



March 2008

Volume 72, Issue 6

President's Message

Splish-Splashing in Long Beach

by Patty Christiansen

As I sit at my computer, my mind zips from one PTA convention memory to another.... standing at the microphone, urging thousands of fellow delegates to vote "no" on a resolution; sharing a room with a school board trustee who accidentally surprises me in her almost-birthday suit; walking across the stage, wearing a boa, to receive an award. I could fill every page of this newsletter with motivational, crazy, and educational experiences from past PTA conventions!

As I visit PTAs throughout Orange County, I sometimes witness a tug-of-war about convention attendance. Some PTA leaders see convention as a worthwhile training and networking experience. Others think that sending a delegate to convention is too costly and without value.

Sending a delegate to California State PTA convention is one of the most important uses of PTA funds. PTA is a grassroots organization that takes direction from unit, council and district PTA members. Where are the voices of the grassroots heard? At PTA convention, of course.

Voting on PTA resolutions is the most important thing you will do at the convention. State PTA leaders must show that they have been given the authority by YOU before they can take positions on advocacy issues. Let your voice be heard!

Your unit or council should vote to elect your convention delegates. The number of voting delegates you may send to convention depends upon the number of PTA members you have. (Check the *California State PTA Toolkit*, Section 2.8.1b.)

"Building PTA leaders is essential to a thriving PTA."

Final drafts of this year's proposed resolutions will be available in mid-March. Your PTA should study the proposed resolutions and vote on a position. At the convention, delegates should attend all general meetings and vote as dictated by their PTA association. Sometimes, this will mean voting contrary to their own feelings about a resolution. Delegates should represent the majority of their PTA members, rather than their own interests.

In addition to voting on resolutions, delegates will attend some amazing training conferences, network with other delegates, share experiences, exchange solutions to problems, and grow to their full PTA leadership potential. Building PTA leaders is essential to a thriving PTA.

Anyway you look at it, attendance at PTA convention is a must and well worth the few hundred dollars that are spent. It is an investment in the future leadership of your PTA. Don't miss the opportunity!

See you in Long Beach May 1-4.

Fourth District
PTA[®]

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*Artículos en español—
paginas 12 y 13*

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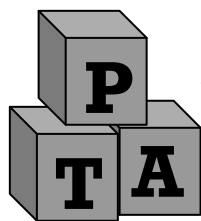
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The Mid-Year Audit

Basics

Mid-year audits of unit and council financial records are now due. Here are the answers to a few commonly asked questions:

When should the mid-year audit be done?

You should check your bylaws for the exact time. Most PTAs begin their fiscal year in July 1, so the mid-year audit covers the six-month period between July 1 and December 31 of 2007. It is time to perform the audit once the bank statement which covers the December time period has been received.

Why do we need an audit?

All PTA units, councils and districts must perform audits of their financial records twice a year. Regular audits protect the financial officers and assure the members that PTA funds are being properly managed. Failure to perform regular audits could be an indication of mismanagement of funds, which can lead to loss of official PTA status for the organization as well as legal prosecution for the individuals involved.

Is it hard to do an audit?

It takes a little bit of time, but State PTA provides a form which greatly simplifies the process. The only qualification for an auditor is to enjoy looking at numbers.

Where can I find the Audit Forms?

Audit report forms can be found in your unit's *California State PTA Toolkit*, page 293 or they can be downloaded from the California State PTA web site: www.capta.org/sections/resources/downloads/audit-report.pdf.

What do I do when the audit is completed?

The audit must be formally adopted at an association meeting with a motion, and then it should be signed by the auditor and attached to the minutes. It will then be stored as a permanent document of your PTA.

How many copies should I make?

Make copies for yourself (the auditor), your president, the treasurer, the financial secretary (if you have one), the secretary (for permanent filing with the minutes), and your next PTA level, be it council or district.

Note to council auditors:

A reminder from State PTA that COUNCIL auditors collect UNIT financials and audits, and do not forward them to District PTA. A filing system is strongly recommended for council financial officers where each unit has a labeled file folder to hold their audits and a master list can be checked off as financial materials are received.

~by Jill Money, Fourth District PTA Auditor

Dues Increase is Proposed for Fourth District PTA

By Lindell Belote, Fourth District PTA Parliamentarian and Patty Christiansen, Fourth District PTA President

Are you feeling the pinch of rising costs at your home? Prices are on the rise! Ten years ago, a gallon of gasoline cost \$1.15 and you could buy a dozen eggs for 88 cents. Today, that same gallon of gasoline will cost you almost three times as much, and the cost of eggs has doubled!

It is the goal of Fourth District PTA to offer resources and support to you--our councils, units and members. But, just as you are feeling the sting of rising costs at home, Fourth District PTA is also feeling the pinch.

For the first time in ten years, Fourth District PTA has proposed an increase in the district portion of membership dues. The district portion of membership dues will rise by 25 cents per member, from thirty-five cents (\$.35) to sixty cents (\$.60) per member. Our job is to provide you with the support you need, while at the same time, being fiscally responsible so that we are able to continue to offer services.

Our bylaws are currently being reviewed to reflect this increase, and will be voted on at the June, 2008, general meeting. The increase would take effect at that time.

In anticipation of this proposed membership dues increase, units and councils have the option of absorbing the cost or increasing their own dues to cover the cost. If you would like to increase your own membership dues, your bylaws should be reviewed and sent in as soon as possible, so as to reflect the increase by the fall.



PTA is serious work! At their January meeting, Council presidents were introduced to the Pied Piper of PTA, also known as **Patty Jordan**, Fourth District PTA executive vice president. The Pied Piper story was an introduction to a mini-training about building PTA leaders.

Fourth District PTA Calendar

March

- 12** Annual Meeting and Administrators' Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Doubletree Hotel, Santa Ana
Due: *Final membership remittance from councils.*
Due: *Mid-year audits.*
- 18** Executive Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m., 4th District Office
- 24** *Orange Leaves* articles for May issue due.
- 24-27** Spring Break, Office closed

April

- 1** **Due:** *Officer Lists for 2008-09*
- 1-2** Sacramento Safari
- 3** **Due:** *4th District PTA Award Applications*
- 7** **Due:** *Applications for 4th District convention scholarships*
- 10** Council Presidents Roundtable, 9:30 a.m.; Executive Board, 10:30 a.m. OCDE Bldg. D, Board Room. **Due:** *Membership envelope orders for 2008-09*
- 24** Convention Orientation, open house: 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., 4th District Office
- 25** Advocacy Roundtable, 9:30 a.m., OCDE
- 28** *Orange Leaves* articles for June issue due.

Fourth District PTA Works with Coalition to Protest Governor's Proposed Budget Cuts

By Celia Jaffe, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Advocacy

The Governor's proposed budget unveiled in January has sent waves of concern and outrage throughout the education community.

THE PROPOSED BUDGET

For the second time in four years, Governor Schwarzenegger is proposing the suspension of Proposition 98, the voter-approved funding protection for K-14 education. He includes most aspects of education funding in his proposed 10% across-the-board cuts. This is a 10% reduction from the expected 2008-09 state funding for Class Size Reduction and other categorical programs, and for the state contribution to revenue limits, the basic per-pupil funding of school districts.

According to Jean Ross of the California Budget Project, this averages to cutting approximately \$787 per Average Daily Attendance (ADA) statewide. While in many instances items that are termed "cuts" are actually only

reductions in expected funding growth, in this budget actual funding per student is reduced for 2008-09 from this year's levels by over 2%.

THE REACTION

Reaction was quick and vehement. State PTA issued an immediate Legislation Alert (see the Fourth District PTA website for its contents), the focus of the State PTA Legislation Conference shifted to funding concerns, and the message we brought to our legislators as part of that conference focused on the need for reliable, adequate funding.

Locally, the Orange County Education Coalition has been reconstituted with Fourth District PTA as an active member. On February 6, a press conference and the first large organizational meeting and rally took place at Westminster School District. Wendy Bokota of the Fourth District "A-Team" served as our parent spokesperson. Her statement included the following:

Parents in Orange County call on the legislature and governor to deal with the budget in a way that shows that our children and our schools are a priority. Let's keep our schools on the right track, not set them back with massive cuts. Public education is too important; we need a state budget that reflects that, and legislators who will ensure our schools get the resources they need to do the job. Our kids deserve the chance to succeed.

The Orange County Education Coalition is a local version of the California Education Coalition. Both are groups of organizations united in the cause of furthering public education. Participating groups include PTA, teacher organizations, school district administrators, school board trustees, and classified employees.

A CALL FOR YOUR ACTION

All Fourth District PTA members are urged to help deliver a message to our state elected representatives. You do not need to understand the figures and complexities of the state budget. You simply need to communicate your priorities as a citizen to the people elected to represent you.

A very basic statement can be very effective. For example: "Schools cannot absorb these cuts without harming my child's education. Please find other solutions to the financial crisis." To find your legislator contact information, go to www.assembly.ca.gov, click on "Find My District" in the left-hand column, and enter your address. The names and contact information for your assembly-member and senator will appear. Write a note or email, call or fax. Do it today.



Check Writing Basics

By Cindy Ely, Fourth District PTA Financial Secretary

Here are some basics to remember when handwriting PTA checks:

- It's a new year! Remember to write 2008 when you date your check. The banks will only process checks that are less than six months old.
- The dollar amount you write in numbers, say \$1,082.81, must agree with the amount you write out in words, "One thousand eighty two and 81/100." The amount that the bank will process is the one written in words. So if you rush and make a mistake, the check will not be processed for the correct amount.
- TWO signatures are needed for every PTA check.
- Neatness counts. If the bank teller cannot read the check, it won't be processed.
- Use the memo line to let the person receiving the check know what it is for. You don't have to go into great detail; a brief notation will help clear things up in case the check gets separated from the remittance.

How to Run Your PTA Officer Election

By Lindell Belote, Fourth District PTA Parliamentarian

A wealth of information on how to handle your unit or council election meeting can be found in the *California State PTA Toolkit* (Section 2.2.4). The month and day of this annual meeting is prescribed by your bylaws.

The president presides over the election meeting as he or she has done all year, and the election is held under "New Business."

In the simplest form of the procedure, the president calls upon the parliamentarian to read the sections of the bylaws pertaining to nominations and elections. After that has been done, the chairman of the nominating committee is called upon to read the report of the nominating committee – the slate of officers.

The president then rereads the slate asking each nominee to stand. Nominations from the floor are requested.

The president then conducts the election even if he or she is a nominee for office.

If there is only one nominee for each office, the election can be held by voice vote. If any member requests a ballot vote for any office, the request must be recognized and voted upon without debate.

Only members of the PTA unit or council may nominate and vote at this annual meeting. At the close of the election meeting, the nominating committee ceases to function and any vacancies in offices are filled by the board-elect.

The annual meeting is also the time for your unit or council to elect convention delegates, one of whom should be the president-elect.

A full script for the president, as well as procedures for a contested election, can be found in the *Toolkit*.

Keeping Track of Your Volunteer Hours

By Shelia Henness, Fourth District PTA Historian

Has your unit been keeping track of PTA volunteer hours? If so, congratulations! If not, don't worry; it's not too late to start. The tally should include all hours of volunteer service since the beginning date of the unit's fiscal 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 can be found on the Fourth District PTA and California State PTA websites.

Council Annual Historian Reports are due to the Fourth District PTA office by May 1, 2008.





800 Students and Families Participate in Fourth District Reflections Celebration

By Fran Sdao, Fourth District PTA Reflections Chair

The Fourth District PTA Reflections Gallery and Reception was held on Saturday, January 12, at the Tustin Community Center. More than 800 students, their families and friends attended the celebration of student artistic achievement.

Attendees browsed through the exhibit of art, photographs and literature. They watched and/or listened to the dance, music and film/video entries. Many took photographs at the special *Ride the Reflections Wave* photo booth.

LITERATURE

Award of Excellence

Primary: **A. Andrunas**, Harbor View Elem., Huntington Union Council

Intermediate: **T. Perkins**, Woodsboro Elem., Placentia/Yorba Linda Unified Council

Middle/Junior: **K. Jensen**, Isaac L. Sowers Middle, Huntington Union Council

Senior: **S. Kiang**, Capistrano Valley High, Capistrano Unified Council

Award of Merit

Primary: **C. Nguyen**, Clarence Lobo Elem., Capistrano Unified Council;

N. Myers, Buena Terra Elem., Buena Park Council

Intermediate: **E. Powell**, Valencia Elem., Saddleback Valley Council; **N. Bloom**, Huntington Seacliff Elem., Huntington Union Council

Middle/Junior: **S. Luchansky**, Running Springs, Elem., Orange Community Council; **S. De La O**, Cielo Vista Elem., Saddleback Valley Council

Senior: **A. Thomas**, Corona del Mar High, Harbor Council; **Q. Nguyen**, Garden Grove High, Garden Grove Unified Council

VISUAL ARTS

Award of Excellence

Primary: **T. Buchwald**, Newport Coast Elem., Harbor Council

Intermediate: **S. Bardin**, Canyon Vista, Capistrano Unified Council

Middle/Junior: **J. Wan**, Kraemer Middle, Placentia/Yorba Linda Unified Council

Senior: **E. O'Brien**, Fountain Valley High, Huntington Union Council

Award of Merit

Primary: **E. Laird**, Arroyo Elem., Tustin Council; **H. Kim**, Los Alamitos Elem., Los Alamitos Council

Intermediate: **J. Lee**, Golden Hill Elem., Fullerton Council; **C. Henderson**, Arroyo Elem., Tustin Council

Middle/Junior: **K. Nyberg**, Don Juan Avila Middle, Capistrano Unified Council; **H. J. Hong**, Sunset Lane Elem., Fullerton Council

Senior: **L. Lam**, Garden Grove High, Garden Grove Unified Council;

L. D'Amato – Aliso Niguel High, Capistrano Unified Council

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

Award of Excellence

Primary: **N. Ehler**, Portola Hills Elem., Saddleback Valley Council

Intermediate: **A. Kim**, Plaza Vista School, Irvine Unified Council

Middle/Junior: **G. Kane**, Yorba Linda Middle, Placentia/Yorba Linda Unified Council

Senior: **T. Wu**, University High, Irvine Unified Council

Award of Merit

Primary: **A. Huang**, Canyon View Elem., Irvine Council, **R. Gilboe**, Smith Elem., Huntington Union Council

Intermediate: **K. Lynch**, Oso Grande Elem., Capistrano Unified Council, **A. Bowie**, La Veta Elem., Orange Community Council

Middle/Junior: **R. Paz**, Oxford Academy, Anaheim Secondary Council;

Each of the 316 students whose artwork advanced to the Fourth District PTA was recognized with a Participant Ribbon and a special PTA goodie bag. The top four award winners in each art category and in each age division received the Award of Excellence Star. Forty-six students received the red Award of Merit ribbon and 43 students received the white Honorable Mention ribbon.

We congratulate all of our Reflections participants and wish the best of luck to our 24 Award of Excellence winners whose entries advanced to the California State PTA.

T. Dowd, Sunset Lane Elem., Fullerton Council

Senior: **T. Howe**, Huntington Beach High, Huntington Union Council; **N. Holmes**, Tesoro High, Capistrano Unified Council

PHOTOGRAPHY

Award of Excellence

Primary: **R. Abboud**, de Portola Elem., Saddleback Valley Council

Intermediate: **A. Lantz**, Golden Hill Elem., Fullerton Council

Middle/Junior: **D. Lozano**, George Patton Elem., Garden Grove Unified Council

Senior: **L. Lam**, Garden Grove High, Garden Grove Unified Council

Award of Merit

Primary: **M. Daneman**, College Park Elem., Irvine Council; **K. Jensen**, John H. Eader Elem., Huntington Union Council

Intermediate: **E. Donahue**, Red Hill Elem., Tustin Council; **N. Johnson**, Linda Vista Elem., Placentia/Yorba Linda Unified Council

Middle/Junior: **K. Heaton**, Ladera Vista Junior High, Fullerton Council;

C. Madrigal, Brookhurst Junior High, Anaheim Secondary Council

Senior: **S. Denghausen**, Newport Harbor High, Harbor Council; **A. Harris**, Northwood High, Irvine Council

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Award of Excellence

Primary: **K. LoVerde**, Juliet Morris Elem., Cypress Council

(continued on Page 7)

What's New at www.fourthdistrictpta.org?

By MaryAnne Shults, Fourth District PTA Web Site Manager

PTA "In the News"

One of the newest features to our Web site is the posting of PTA articles as published in various electronic media including the *Orange County Register*, *Los Angeles Times*, regional print publications, and news released by the California State PTA and National PTA. Please visit <http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/news>.

RSS News Feed

Now you can receive important Fourth District PTA news and web site updates without visiting the Fourth District PTA web site every day. Just visit the Home page and subscribe to the RSS (Really Simple Reader) news feed in the top right corner. You will automatically receive the latest news from Fourth District PTA via a "news reader." There are more than 1,000 readers available, most of them free. RSS is also built into the many Web browsers and is available from AOL, Yahoo!, Google and MSN.

If you don't have a news reader built into your Web browser, or if you want further information, visit http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/rss_explained.html for assistance. Remember, a news reader is free. By sub-

scribing, you can keep up with the latest news and information of interest to PTA leaders and members.

If your unit or council has an RSS (or other feed) from your Web site, please e-mail me so that I can include yours news with ours.

Read *Orange Leaves* On Line and Save a Tree

Our publication is available via download from the Web site; however, you can opt to subscribe and receive an electronic copy (Adobe PDF) via email.

Be green... go electronic today! Visit www.fourthdistrictpta.org/orangeleaves. Note: If you are currently receiving a paper copy in the mail and would prefer to only receive a copy electronically, please call Tish at the Fourth District PTA office to be removed from the mailing list.

REMINDER

All PTA presidents should attend the
5:30 p.m. General Meeting before the
Fourth District PTA Administrators' Dinner
March 12, Doubletree Hotel
201 E. MacArthur Blvd., Santa Ana
Reservation form in February issue. Deadline: Feb. 28.

Reflections (continued from p. 6)

Intermediate: **C. Glen**, Margaret Landell Elem., Cypress Council

Middle/Junior: **H. Loeffler**, Running Springs Elem., Orange Community Council

Senior: **D. Lee**, Valencia High, Placentia/Yorba Linda Unified Council

Award of Merit

Primary: **D. Saenz**, Jack L. Weaver Elem., Los Alamitos Council

Intermediate: **C. Vargas**, McPherson, Orange Community Council

Middle/Junior: **V. Berggren**, Juliet Morris Elem., Cypress Council; **K. Renard**, Vista del Mar, Capistrano Unified Council

Senior: **A. Creager**, Huntington Beach High, Huntington Union Council;

H. Haskell, Orange High, Orange Community Council

FILM/VIDEO PRODUCTION

Award of Excellence

Primary: **J. Hindley**, Carl Hankey, Capistrano Unified Council

Intermediate: **R. Wallace**, Robinson Elem., Saddleback Valley Council

Middle/Junior: **A. Peterson**, Aliso Viejo Middle, Capistrano Unified Council

Senior: **A. Margolis**, Corona del Mar High, Harbor Council

Award of Merit

Primary: **B. Schneiderman**, Turtle Rock Elem., Irvine Unified Council;

A. Robbins, Portola Hills Elem., Saddleback Valley Council

Intermediate: **B. Denbo**, Brea Country Hills Elem., Brea Council; **H. Dennis**, Castille Elem., Capistrano Unified Council

Middle/Junior: **K. Jensen**, Isaac L. Sowers Middle, Huntington Union Council; **M. Hatmaker**, Crescent Intermediate, Orange Community Council

Senior: **A. Herington**, Esperanza High, Placentia/Yorba Linda Unified Council;

A. Goff, Huntington Beach High, Huntington Union Council

SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO...

Best Poster/Visual Arts: **K. Orlando**, Francis Hopkinson Elem., Los Alamitos Council

Cutest Animal/Photography: **B. Chu**, de Portola Elem., Saddleback Valley Council

Cutest Fish/Visual Arts: **L. Engel**, Portola Hills Elem., Saddleback Valley Council

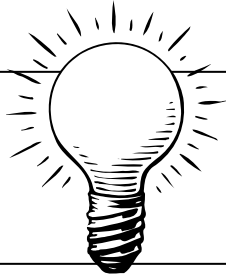
Most Caring/Visual Arts: **H. Fyke**, Anaheim Hills Elem., Orange Community Council

Most Intriguing/Visual Arts: **D. Shen**, Irvine High, Irvine Unified Council

Most Patriotic/Visual Arts: **D. Perez**, Hope Special Education Center, Anaheim Secondary Council

Outstanding Voice/Musical Composition: **T. Howe**, Huntington Beach High, Huntington Union Council

Peace Prize/Literature: **T. Perkins**, Woodsboro Elem., Placentia/Yorba Linda Unified Council



Bright Ideas

...that make PTA shine!

Capistrano Unified Council of PTSAs

Barbara Shangraw, President

The Capistrano Unified Council of PTSAs believes that a positive and pleasant working relationship between our PTA presidents and our school principals contributes to the success of our schools. Principals need a basic understanding of the mission and purpose of PTA, our operating principals and practices, and the financial guidelines and safeguards that protect all of us.

To achieve this understanding, CUCPTSA conducted a special training session, **Partners for Our Schools: PTA Presidents and Principals, A Teambuilding Workshop**, in December. More than 100 presidents and principals participated in this lively and informative program.

District Superintendent Woodrow Carter welcomed everyone and spoke about the important role and contributions of PTA in our district. Our hardworking Legislative Team presented an introduction to advocacy and the role our Legislative Team plays in supporting the goals of PTA. Team members presented the CUCPTSA 2007-08 Legislative Agenda and a budget update straight from the Governor's office, where they had met with officials a few days earlier. (To watch a musical summary of their trip, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlpjN-eJVso)

CUCPTSA emphasizes to our presidents that we are guests on our school campuses and that we must always conduct ourselves in a professional, respectful manner. Our principals were reminded that this applies to them as well. To help make this point, we showed a video titled, "Be Our Guest," starring teachers, principals and PTA leaders, who humorously demonstrated several examples of school administrators and PTA volunteers behaving badly.

We reinforced the importance of planning and working together by talking through several situations when PTA leaders and school staff need to support each other. Topics included "Baywatch Mommy," about a scantily clad parent who arrives to volunteer, "Too Much of a Good Thing," where the principal expects PTA to provide food for an all day teacher in-service event, and "Cash and Dash," with a PTA chair taking the carnival cash to her home.

Proper PTA procedures and financial guidelines, as well as district policies and procedures, were addressed for each topic.

This workshop was especially helpful to our newer principals and presidents. Our PTA presidents and school principals are strong partners with a deeper appreciation for the significant roles we both play in the education of our children.

~by Fran Sdao

Los Alamitos Council

Jennifer Longville-Chaffee, President

During the holidays, PTAs in the Los Alamitos Council reached out to their communities in a number of ways.

Three of the elementary schools and one middle school collected canned food for the local food banks. One of the elementary schools collected 28 complete holiday meals, which consisted of all the fixings such as canned pumpkin, potatoes, cranberries, a coupon for a turkey, etc.

One elementary school collected clothes for the victims of the recent fires. The principal used an automatic phone system to call all the families to request donations for the fire victims. Goodwill picked up all the bags of clothes.

An elementary school collected Target gift cards to donate to a specific elementary school in Poway Unified School District in San Diego County for the kids who lost items in the fires. That particular school had many families who lost everything. The principal distributed the gift cards to those families.

A middle school PTA collected craft supplies from their families. The craft supplies went to Discovery Arts charity organization, which works with Children's Hospital of Orange County.

Send us YOUR
Bright Ideas!



Share your success stories with your fellow PTA members in Fourth District PTA!
Send your success story to
orange-leaves@fourthdistrictpta.org or call
Gisela Meier at (714) 637-5698.

Long Beach Convention Center, May 1-4

Time to Register for the California State PTA Convention

By Karen Schroeder, Fourth District PTA Convention Chair

All PTA units and councils should be planning to attend one of the most important and exciting events of the PTA year — the California State PTA Convention.

The first step is to look through the Convention Registration booklet, which every PTA president should have received.

Convention registration is now available online. This new and improved process is the easiest way to register. Follow the links on www.capta.org. You will be able to choose workshops, and you will receive a personal password to review your choices and make changes if needed. A confirmation letter will be emailed upon registration. A credit card is required to register online, but delegates can use the confirmation letter to receive reimbursement from their PTA.

The other registration method is through the mail using the forms in the Convention Registration booklet. A PTA or personal check can accompany registration.

Delegates will also need to register with Fourth District PTA to pay the district fee of \$28. The District Delegate Form is available on our website, and a separate check, made out to Fourth District PTA, must be mailed to the District Office.

Fourth District PTA Offers Convention Scholarships

Leadership Scholarships for the PTA state convention are now available to units and councils within Fourth District PTA.

The \$200 scholarships may be applied towards convention registration fees, the Fourth District fee, and the Fourth District dinner.

The purpose of the scholarship is to offer emerging PTA leaders the opportunity to take advantage of the training, networking, and other benefits offered at the state convention.

Five scholarships will be granted. Applications must be submitted to Fourth District PTA by April 7. The selected recipients will be notified on April 24, at the district's convention delegate orientation.

Applications are available on the Fourth District PTA website, www.fourthdistrictpta.org, under Membership/Grants and Scholarships, from Fourth District PTA Vice President of Convention Karen Schroeder at (949) 582-3982, or from the Fourth District PTA office, (714) 241-0495.

Our Fourth District PTA Dinner on Saturday, May 3, will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center and is themed "Under the Sea." The cost of the dinner is \$40 and is a legitimate PTA expense. Besides enjoying the fun and networking, you HAVE to come to see our costumes!

Hotel reservations are made through the Long Beach Convention Visitors Bureau. Forms and hotel information are also in the Convention Booklet. FAX is the best way to make reservations. Fourth District PTA is staying at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach, the official site of the convention.

Thank you to all council convention chairs in advance for your contribution of time and effort on behalf of our state, county, and local PTAs.

The Book Corner


By Dianna Kronquist, Fourth District PTA Reading / Library Chair

March 3 is Read Across America Day. Help your school make plans to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

Take a few moments out of your busy day to read one or more of these classic books by Dr. Seuss:

- *The Cat in the Hat*
- *Green Eggs and Ham*
- *My Many Colored Days*
- *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*

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Keeping Our Children Safe

By William M. Habermehl, Orange County Superintendent of Schools

Keeping kids safe is a top priority for parents, educators, and community members. In Orange County, there are resources available to help us educate and protect our children from harm.

One excellent resource to help start the conversation on safety is the child abduction prevention bookmarks created by the Joyful Child Foundation which are available at www.joyfulchild.org. The bookmarks share abuse and abduction prevention tips for children and have been distributed to all Orange County elementary school students through the collaborative efforts of the Joyful Child Foundation, Orange County Sheriff's Department, and Orange County Department of Education.

People who may pose a threat to children often give signals or demonstrate behaviors that can serve as warnings. If a child knows the warning signs, he or she will know when they are in an unsafe situation and what action to take.

The key to discussing safety with your child is establishing good communication throughout your daily lives. Effective communication as a parent requires active listening and asking questions. As you introduce topics, begin to talk about different ideas and rules surrounding

safety. The goal is to share knowledge that will empower children to feel confident and to trust their instincts, while being aware of their surroundings. Practice the lessons by role-playing with your children to help them put what they have learned into action.

Part of ensuring a world class education where every student succeeds involves keeping kids safe as a top priority. It is through cooperative efforts to communicate openly and provide tools for our children that we, as educators and members of the community, work together to create a stronger and safer society.

For additional information visit:

- Joyful Child Foundation
www.thejoyfulchild.org
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
www.missingkids.com
- Orange County Department of Education
www.ocde.us
- Orange County Sheriff's Department
www.ocsd.org

Are You in an Arts Advantage District?

By Steven Lustig, Fourth District PTA Cultural Arts Chair

With the recent increase in arts funding from the state, many school districts have become Arts Advantage Districts. The Arts Advantage program is an Orange County Board of Education program that provides limited funding to encourage this process. The goal is to increase arts education for all students through consultant support, professional development and information dissemination.

The Orange County Music and Arts Administrators (OCMAA) also provides a support network to disseminate information and give district and teacher support. Public programming throughout the year gives youth opportunities to share their accomplishments in arts education.

These include: Imagination Celebration, Cappies-Theatre Critic and Awards Program, March is Arts Month Art Show, and Very Special Arts of California at Orange County.

A wide variety of professional development activities are scheduled throughout the year for administrators and teachers. The California Arts Project (TCAP) regularly provides in-services.

As of the date of this printing, Newport-Mesa, Orange, HBCSD, Ocean View, Westminster, Fountain Valley, Capistrano, ACCESS, and Los Alamitos have been Arts Advantage Districts.

This year, Irvine, Anaheim City, Centralia, and Cypress have come onboard. There are plans to move forward with Anaheim High School District, Buena Park, Brea-Olinda, Magnolia, Savannah.

It is very important that parent PTA leaders follow up with their school district to see how the state money is being spent and what we as concerned parent can do to help our districts. There are many opportunities for parents to participate with their school districts on bringing the arts back into the classroom.

Fourth District Advocates attend State PTA Legislative Conference

By Celia Jaffe, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Advocacy

When the State PTA Legislation team planned this year's conference, they couldn't know that both PTA representatives and Sacramento policy makers would be reeling from the worst budget prognosis in decades. The proposed \$4.4 billion cut to Proposition 98 was the proverbial elephant in every session, prompting Assembly Education Committee Chairman Gene Mullin to bid us "Welcome to the House of Pain" when he spoke to the 105 PTA conference attendees at the Capitol.

State PTA President Pam Brady opened the three-day conference with a more pointed response: "There isn't a child in California who caused this problem, and we shouldn't balance the budget on their backs."

Five PTA leaders represented Fourth District, joined by eight others sent by units and councils from our area. We spoke directly with several elected representatives: Assembly members Todd Spitzer, Jim Silva, and Mimi Walters and Senators Mark Wyland, Richard Ackerman, and Tom Harman, as well as staffers in the offices of Assembly members Chuck DeVore and VanTran.

In each case, PTA members delivered the message that such deep cuts to education are unacceptable and against the will of the voters, as expressed by the passage of Prop. 98 and defeat of Prop. 76. The reply in most cases was that cuts have to be taken from all areas of the budget, education has some waste that can be eliminated, and additional revenues (raised taxes or fees) are not to be considered.



And the winners are (from left to right): Council presidents **Barb Shangraw** (Capistrano), **Jennifer Longville-Chaffee** (Los Alamitos), **Julie Schwarz** (Saddleback), **Kim Axene** (Irvine) and **Jeannette Price** (Huntington Union). These councils were recognized at the January Council President Roundtable. Brea, Irvine and Los Alamitos councils turned in insurance payments for all of their units and council. Capistrano, Huntington Union and Saddleback councils all had California State PTA grant or scholarship winners.

Topics besides the terrible budget picture were a welcome relief at the conference. Stephen Blake, Executive Director of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education Excellence, spoke about the need for a new student data system, education finance based on student need, a standards-based evaluation of teachers, revision of the governance system in education based on the Master Plan for Education, and increased preschool.

Deputy Superintendent of Public Education Gavin Payne spoke about a project, funded in part by foundation grants, to design a new student data system. He also discussed new preschool "foundations," skills needed to be ready for kindergarten.

Rick Simpson, Deputy Chief of Staff to Speaker Fabian Nunez, reminded us that education reform has been going on in California for a decade with substantial progress being shown. For example, the same API scores that placed a school district in decile five eight years ago would place it in decile one today.

Fourth District Members Win CAPTA Grants and Scholarships

Congratulations to the following Fourth District PTA members who received California State PTA scholarships and grants:

- Volunteer Scholarships: **Dorothy Friedlander** and **MaryAnne Shults**, both Fourth District PTA volunteers, were each granted \$500
- Cultural Arts Grants: **Fourth District PTA** was awarded \$500 to create an arts database. **Steve Lustig** was the grant writer.
- Healthy Lifestyles Grants: **John H. Eader PTA** in Huntington Union Council was awarded \$2,100 and **Tesoro High School PTSA**, Capistrano Unified Council, was awarded \$900.
- Outreach/Translation Grant: **Fourth District PTA** was awarded \$2,875 to improve outreach to the Spanish speaking community. **Laura Zuchovicki** and **Patty Jordan** were the grant writers
- Teachers Scholarships: Teachers **Catherine Albee**, **Patricia McClanahan**, **Tiffany Robinson** and **Christopher Royal** each received \$500 for continuing education.

Mensaje de la Presidenta

¡Agua, ya viene la convención en Long Beach!

Por Patty Christiansen

Mandar a un delegado a la convención de PTA de California es uno de los usos más sensatos de los fondos de PTA. La PTA toma sus raíces y su dirección de los miembros de la unidad, consejo y distrito. ¿En donde se escuchan las voces de dichos miembros de la PTA? En la convención, por supuesto.

Votar para las resoluciones de PTA es el objetivo más importante de la convención. Los líderes de la PTA estatal deben demostrar que ustedes les han dado la autoridad de cómo votar en los asuntos de defensa. ¡Dejemos que nuestras voces sean escuchadas!

Su unidad o consejo debe de votar para elegir a los delegados de la conven-

ción. El número de delegados con derecho a voto que usted puede mandar a la convención depende del número de miembros que su PTA tiene. (Lea la página 58 de la *Guía estatal de la PTA*.)

Las resoluciones finales propuestas para este año estarán disponibles a mediados de marzo. Su PTA deberá estudiar dichas resoluciones y votar si están a favor o en contra. En la convención, los delegados deberán asistir a las juntas generales y votar de acuerdo a las posiciones tomadas por su PTA. Algunas veces esto significara votar en contra de nuestras propias convicciones sobre el asunto. Es importante señalar que los delegados deben representar los intereses

de la mayoría de los miembros y no los propios.

Además de votar en las resoluciones, los delegados asistirán a conferencias de entrenamiento excepcionales, conocerán otros delegados, compartirán experiencias, intercambiaran soluciones a los problemas podrán alcanzar su mayor potencial como líderes de la PTA. Construir líderes de PTA es esencial.

No importa el lado en que se mire, la asistencia a la convención de PTA bien vale los dólares que cuesta. Es una muy buena inversión en el desarrollo de los futuros líderes de su PTA. ¡No se pierda la oportunidad de asistir!

Propuesta de incrementar las cuotas de PTA del 4° Distrito

El objetivo del 4° Distrito de PTA es ofrecer fuentes de apoyo para ustedes (ya sean miembros de consejos o unidades). Sin embargo así como usted siente el alza de precios en su vida personal, el 4° Distrito de PTA también lo esta sintiendo.

Por primera vez en diez años, el 4° Distrito de PTA esta proponiendo un incremento en la porción de cuotas de membresía que le corresponden. Dicha porción incrementara \$0.25 centavos por miembro, aumentando el costo de \$0.35 centavos a \$0.60 centavos por miembro. Nuestro trabajo es proporcionarles el apoyo que necesitan, pero sin dejar de ser fiscalmente responsables para poder continuar ofreciendo nuestros servicios.

Nuestros estatutos están siendo revisados para reflejar dicho incremento, y la votación se llevara a cabo en junio de 2008, durante la junta general, de tal manera que el incremento tomara efecto en ese momento.

En anticipación a dicho incremento de la membresía, las unidades y los consejos tienen la opción de absorber el costo del incremento o alzar el precio de sus membresías. Si usted decide incrementar el precio de su membresía, sus estatutos deben ser modificados y enviados lo mas pronto posible para reflejar el incremento en el otoño.

Si tiene preguntas o dudas, por favor mande un correo electrónico al mzuchovicki@socal.rr.com o llame por teléfono al 714-279-0976 y comuníquese con Laura Zuchovicki.

La Auditoria de medio año

Por Jill Money, Auditora del 4° Distrito de PTA

Las auditorias financieras del medio año de las unidades y los consejos deberán ser entregadas lo más pronto posible. He aquí las respuestas a las preguntas más comunes al respecto:

¿Cuándo debe de hacerse la auditoria del medio año?

Usted deberá de revisar sus estatutos para saber la fecha exacta. La mayoría de las PTA empiezan su año fiscal el 1° de julio, así que la auditoria de medio año cubre el periodo de seis meses entre el 1° de julio al 31 de diciembre de 2007.

Es momento de hacer la auditoria una vez que el estado de cuenta de diciembre se ha recibido.

¿Por que se necesita una auditoria?

Todas las unidades de PTA, distritos y consejos deben hacer auditorias 2 veces al año. Las auditorias regulares protegen a los oficiales financieros y aseguran a los miembros de la PTA que los fondos están siendo manejados apropiadamente. Si dichas auditorias no se realizan, esto puede indicar que hay un mal manejo de fondos, el cual puede llevar a la perdida del estatus oficial de la PTA como organización así como la persecución legal de los individuos involucrados.

¿Es difícil hacer una auditoria?

Toma un poco de tiempo, pero la PTA estatal otorga un formulario que simplifica el proceso. Lo único que un auditor necesita es disfrutar revisar los números.

¿En donde puedo encontrar los formularios de la auditoria?

Los formularios para el reporte de auditorias pueden ser encontrados en la *Guía de PTA del estado de California*, la cual puede ser encontrada en el sitio de Internet de la PTA apretando el enlace a continuación:

www.capta.org/sections/resources/downloads/audit-report.pdf.

¿Qué hago cuando la auditoria ha sido terminada?

La auditoria deberá ser formalmente adoptada en la junta de asociación con una moción, y deberá de ser firmada por el auditor y para acompañar a las minutas. Es necesario guardarla como un documento permanente de su PTA.

¿Cuántas copias debo hacer?

Haga copias para usted (el auditor), su presidente, el tesorero, el secretario financiero (si cuenta con uno), el secretario (para que lo adjunte a las minutas), y para su siguiente nivel de PTA, ya sea consejo o distrito.

Centro de Convenciones de Long Beach, Mayo 1º-4 **Es momento de inscribirse a la convención de PTA**

Por Karen Schroeder, Directora de convención del 4º Distrito de PTA

Todos los consejos y unidades de PTA deben planear en asistir al evento más importante y excitante del año en PTA — la convención de PTA del estado de California.

El primer paso es revisar el folleto de inscripción, el cual todos los presidentes de PTA ya deben de haber recibido por correo regular.

La inscripción a la convención esta disponible por Internet. Este proceso nuevo y mejorado es la manera más fácil de inscribirse. Vaya al enlace de CAP-PTA.org. Usted podrá escoger talleres de entrenamiento y recibirá una contraseña personal para revisar sus elecciones y hacer cambios si es necesario. Una carta de confirmación le será enviada por correo electrónico para confirmar su inscripción. Una tarjeta de crédito es requerida para la inscripción por Internet, pero los delegados pueden usar dicho correo de confirmación para pedir su reembolso de la PTA.

El otro método de inscripción es a

través de correo regular usando los formularios que se encuentran en el folleto de inscripción de la convención. Un cheque personal o de la PTA deberá acompañar la forma de inscripción. Los delegados también necesitarán inscribirse con el 4º Distrito de la PTA para pagar la cuota del distrito de \$28.00. La forma para el delegado de distrito se encuentra disponible en nuestro sitio de Internet, y se deberá incluir un cheque a nombre del "Fourth District PTA". Esta información y cheque deberán ser enviadas a la oficina del 4º Distrito por correo regular.

Nuestra cena de PTA será el sábado 3 de mayo y se llevara a cabo en el centro de convenciones de Long Beach; el tema es "Debajo del mar." El costo de la cena es \$40.00 y es un gasto legítimo de PTA. Además de disfrutar la cena usted tendrá la oportunidad de hacer contactos ¡Por favor venga a ver nuestros disfraces!

Las reservaciones de hotel se hacen a través del Buró de Visitantes del centro

de convenciones de Long Beach y la información del hotel se encuentra en el folleto de la convención. Fax es la mejor manera para hacer las reservaciones. El 4º Distrito de PTA planea quedarse en el Hyatt Regency de Long Beach, el cual es el hotel oficial de la convención.

Becas disponibles para asistir a la convención Becas de liderazgo para la convención estatal de PTA están disponibles para las unidades y los consejos dentro del 4º Distrito.

Las becas de \$200.00 pueden ser aplicadas para las cuotas de inscripción de la convención, también del 4º Distrito incluyendo la cena.

Cinco becas serán otorgadas. Las aplicaciones serán admitidas hasta el 7 de abril en la oficina del 4º Distrito. Los seleccionados para recibir las becas serán notificados el 24 de abril, durante la junta de orientación a delegados del 4º Distrito.

Las aplicaciones se encuentran disponibles en el sitio de Internet del 4º Distrito de la PTA, www.fourthdistrictpta.org, bajo la categoría de "Membership/grants and Scholarships". También puede contactar a la directora de convención del 4º Distrito de PTA Karen Schroeder al (949) 582-3982, o contacte a la oficina del 4º Distrito al (714) 241-0495.

Como realizar una elección de oficiales de la PTA

Por Lindell Belote, Parlamentaria del 4º Distrito de PTA

Un cúmulo de información de como realizar su junta de elección de consejo o unidad puede ser encontrado en *la Guía Estatal de California de la PTA* (Sección 2.2.4). El mes y día de esta junta anual esta establecido en sus estatutos.

El presidente preside dicha junta como lo hace en cualquier junta del año, y la elección se hace bajo la categoría de "Nuevos asuntos" en su orden del día o agenda.

En la forma más simple de la elección, el presidente le pide al parlamentario que lea la sección de los estatutos que habla de las nominaciones y las elecciones.

Después de esta lectura, el director del comité nominador lee el reporte de su comité el cual contiene la nominación de los candidatos.

El presidente entonces vuelve a mencionar la lista de candidatos pidiéndoles que se pongan de pie. En ese momento se pregunta si hay en el piso más candidatos nominados. Inmediatamente después el presidente conduce la elección aunque el mismo nominado este nominado para alguna posición oficial.

Si hay un solo candidato para cada posición, la elección se puede hacer por voto de voz. Si algún miembro pide una planilla de elección, su deseo debe ser

reconocido y el voto se hará sin debate.

Solo miembros de la unidad de PTA o el consejo pueden nominar un candidato y votar durante dicha junta. Cuando la elección se cierra, el comité nominador cesa de existir y cualquier posición vacante deberá de ser llenada por la mesa directiva electa.

Esta junta anual es un buen momento para elegir a los delegados de la convención, uno de los cuales deberá de ser el presidente electo.

Un discurso completo para el presidente, así como los procedimientos para una elección disputada se pueden encontrar en *la Guía Estatal de California de la PTA* en su versión en español.



**Tell Us Why
YOUR PTA is
Special!**

*Award recipients
will be honored at
Fourth District PTA's
General Meeting and
Awards Luncheon
on June 5.*

Apply for a Fourth District PTA Unit or Council Award

Fourth District PTA will recognize PTAs for:

- Creative membership campaigns
- Creative programs
- Outstanding overall efforts and programs

Application forms may be found at the back of the *2007-2008 Fourth District PTA Program and Directory*, on line at <http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/forms.html> or at the Fourth District PTA Office.

★Application Deadline: Friday, April 4★

Fourth District

PTA[®]

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**March
2008**