



President's Message

PTA and the Links We Offer

by Jackie Wood

I'm sure many of you have played miniature golf at least once. Miniature golf gives a person a sample of what real golf is like. However, an actual golf course has much more to offer. There are 18 chances to drive the ball as far as you like, a set of various clubs to master for different kinds of shots, a real set of rules, a driving range where you can practice, a cart to get you around the course, and beautiful scenery to enjoy.

I think about PTA and other parent organizations in the same way. PT-Others (as we sometimes call them) are miniature versions of PTA. They are parent groups that focus only on their own individual schools. Without the support of a larger organization, they have no resources for officer training, no guidance in managing their finances, and no one to turn to when problems arise. Members of PT-Other organizations often say they don't want to send any part of their dues to a state or national organization. They would rather keep all of the money at their own school.

As PTA members, we understand that our dues to the California and National PTA bring us huge benefits and advantages. We know we can rely on the links that connect us to the different levels of our organization. These links provide us leadership training, a well-established structure to help us manage our local groups, and rich sources of information on

a wide variety of subjects relating to children, education and parenting. The size of our organization also allows us to obtain liability insurance at a reduced rate. When problems arise, PTA officers and members know they can turn to other levels of the organization for assistance and support.

Unlike PTA, PT-Others have no established links to information about laws and issues that concern children. Advocating for children other than their own is not on their agendas, because they are only concerned about their individual schools.

PTA recognizes the importance of advocating for *all* children. As PTA members, we help decide what issues will be tackled by our organization. At annual statewide and national conventions, we debate and vote on resolutions about serious issues affecting our children. Those concerns are then communicated to the entire membership, to our communities, and to our lawmakers.

There is a rich and colorful history about the development of golf, a game that began in Scotland almost 600 years ago. PTA isn't quite that old, but it also has a rich and proud history. PTA was founded 110 years ago, when two women saw the need for an organization to speak out about the welfare of America's children. Since that time, our organization has worked hard to improve conditions for our

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The Book Corner



By Tuly Huntington, Fourth District PTA Reading Chair

TV Turnoff Week is April 23-29, so turn off the television and spend some quality time with your family! At www.tvturnoff.org you can read about families that gained time to think, read, create and, most importantly, connect with each other when they turned off the television.

Here are some books to read while you turn off your TV:

📖 *Evangeline Mudd and the Golden-Haired Apes of the Ikkinasti Jungle*, by David Elliott, illustrated by Andrea Wesson (Grades 4-6). Evangeline's parents are eccentric primatologists who study golden-haired apes. They raise their daughter in much the same manner as the apes rear their young. As a result, Evangeline possesses many exceptional talents, including expert brachiating and swinging from branch to branch. When her parents become lost in the dangerous Ikkinasti Jungle, Evangeline must find them.

📖 *Taking Wing*, by Nancy Price Graff (Grades 4-8). With his father serving in World War II and his mother residing in a sanitarium, 13-year-old Gus must spend several months at his grandparents' farm in Vermont. When his grandfather accidentally kills a mother duck, Gus volunteers to care for the duck's eggs. This turns out to be a harder task for Gus than he planned.

📖 *The Boys of San Joaquin*, by D. James Smith (Grades 5-8). Set in a small town of Orange Grove City, California, in 1951, this story begins when 12 year old Paolo's dog shows up with a \$20 bill in its mouth. Thinking that the money may have come from a buried treasure, Paolo sets out to find it.

Who Performs the PTA Audit?

By Barbara Ledterman, Fourth District PTA Auditor

The PTA audit serves as an official examination of the unit's financial records. The audit may be conducted by an elected auditor (who is never authorized to sign PTA checks), an appointed audit committee, or a hired professional.

The audit determines the accuracy of the books, detects inconsistencies or errors, provides recommendations for corrective action, verifies that funds were sent through appropriate channels, assures the unit's membership that their resources were managed in a businesslike manner, and protects the financial officers.

The person conducting the audit should be impartial and should not be related in any way to the president, other financial officers, or any other chairman handling funds.

Audits must be performed twice a year and at any time that there is a change in financial officers.

Information on how to perform an audit can be found in the *California State PTA Toolkit* on pages 227-230. If you don't have a copy of the *Toolkit*, you can find the information online at www.capta.org by clicking on "Finance. Basic Policies. PTA Audit."

Get Ready for the California State PTA Convention

By Meg Cutuli, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Convention

The PTA roundup in Sacramento is just around the bend! If you want to attend, you may register online with State PTA until April 26. After that, you will need to register on site.

If you are already registered, you can make changes online until April 26, or you can make the changes at convention.

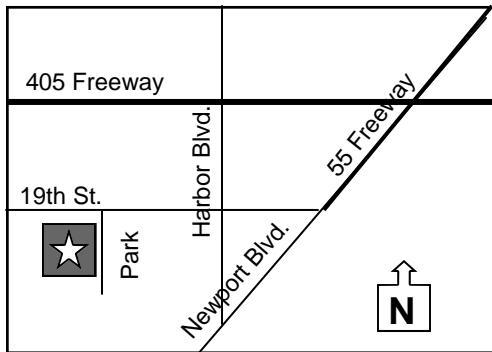
When you go to Sacramento, remember to bring your **confirmation letter** and **PTA membership card**. You will need both to sign in at convention and receive the rest of your convention packet.

Fourth District PTA Delegate Orientation will be held April 24 at the Costa Mesa Community Center, 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa. (See map below.) Council convention chairmen are asked to arrive at 9:30 a.m. and delegates should arrive at 10 a.m. We will have bales of convention information to share and recommend that all delegates attend.

Our Hootin' and Hollerin' Hoedown Dinner will take place on Friday, May 4, starting at 6:45 p.m., after the General Meeting. It promises to be more fun than a barn raising! Each council from the wildest district in the west will share a camp song or some cowboy poetry to tell something special about themselves. The \$40 cost is a legitimate PTA expense. The Fourth District cowgirls are accepting reservations until April 24. Wear

your Fourth District PTA shirt, your cowboy boots and hat, and come for the fun!

The Fourth District PTA Convention Committee is looking forward to saying "Howdy" to you all at our exhibit booth in the hall and in our hospitality suite. We'll be there to help make this your best convention ever!



PTA Links...

Continued from page 1

nation's children. PTA is largely responsible for the establishment of Kindergarten, hot school lunches, seatbelt laws, polio vaccinations, and movie and video game ratings, along with many other accomplishments.

California PTA also has been very active in education and health issues. A recent victory was the inclusion of new funding for arts and physical education in this year's statewide budget, largely thanks to the efforts of PTA members.

We are proud to be a part of the National PTA – the oldest and largest volunteer association working exclusively on behalf of all children and youth. When it comes to researching issues, there is only one other organization held in higher respect than PTA, and that is the League of Women Voters. No other parent organization can make that claim.

There is nothing miniature about PTA. As members, we are linked to others in our community, state, and nation who strive to give all children the best opportunities possible. This is our strength and our richness.

Fourth District PTA Calendar

April

1	Due: <i>Officer lists for 2007-08</i>
5	Due: <i>Reservations for 4th Dist. PTA State Convention Dinner</i>
6	Due: <i>4th Dist. PTA award applications</i>
9-12	4th Dist. Office closed for Spring Break
17	Council Presidents Roundtable 9 a.m., Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m. OC Dept. of Education, Bldg. D
19	EdSource Conference, Pomona
23	<i>Orange Leaves</i> articles for June Issue due
24	Convention Delegate Orientation 9:30 a.m. council chairs, 10 a.m. delegates, CM Community Ctr.

May

1	Due: <i>Council Historian Reports</i>
3-6	California State PTA Convention Sacramento
16	Spring Training Workshops
22	Council Presidents Roundtable 9:30 a.m., 4th Dist. Office
24	Executive Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m., 4th Dist. Office
28	Memorial Day, 4th Dist. Office closed



Council Corner



Anaheim Secondary Council

Anaheim Secondary Council is comprised of 17 units within the Anaheim Union High School District, which serves the students of Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, Garden Grove, Orange and Stanton. Our units are at seven high schools, eight junior high schools, one grade 7-12 academy and a special education center.

We started the school year with a newly chartered unit at Hope Special Education center, and created a new position of special needs liaison for our council.

In October, we held a candidates forum, which was well attended and well received by our community. We are grateful to our feeder districts and neighboring councils—Anaheim Elementary, Buena Park, and Cypress—for getting the word out to their families.

In February, we hosted a principals' breakfast, which is attended by principals of all district schools, PTA or not, to further communication and PTA goals.

A dinner reception is held in May for our Honorary Service Award recipients to recognize and celebrate their efforts on behalf of children and the community.

We are proud to be the home council of Jan Domene, our National PTA President-elect, who graciously installed the 2006-2007 ASCPTA Board.

Robyn Spiller
President

Huntington Union Council

Huntington Union Council, or "HUC," is the proud home of PTA and PTSA units from four school districts encompassing Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley. HUC is

comprised of Huntington Union High School District, Fountain Valley School District, Ocean View School District and Huntington Beach City School District. The only exception is Westminster High School, which falls in the Westminster Council.

Our council voted to give \$150 grants to each of our units for parent education purposes. Most units have opted for parent education library materials or grants towards speakers.

Technology is a primary concern for all of our districts and schools. Our schools also are working with the districts to create an arts curriculum and the best use for the one-time state funding for art and physical education.

Our council has been busily preparing for Founders' Day. We will honor our Reflections winners and display their works, and present four Honorary Service Awards! We had

great participation in the Reflections program. Our units continue to provide excellent programs and an incredible amount of volunteer time to all of our schools.

Check our website out at www.hucpta.org for our latest and greatest.

Cyndee Ely
President

Officer Lists Are Due Now

Be sure to complete and submit the officer list form found on page 11 of this newsletter.

Officer lists must be returned to Fourth District PTA by April 1 to assure that units and councils receive district, state and National PTA materials.

A fillable version of the form is available on the Fourth District PTA web site:

www.fourthdistrictpta.org

Facts from Finance Tips For Your Treasurer

By Julie Redmond, Fourth District PTA Treasurer

Most units and councils have held elections by now and are ready to begin planning for the next year. A crucial part of that planning process is developing the budget.

At this point in the year, most fund raising activities should be completed and PTAs are planning the last events for this year. You should be able to estimate those expenditures and project your year-end cash balance. That is the starting point for next year's budget.

A good rule of thumb is to start with the income and expenditures in

this year's budget. Meet with your incoming executive board to discuss the plans for next year and determine how much money will be required to cover those expenses. Adjust the budget accordingly. If no significant changes are planned, increase your expenditures and revenues by an amount that will cover any increase in costs, as we all know prices keep going up.

Remember that the budget is a living document that can be changed at any time by a vote of your association.

Orange County Superintendent of Schools' Message

More Leaves From OCDE

By William M. Habermehl



Academic excellence, the driving force in public education, is measured in California as the Academic Performance Index (API). The purpose of the API is to measure the academic performance and growth of schools. The index ranges from 400 to 1,000, with the goal that every school will be at least at 800. The API is one measure that gives schools and communities data on the performance of all students. It is a single score that is calculated from each student's results on the California Standards Tests given in the spring. These tests, covering language arts, mathematics, science and history, show how successful students have been in mastering the high standards set by the State of California. The information helps schools adjust their programs to ensure all students succeed in mastering the rigorous state standards.

Our public schools are establishing high standards for academic achievement and our students are continuing to meet and exceed these standards. In Orange County, we are proud of the academic excellence our students achieve based on the API. The good news is that in the last seven years, our schools' API scores have steadily increased. During the past four years, our schools and districts have obtained, on average, scores that are 50 points higher than the state as a whole. If this trend continues through next year, Orange County schools will exceed the state's API goal of 800! This year 17 elementary schools made large gains (40 points or more) in their API scores and the state average was only 20 API points! From this, we know that

teachers in Orange County continue to strive for excellence and are making gains that surpass expectations in large ways.

Orange County schools continue to meet and exceed the challenges of educating a diverse student population. Gaps still remain between our highest performing students and specific groups of students who traditionally score low – children who are not native English speakers and students who are living in poverty. Still, test scores for the County's ethnic populations and those who are non-native English speakers continue to rise and are above state averages.

Students take many other state-required exams. High school students take the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), students who are not native English speakers take an annual assessment of their language skills (CELDT), and students who have severe cognitive impairments are tested to ensure that their achievement matches their ability level. While the amount of testing in the schools may seem great, the information obtained from testing all students allows teachers, schools and districts to make better decisions for achievement by all students.

While we still strive to increase student performance, especially in the basics of English, mathematics, and science, the successes described here tell us that our county has the capacity to meet the challenges and opportunities that face us in the 21st century.

It's Time to Celebrate the Arts in Orange County!



By Georgia Freedman-Harvey, Fourth District PTA Cultural Arts Chair

The 2007 Imagination Celebration, a spring festival of the arts for children, teenagers, and families, will take place April 21 through May 20. The annual celebration is presented by Arts Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education.

This year's theme is "Creative Faces, Creative Places." More than 50 theatre, dance, music, film and visual arts events will be held in 20 cities throughout Orange County. Activities include chats with profes-

sional performers, opportunities to meet artists, hands-on workshops, and student showcases.

All of the performances, exhibits, and festivals are free or very affordable.

Fourth District PTA is again proud to be a sponsor of the Imagination Celebration. Our logo is prominently displayed on banners, posters, and the official website.

For more information, go to:

www.ocimaginationcelebration.org

Part III in a Series on Bullying

What Can Be Done About the Bully?

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

There is much discussion about how to help the victim of bullying. But what if you suspect a child of being a bully? This can be as traumatic a problem and it also needs correction.

A few signs to look for are:

- Impulsive behavior.
- A desire to always be in control. Showing little or no empathy for others.

Characteristics of a bully are:

- Tends to have problems at home.
- May be the victim of aggressive behavior or abuse at home.
- Receives inconsistent discipline and/or poor supervision at home.
- Tends to be aggressive, self-confident, and lacking in empathy.



Of course, helping the bully change in behavior is just as important as helping the victim of the bullying behavior. Here are some strategies school officials can use for working with bullies:

- Make clear that bullying behavior will not be tolerated.
- Develop a simple system for rules. Frequently praise for good behavior.
 - Find a positive role model for the bully and encourage him/her to spend time with that person.
 - Build on the bully's talents or resources that will help him/her develop less aggressive reaction patterns.
 - Provide or be the adult for the bully to talk to when he/she begins to feel out of control.

Be Sure to Count Every Volunteer Minute!

By Beverly Berryman, Fourth District PTA Historian

Has your unit been keeping track of PTA volunteer hours? If so, congratulations. If not, don't worry; it is not too late to start. The tally should include all hours of volunteer service since the beginning date of the unit's year. (This date should be either June 1 or July 1, and can be found in your PTA unit bylaws.)

All activities related to PTA functions are counted as volunteer hours, including:

- Attendance at meetings, workshops, and other functions as a representative of PTA.
- Convention attendance (except time eating and sleeping).
- Travel time to and from PTA activities.
- Telephone time regarding PTA business.
- E-mail time regarding PTA business.
- Time spent writing PTA agendas, minutes, correspondence, reports, newsletter articles, etc.
- Time spent on PTA-related activities at school or within your community.
- If your PTA is in charge of recruiting, training, and coordinating room parents, all of that time in the classroom is counted.

It's not hard to count the hours spent at PTA activities or in the planning of these activities if you get into the habit of recording the time. One way to keep track of your volunteer hours is to put them on your calendar each time you volunteer, add them up at the end of the month, and then give that number to your unit's historian.

Here are a few ideas on how the unit historian can keep track of all the hours for your unit:

- At your school, keep a sign-in sheet for volunteers, with spaces for name, time in and time out.
- In your monthly newsletter, include an article with a tear-off section on which volunteers can record their name and their volunteer hours, with a request that the section be returned to the school.
- Have a tally sheet at each PTA meeting, both association and executive board meetings, so that members can record their hours.

Council historians can adapt these ideas to fit their requirements. A copy of a sample tally sheet is on the California PTA website.

Remember, Council Annual Historian Reports are due to the Fourth District PTA office by May 1.

The Importance of Assessment Tests

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

Teachers, parents, and schools have a common goal and shared responsibility to have children perform well on tests. Tests and assessments are the primary means on which students and schools are measured and play a vital role in the education process. They are used to help students, teachers, schools, and parents know what students have learned and what they still need to study.

Teachers use information from assessments to design lessons that meet the needs of their students. School districts and states use assessment results to evaluate whether they are meeting their goals. Assessments also are used by policy-makers for accountability—to help

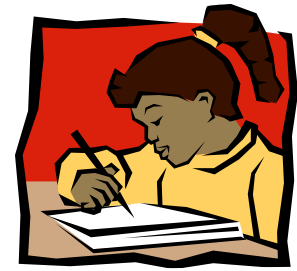
Now is the Perfect Time To Review Your Bylaws

By Shelia Henness , Fourth District PTA Parliamentarian

As your new boards are being elected, it is the perfect time for the president-elect to put together a bylaws review committee that includes members of the old and new boards. This is a great opportunity for the new unit board to become familiar with the “laws” of their unit. Either the current parliamentarian or the parliamentarian-nominee should serve as chairman of this committee.

Once the bylaws are reviewed and copied, with any changes, on the most recent model bylaws form, the board must vote to send the amended bylaws through channels to be reviewed and signed by the state PTA parliamentarian. To do this, download the transmittal form from the Fourth District PTA website and fill it out, noting changes you have made to your current bylaws. Send the form, along with the original and three copies, to your council parliamentarian. You do not need to take the bylaws to the association for their approval until after they are signed by the state parliamentarian and returned to your unit through channels.

The most current edition of bylaws is available for purchase in both English-only and Spanish/English from the Fourth District PTA office.



gauge the effectiveness of programs and schools.

Assessments can show if students are ready to begin a new grade level, or to enter a particular college. Also, tests are sometimes used—along with other information—to help decide if students should be placed in special programs.

Parents should educate themselves about the tests and other assessments that are used in evaluating their children's progress. Keep in mind that no test gives a complete picture of a student's knowledge, ability, or aptitude. And test results don't explain why students score as they do. To be most effective, parents should work with their children's teachers and look at all of the assessment information available to them to get an accurate picture of how their children are doing in school.

Parent involvement is extremely important as new assessments are continually implemented. Assessments can help pinpoint problems, but they can't solve them. Parents, along with teachers, must make sure that assessments are used as they should be—as an aid to the learning process. A good assessment program should be part of an overall educational plan that focuses on critical thinking skills as well as factual knowledge.

There is plenty of advice for students on preparing for and taking tests: Eat a good breakfast, sleep well the night before, avoid careless mistakes, and answer easy questions first. But the true preparation for success in test taking is a process of good instruction, parent support, and hard work by students that should begin in the early school years.

Here are some steps parents can take to help their children perform well on tests:

- Instill the value of learning in your child at an early age.
- Make sure your children are good readers.
- Communicate frequently with your child's teacher or teachers.
- Know your child's learning progress and needs by monitoring assignments, homework, and test performance.
- Establish a regular time for homework and studying.
- Don't make your child nervous about tests, even big ones.
- Develop a positive attitude in your child toward school and testing.
- When a test is returned, review it with your child to discover what your child did and didn't understand.

The Fourth District PTA Office is Moving!

Plans are underway to relocate our office, but there is no moving date as yet. Watch future issues of *Orange Leaves* for our big announcement.

In the meantime, before visiting the office, call us at (714) 835-0805, to make sure you are going to the correct location.

Special Education Programs Serve a Variety of Needs

By Juli Warnick, Fourth District PTA Special Education Chairman

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, requires a child with special needs to be educated in the “least restrictive environment” (LRE). IDEA also mandates a free and appropriate public education for each child.

Since every child is unique, with different needs and requirements to be successful in school, there are many different ways to educate children with special needs. Who determines how a child with special needs will be educated?

Each child with special needs has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that outlines how he or she will be educated. The plan is developed by an IEP team, which consists of an administrator, case carrier, regular education teacher, special education teacher, parents and other support service providers such as speech therapist or occupational therapist. The IEP team meets at least once a year.

A wide range of services are available to children with special needs. Starting at one end of the spectrum is inclusion in the regular education classroom with typical peers. A student may be in the regular education classroom unaccompanied or with an aide or independence facilitator who helps the student throughout the day.

If the student requires other support, he or she might receive speech therapy or occupational therapy in addition

to being in the regular education classroom. Students who need additional support may spend some of the day in the Resource Room, where they can receive instruction in a smaller setting.



Some children are better served in a more restrictive environment. They may attend a Special Day Class with other children who have special needs. The class is taught by a special education teacher. The student in this setting may spend time with regular education students at lunch or assemblies. Sometimes mainstreaming occurs when the special education student interacts with regular education students for a small part of the day.

Private programs are also available. Some are in a school setting while others are live-in facilities. There are also some specialized programs for children with Autism or other disorders. Some of these programs are private and others are provided through the school district.

As you can see, there are many ways to educate a child with special needs. The key is to make sure that the child’s needs are being met and his or her goals are being accomplished. Special education is not a place, but rather support that is given where needed to enhance the student’s ability to accomplish individual goals and progress in academic performance.

PTA Resources Help Build Leadership Skills

By Patty Jordan, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Leadership Services

As a PTA member, you are part of the nation’s largest organization dedicated to advocacy for all children. PTA offers a wide variety of resources to its members.

From National PTA through California State PTA, to the districts and councils, information is disseminated to the units to share with all members of PTA. As a PTA leader, you will find invaluable information not only to assist you in your job, but also to assist and inform your members. Here are a few resource suggestions:

The California State PTA Toolkit: This informative, user-friendly notebook is provided to all units by California State PTA. Your bylaws outline the structure of your organization and the *Toolkit* is your “instruction manual.” You will find specific information and guidelines covering all aspects of PTA. Toolkits, in English or also Spanish, may be purchased at the Fourth District PTA office or downloaded or ordered online at www.CAPTA.org.

National, State and District PTA websites: These websites provide a bounty of useful information, much of which is available for download and immediate use:

www.PTA.org

www.CAPTA.org

www.Fourthdistrictpta.org

Some PTA councils also provide websites.

Council and District Support: One of the wonderful benefits of belonging to PTA is the superb support system it offers. Check with your council officers for training sessions they may provide. Each year, Fourth District PTA provides training in the fall and spring. Training is a must for all PTA officers! Training will strengthen your PTA and help your PTA run smoothly. Plan to attend the next Fourth District training workshop on May 16.

Mensaje de la Presidenta:

PTA y los enlaces que ofrece

Por Jackie Wood

Estoy segura que la mayoría de ustedes han jugado “golf miniatura” al menos una vez. Dicho juego da a las personas una idea de lo que el golf es realmente. Sin embargo, un campo de golf real tiene mucho más por ofrecer. Hay 18 oportunidades de tiros tan largos como cualquiera imagine; un juego de palos para los diferentes tiros y distancias; hay reglas; un campo de práctica; un carrito que lo lleva alrededor del campo y finalmente un paisaje maravilloso para disfrutar.

Yo pienso que la PTA y otras organizaciones de padres tienen mucha semejanza a esta analogía. Las otras PT (como las llamamos algunas veces) son versiones miniatura de la PTA. Son grupos de padres que se enfocan en su propia escuela. Sin el apoyo de una organización más grande, estas otras PT no tienen como entrenar a sus oficiales, no existe guía alguna para el manejo financiero, y como consecuencia nadie a quien pedir ayuda. Miembros de las otras PT se excusan en no querer enviar dinero a la PTA nacional o estatal. Ellos prefieren guardar todo su dinero para su propia escuela.

Como miembros de PTA, nosotros entendemos que nuestras cuotas de la PTA de California y nacional nos brindan muchas ventajas. Sabemos que podemos confiar en los enlaces que nos conectan con los diferentes niveles de

nuestra organización. Estos enlaces nos proveen con entrenamientos de liderazgo, una estructura bien establecida que nos permite administrar grupos locales, y muchas fuentes de información de diferentes temas relacionados con niños, educación y paternidad responsable. Por el tamaño de nuestra organización podemos obtener seguro contra demandas de responsabilidad a un precio reducido. Cuando hay problemas, los oficiales y miembros de PTA saben que pueden contar con los otros niveles de la organización para recibir apoyo y asistencia.

Las otras PT no tienen establecidos los enlaces de información sobre las leyes y asuntos que conciernen a los niños. Abogar por niños que no son de ellos, no se encuentra en sus objetivos pues a ellos solo les interesa su propia escuela.

PTA reconoce la importancia de abogar por todos los niños. Como miembros de la PTA, nosotros ayudamos a decidir cuales asuntos son importantes para abogar. En las convenciones nacionales y estatales, debatimos y votamos sobre resoluciones serias que afectan a nuestros hijos. Dichos temas son comunicados a su vez a todos los miembros de nuestras comunidades y a los legisladores.

La historia del golf es rica y colorida, ya que es un juego que empezó en Escocia hace casi 600 años. La PTA no

tiene tanta experiencia, pero también tiene una historia orgullosa y rica. PTA fue fundada hace 110 años, cuando dos mujeres se dieron cuenta de la necesidad de tener una organización que fuera la voz del bienestar de los niños de Estados Unidos. Desde aquellos tiempos, nuestra organización ha trabajado para mejorar las condiciones de vida de los niños de nuestra nación. PTA es responsable por el establecimiento del Kindergarten, las comidas calientes, las leyes de los cinturones de seguridad, las vacunaciones de polio, y la calificación a los videos y videojuegos, junto con muchos otros triunfos.

La PTA de California también ha sido muy activa en la educación y en los asuntos de salud. Una victoria reciente fue la inclusión de fondos para las artes y educación física en el presupuesto de este año, gracias a los esfuerzos de los miembros de PTA.

Nosotros estamos orgullosos de ser parte de la PTA nacional: la más antigua y grande organización de voluntarios que trabaja exclusivamente en bien de la infancia y la juventud. Cuando se trata de investigar asuntos, solo hay otra organización con mayor respeto que la PTA y es la liga de mujeres votantes. Ninguna otra organización de padres puede hacer dicha afirmación.

No hay nada “miniatura” acerca de la PTA. Como miembros, nosotros estamos enlazados a nuestra comunidad, estado, y nación con el objeto de otorgar a nuestros hijos las mejores oportunidades posibles. Ese será nuestro mejor legado.

Prepárese para la Convención Estatal de PTA

Por Meg Cutuli, Vicepresidenta de Convención del 4o Distrito

¡La convención de PTA en Sacramento está a la vuelta de la esquina!

Si usted desea asistir por favor inscríbese en línea con la PTA estatal hasta el 26 de abril. Después de esta fecha tendrá que registrarse físicamente en el sitio de la convención.

Si ya se registro, puede hacer cambios en línea hasta el 26 de abril, o podrá hacer los cambios en la convención.

Cuando llegue a Sacramento, no se olvide de traer su **carta de confirmación** junto con la **tarjeta de membresía de la PTA**. Usted necesitara ambas para registrarse en la convención y recibir su paquete de información.

La orientación para delegados de la convención del 4º Distrito de PTA se llevará a cabo el 24 de abril en el “Costa Mesa Community Center, 1845 Park Avenue, en Costa Mesa”. A los directores de los consejos directivos se les pide que lleguen a las 9:30 a.m. y los delegados deberán llegar a las 10 a.m. Tendremos información de la convención para dar y regalar y recomendamos que todos los delegados asistan.

Nuestra cena “Hootin’ and Hollerin’ Hoedown” tendrá lugar el viernes 4 de mayo y empezará a las 6:45 p.m., inmediatamente después de la junta general. ¡Les prometemos que será muy diverti-

da! Cada consejo de este lado del oeste nos deleitará con una canción de campamento vaquero que hable de sus propias experiencias. El costo es de \$40 y es un gasto legítimo de PTA. Las vaqueritas del 4º Distrito estarán aceptando reservaciones hasta el 24 de abril. ¡Vístase con su camiseta del 4o distrito de PTA, sus botas y sombrero vaquero y venga a divertirse!

El comité de convención del 4o distrito de PTA le espera para decirle “Howdy” en la muestra de exhibición y en la suite de hospitalidad. ¡Estaremos ahí para hacer de esta la mejor convención a la que haya asistido!

Los recursos de PTA le ayudan a adquirir habilidades

Por Patty Jordan, Vicepresidenta de Liderazgo del 4o Distrito de PTA

Como miembro de la PTA usted es parte de la organización más grande dedicada a abogar por los niños. PTA ofrece una variedad de recursos para sus miembros. Desde la PTA nacional hasta la estatal, desde los distritos hasta los consejos, la información es diseminada a las unidades para todos los miembros. Como líder de la PTA usted encontrará información valiosa no solo para asistirlo en su trabajo pero para hacer lo mismo con sus miembros. He aquí varios recursos que le sugerimos utilizar:

La guía Estatal de la PTA. Esta informativa guía es fácil de usar y es otorgada a todas las unidades por la PTA estatal. Su reglamento delinea la estructura de su organización y la guía es su manual de instrucciones. En ella encontrará toda clase de información que cubre todos los aspectos de la PTA. Las guías en inglés y español se pueden comprar en la oficina del 4o distrito de PTA y también se pueden bajar del sitio de Internet www.CAPTA.org.

Asistencia a nivel consejo y distrito
 – Uno de los mejores beneficios de pertenecer a la PTA es el sistema de apoyo que ofrece. Averigüe con las oficinas de su consejo para saber qué tipo de entrenamiento proveen. Cada año el 4o distrito de PTA ofrece entrenamientos durante el otoño y la primavera. ¡El entrenamiento es obligatorio para los oficiales de PTA! El entrenamiento dará mas fuerza a su PTA y le hará la vida más fácil. Por favor planee asistir a los talleres de entrenamiento el 16 de mayo.

La Auditoria

Por Bárbara Ledterman, Auditora del 4º Distrito de PTA

La auditoria de la PTA sirve como una reexaminación oficial de los estados financieros de la unidad. La auditoria deberá de ser conducida por el auditor electo (quien no deberá de estar autorizado a firmar cheques de la PTA), un comité de auditoria designado, o un profesional contratado.

La auditoria determina la exactitud de los libros financieros, detecta inconsistencias y errores, provee recomendaciones para acciones correctivas, verifica que los fondos fueron mandados por los canales apropiados, también asegura a los miembros de la unidad que los recursos fueron manejados de una manera adecuada, y protege a los oficiales financieros.

La persona que conduce la auditoria debe ser imparcial y no debe ser familiar del presidente u otros oficiales financieros que tengan acceso a los fondos.

Las auditorias deberán hacerse dos veces al año, o cada vez que haya un cambio de oficiales financieros.

Información de como llevar a cabo una auditoria podrá ser encontrada en la *guía estatal del la PTA* en las páginas 227-230. Si usted no tiene una copia de la *guía*, usted puede encontrar la información también en sitio de Internet www.capta.org y apriete en la sección de "Finance. Basic Policies. PTA Audit."

Su Reglamento

Por Shelia Henness, Parlamentaria del 4o Distrito

Cuando los nuevos comités directivos son elegidos, es el tiempo perfecto para que el presidente electo forme un comité de revisión del reglamento que incluya a los nuevos y antiguos miembros. Esta es una buena oportunidad para que dicho comité se familiarice con las reglas de su unidad. El parlamentario a cargo o el electo deberán servir como cabeza de dicho comité.

Una vez que el reglamento ha sido revisado y copiado, con cualquier cambio de acuerdo al modelo mas reciente, el comité ejecutivo debe votar para mandar dichas modificaciones por los canales apropiados al parlamentario estatal de la PTA. Para ello, baje la forma de transmisión del sitio de Internet del 4o distrito y llénela, anotando los cambios realizados a su reglamento actual. Mande la forma, junto con un original y 3 copias a su parlamentario del consejo. Usted no tiene que llevar a cabo la aprobación con la asociación hasta que los cambios hayan sido aprobados y firmados por el parlamentario estatal y retornados a la unidad de acuerdo a los canales apropiados.

La edición actualizada para editar el reglamento se puede comprar solo en inglés o inglés y español a través de la oficina del 4º distrito de PTA.

Hechos Financieros

Por Julie Redmond, Tesorera del 4o Distrito de PTA

La mayoría de las unidades y los consejos ya han tenido sus elecciones y han empezado a planear para el próximo año. Una parte crucial de este proceso es el presupuesto.

A esta altura del año, la mayor parte de las actividades de recaudación de fondos deberán haber llegado a su fin y las PTAs deberán estar planeando los eventos de fin de año. Con la información obtenida deberá ser posible estimar los gastos y proyectar su efectivo "líquido" al final del año. Este es el momento para empezar el presupuesto del próximo año.

Una buena regla de oro es seguir el patrón de ingresos y egresos del presupuesto de este año. Reúnase con su comité ejecutivo entrante, discuta los planes para el próximo año y determine cuanto dinero será requerido para cubrir todos los gastos. Ajuste el presupuesto de acuerdo a dichos gastos. Si no hay cambios significativos, entonces incremente sus ingresos y egresos considerando aumentos en precios y factores inflacionarios.

Recuerde que el presupuesto es un documento "vivo" que puede ser cambiado por votación en su junta de asociación.





Convention Delegates! Sign up for the 4th District PTA Hoedown Dinner!

Friday, May 4th
Pert' near after the First General Meetin'
Rassle up yer old Orange Leaves issues
for more details!

Fill out the form below and send it and yer check on over to:
Fourth District PTA
1833 E. 17th Street #309
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Reservation deadline: April 5 Refund deadline: April 24

Yer name: _____

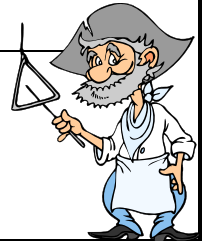
Yer PTA Unit: _____ Yer PTA Council: _____

Whip up _____ dinner tickets fer me @ \$40 each = \$ _____ (Kindly make yer check out to "Fourth District PTA")
I'll be bringin' these folks fer some good eats:

Yer Phone Number: _____

Yer mobile number: _____

Yer Email: _____



This here ain't yer grub ticket!

Fourth District



1833 East 17th St., #309
Santa Ana, CA 92705-8629

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April
2007