y entendimiento de los objetivos de la organización además de sus propósitos y funciones. El comité deberá de incluir a líderes con poca y mucha experiencia. La *Guía estatal de PTA* contiene las cualidades que deberán tener los miembros del comité nominador y sus responsabilidades en la sección 2.2.

Recuerde que tiene que elegir a su comité nominador en una junta de la asociación. Una vez seleccionado dicho comité continúa sirviendo hasta que la elección general se lleva a cabo.

## Información para el registro a la convención estatal de la PTA en California

### En Sacramento del 3 al 6 Mayo del 2007

Por *Meg Cutuli, Vicepresidenta de Convención del 4o Distrito de PTA*

Los paquetes de registro para la convención estatal de la PTA de California serán mandados a todos los presidentes de unidad la primera semana de enero del 2007. Dicho paquete contiene toda la información que los delegados necesitan para registrarse y obtener una experiencia fabulosa en la convención.

Este registro se podrá hacer por Internet, fax y correo regular. Los delegados que se registren por Internet recibirán sus cartas de confirmación vía correo electrónico y podrán hacer cualquier cambio usando su contraseña personal asignada.

El registro empieza el 1 de febrero de 2007, y la cuota es de \$125.00 hasta el 31 de marzo de 2007. Después de esa

fecha la cuota se incrementa a \$170.00. Una de las grandes mejoras de este sistema es que las unidades, consejos y distritos pueden esperar hasta después de sus elecciones para registrar a los delegados. Estos delegados podrán saber cuales serán sus responsabilidades y podrán inscribirse a los talleres y clases apropiados.

Las reservaciones de hotel empezarán el 1 de febrero de 2007, y todos los arreglos se harán a través del "Sacramento Convención and Visitors Bureau". Las órdenes de hospedaje deberán ser faxeadas incluyendo la forma que reciba en enero. El hotel Sheraton Grand será el hotel oficial, pero habrá más opciones en caso necesario.

El 4o distrito de PTA le ayudara en todos los pasos a seguir. Tendremos una "página del distrito" en el sitio de regis-

tro para la convención en el cual podrá pagar por la cena (¡la cual será tan divertida como la del año anterior!) además podrá escoger la talla de su camiseta.

La orientación de los representantes de la convención a nivel consejo será el 23 de enero de 2007, a las 10 AM en la oficina del 4º distrito. Le recomendamos que cada consejo mande un representante.

La semana del 19 de marzo, el 4o Distrito tendrá una reunión titulada "la semana de registro" para delegados que necesiten ayuda con su registro. Habrá computadoras disponibles para el proceso. Más información será provista en el futuro.

La orientación para los delegados esta programada para el 17 de abril de 2007. El lugar y la hora serán determinados mas adelante.

Esta será una de las mejores convenciones. Sacramento es una ciudad excitante para asistir a la convención de PTA. Nos da una gran oportunidad para defender a los niños de California. ¡Por favor planea asistir para reforzar su liderazgo y a su PTA!

## NCLB Requiere a las Escuelas que den información sobre los estudiantes al ejército

Por *Patty Christiansen, Vicepresidenta ejecutiva del 4o Distrito*

Dentro de las paginas del acto "Sin dejar niños atrás" en la sección 9528, se incluye que las escuelas tienen la obligación de comunicar la información privada a los "reclutadores militares". Una segunda ley sobre "el acto que autoriza a la defensa nacional para FY 2002", confirma dicho requerimiento. Los distritos escolares por ley deben proporcionar nombres, direcciones y números telefónicos de los estudiantes a los militares.

¿Que hacen las fuerzas armadas con dicha información? El departamento de defensa (DOD) ha creado una base de datos con propósitos de rutina o reclutamiento. El pentágono ha estado construyendo dicha base de datos de más de 25 millones de niños en los 3 años pasados. Esta base de datos se actualiza diariamente y se distribuye mensualmente a las fuerzas armadas con el propósito de reclutar.

Los padres o estudiantes pueden optar no ser incluidos. Este término se

refiere a la habilidad del padre o estudiante para que dicha información no sea incluida. Su distrito escolar tiene la obligación de darle notificación del tipo de información que se da y deberá de incluir información de cómo optar no ser incluido en dicha divulgación de información personal. Al optar no estar incluido en dicha base de datos, no significa que la información será borrada. La información será puesta en un archivo de suprimido, que el pentágono retendrá pero no divulgará.

La PTA continuara apoyando legislación y políticas que protejan la privacidad. PTA apoya un cambio en la ley actual que otorgue una política de "optar fuera" donde los padres y estudiantes interesados escojan, en vez de la política actual.

Para mayor información visite el sitio de Internet <http://www.pta.org/documents/military.pdf>. Allí encontrara muestras de cartas para usar la política de "no ser incluidos" además de otros recursos.

## Consejos para su Tesorero

Por *Julie Redmond, Tesorera del 4o distrito de PTA*

Como estamos a medio año escolar, he aquí unos recordatorios sobre las responsabilidades mensuales de los tesoreros y secretarios financieros:

- Prepare un reporte mensual del tesorero para el comité ejecutivo y las juntas de asociación.
- Deposite el dinero diariamente.
- Asegúrese de que el dinero sea contado por dos personas y que las formas de depósito sean firmadas a su vez por dos personas.
- Prepare autorización de pagos para todos los gastos con las firmas del presidente y secretario incluidas.
- Prepare mensualmente las reconciliaciones de todas las cuentas bancarias.
- Asegúrese que todas las transacciones financieras sean incluidas en las minutas de todas las juntas.



## SACRAMENTO SAFARI MARCH 13-14, 2007

By Barbara Paxton, Fourth District PTA Vice President,  
Legislation

Fourth District PTA's Sacramento Safari offers you:

- A chance to learn about current legislative issues affecting our children.
- A chance to put your knowledge to work as you "walk the halls" in Sacramento advocating for children and families.
- An opportunity to "hang out" with other Orange County PTA advocates.

The registration form for Sacramento Safari may be found in the November, 2006, issue of *Orange Leaves*. The form also is available online at [www.fourthdistrict-pta.org](http://www.fourthdistrict-pta.org) and can be completed and submitted online.

Please note that registration is not considered complete until full payment for the trip is received in the Fourth District PTA office.

**The registration deadline is February 1, 2007.**

Space is limited, so make plans now to attend this exciting and informative event.

Sacramento Safari Orientation will be held March 2, 2007, at a location to be announced.

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## Be the Key to Connecting Your Community!

By Karen Gibo, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Parent Involvement

Communities offer a wide array of resources valuable to schools and the families they serve. When working together, schools and communities accomplish more and both benefit; families access community resources; businesses supply resources and connect the realities of the workplace; seniors contribute wisdom and experience; and students learn beyond their school environment.

Here are some ways communities, parents and teachers can work together to provide a high quality education to all of their children:

- Establish school-business partnerships. Schools and business can work together to prepare students for further education and for life as productive members of their communities.
- Make accommodations with employers to grant parents leave to attend school meetings or conferences, or to volunteer in the school.
- Establish partnerships that engage in activities to better meet the needs of children and their families. For example, the county health department can schedule regular visits to the school health clinic. Social service workers can meet with school counselors. After-school program providers can operate homework clubs utilizing textbooks and other materials provided by the school.
- Establish and operate a mentoring program for "at risk" students through the involvement of volunteers from community, civic and religious organizations, local businesses, high schools, or the Chamber of Commerce.
- Check out public libraries, which are strong educational partners. They can sponsor story hours for preschoolers and their parents, special programs that motivate children to read, or specialized evening topics of interest to parents.
- Ask businesses, PTAs, churches, and civic organizations to provide valuable services for schools. Many are excellent sources of volunteers, and many sponsor evening or after-school tutoring programs for students who need extra help, organize drives to collect school supplies for needy students, and raise funds for scholarships.
- Recommend that schools in your community allow local groups to hold their meetings and special events at the school.
- Recruit retirees to volunteer in the schools and to share their experiences and expertise on relevant topics. Retirees have much to contribute to schools.

Help make the connection and build a strong partnership between your school and community. When you unleash the power of your community, everyone benefits!

—Adapted from *The Communicator*, California State PTA

# Nomination Process for 2007-2009 Fourth District PTA Officers

**T**he selection of Fourth District PTA officers for the 2007-2009 term will begin in December with the election of the Nominating Committee by the Executive Board. As specified in the Fourth District PTA Bylaws, the Nominating Committee will consist of three district officers, two district chairmen and two council presidents, with two alternates.

According to the Fourth District PTA Bylaws, "To be eligible for an elected district office, a person must have served on the district executive board for one year, or on a council board for two years. No first-term council president shall be eligible for an elected or appointed district office." The bylaws also state, "Each officer or executive board member must be a member of a local association within the district."

The election will be held at the Fourth District PTA annual meeting in March.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee or becoming a Fourth District PTA officer, please contact Shelia Henness, Fourth District PTA Parliamentarian, at [parliamentarian@fourthdistrictpta.org](mailto:parliamentarian@fourthdistrictpta.org)

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Fourth District

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