

President's Message

Democracy doesn't have to be unanimous — lively discussion is constructive

by Celia Jaffe



Is there anyone you *always* agree with? Someone who has the same taste in movies, shares the same political views, enjoys the same food, and wears the same sort of clothing? I hope not! Who wants clones of themselves? When we hear opinions that differ from our own, it forces us to re-examine our views:

- *Does the other person have a good point that you hadn't considered?*
- *Are you persuaded to modify your opinion?*

This is why I love split votes and full discussion at PTA meetings. It means people are really engaged in the process, and they feel comfortable enough in the meeting to voice their convictions.

The fable of "The Emperor's New Clothes" is about all of a leader's advisors saying what the leader wants to hear instead of what they really think. It takes the lone voice of a peasant child to say what everyone else is too cautious to voice.

Don't let this happen in your PTA! If every vote you hold is a

droning "aye" no matter what is proposed, then maybe it's time to goose up the conversation a little. Ask some probing questions, including the rationale behind a proposed event or program:

- *What do we want this to accomplish?*
- *Is this the best way to do that?*

If a concern or dissenting opinion is expressed, welcome it with a sincere, "Thank you for your comments." It isn't the job of the president or anyone else to change that person's opinion. Explaining something that was misunderstood might be in order, but let's not jump down the throat of someone who differs in viewpoint.

Each person has his or her own opinion and a single vote. PTA is a great place to share these thoughts and use the honest discussion to enrich the work of our organization.



Fourth District
PTA®
everychild.one voice.

*Artículos en español—
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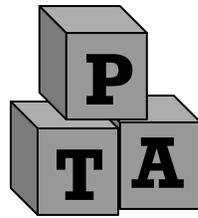
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PTA Leadership Training

Basics

Save the date!

Fourth District PTA Spring Workshops will be held on Wednesday, May 30, at National University

By Cathy Lindsey, Fourth District PTA Workshop Chairman

All incoming unit and council officers and chairmen should attend the Fourth District PTA workshops, especially if they will not be attending training at the California State PTA Convention. Training is invaluable, whether you are new to your position or an ongoing officer with questions about your job.

Workshops are offered both in the morning and the evening on Wednesday, May 30 at National University. The President and Financial morning workshops will be available for Spanish speakers, and Spanish interpretation will be available for all other morning workshops.

A list of classes offered and the registration form will be out soon and will be available for download at www.fourthdistrictpta.org.

Observe the deadline for pre-registration and make sure that any PTA check has two signatures.

Unit and council presidents, please distribute copies of the registration form once it is available, and encourage your officers and committee chairmen to attend. Well-trained leaders feel more comfortable in their jobs, perform better, and strengthen the overall work of PTA in your schools.

At \$10 per person, our workshops are a great value! We look forward to seeing you there.

Don't be caught with last year's list

- Is your current president's name and mailing address (email and phone number) correct on the official records of Fourth District PTA? Remember that California State PTA and National PTA information must be sent to a home address.
- When CAPTA or National PTA sends a mailing regarding current events (such as membership, Reflections, convention registration, or other official business), does it reach the correct person in a timely manner?
- If your president, secretary, or treasurer has been replaced, have you sent a revised officer list to Fourth District PTA?

If you answered "No" to any of these questions, it is time to email an update to: data_4thdistrict@sbcglobal.net.

- Leticia Keeling
 Fourth District PTA Data Administrator

All about elections

By Beverly Berryman
Fourth District PTA Parliamentarian



Over the past few months, as unit parliamentarians have been working to update the bylaws, I have been asked to clarify when a unit should be conducting their elections. There is no generic answer to this question and it is up to the unit to establish the election month, although there are some things to consider.

Per California State PTA Policies, elections must be held on or before the second week of April. If a unit were to hold its election meeting later than the second week in April, then the president-elect would not have time to register for the California State PTA Convention and make travel plans—and even if there were time, the association would possibly incur much higher costs, both for registration and for any necessary plane fare. Article V- Section 9 of the bylaws state that the president-elect is entitled to be a delegate at convention; if the election is too late, this would make it difficult for the president-elect to attend, putting the unit in violation of its bylaws.

Now that you know when your unit should conduct the election, here are some simple steps to help with the election process:

- The president presides over this meeting and the election is held under “New Business.”
- The president calls upon the parliamentarian to read the sections of the bylaws pertaining to nominations and elections.
- The chairman of the nominating committee is called upon to read the report of the nominating committee, which lists the proposed slate of officers.
- The president then restates the slate of nominees and asks each one to stand.
- At this time the president will ask for nominations from the floor.
- Only members of the PTA unit or council may nominate and vote at this annual meeting.
- The president then conducts the election even if he/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. A ballot vote is also conducted when there are two or more nominees for an office.
- This annual meeting is also the time for your unit or council to elect convention delegates, one of whom should be the president-elect.
- The completed officer list should be forwarded to the council and district as soon as possible after the election.

Please refer to the *California State PTA Toolkit* for a full script for the president, as well as procedures for the ballot vote and a contested election.

FOURTH DISTRICT PTA CALENDAR

March

- 12 **Executive Committee Meeting**, 9:30am at Fourth District office
- 15 **CP Roundtable**, 9:30am at Fourth District PTA office; bring membership, mid-year council audits.
- 16 **Sacramento Safari Orientation**, 9:30am at Fountain Valley School District Board Room
- 19 **OC Arts presents Randy Nelson** 10:00am at Segerstrom Hall, Costa Mesa
- 22 **Annual Meeting & Administrator’s Dinner** at The Turnip Rose, CM; 5:30pm General Meeting; 6:15pm Registration & Reception; 6:45pm dinner & program.
- 26-27 **Sacramento Safari**
Embassy Suites, Sacramento

April

- 17 **CAPTA Convention Orientation**, 9:30 a.m., Fountain Valley School District Office, 10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley. For all registered convention delegates to learn about what to expect at convention and pick up materials & Fourth District PTA convention t-shirt.
- 19 **District Board Meeting at OCDE** 9:30am CP Roundtable; 10:30am Executive Board. DUE: Membership envelope orders for 2012-13; membership remittance and district convention fees.
- 27 **Advocacy Roundtable**, 9:30am at Fountain Valley School District Board Room.

Fourth District PTA General Meeting & Administrators Dinner

PTA del Cuarto Distrito

Cena de los Administradores

Thursday, March 22, 2012/ Jueves, 22 de marzo

The Turnip Rose at the Grand Newport Plaza



1901 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa

(Just west on 19th Street at the south end of the 55 Fwy)

(Al este de 19th Street y al sur del final del 55 Fwy)

Cost: \$40 per person / Precio: \$40 por persona

Parking included / con el estacionamiento incluido

5:30 p.m. General Meeting / 5:30 p.m. Junta General

6:15 p.m. Registration and Reception / 6:15 p.m. Registro y Recepcion

6:45 p.m. Program and Dinner / 6:45 p.m. Programa y Cena

Reservation Deadline: March 5/ Fecha limite para reservar, 5 de marzo

Dinner Reservation Form / Forma para reservacion de cena

Name/Nombre _____

Unit/Unidad _____ Council/Consejo _____

Guests and titles/Huespedes y titulos:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

- ❖ Confirmation phone number or e-mail address _____
- ❖ Numero telefonico o direccion de correo electronic _____
- ❖ Please indicate vegetarian plate option _____ (How Many?)
- ❖ Por favor ponga una cruz si necesita ordenar platillos vegetarianos _____ (?Cuantos?)

Enclose a check payable to Fourth District PTA for _____ person(s) @ \$40 each. Includo con esta forma esta el cheque a nombre de Fourth District PTA para el pago de la cena de _____ persons a \$40 cada persona.

Send completed form and check to:

Favor de mandar esta forma con un cheque a nombre de:

**Fourth District PTA, Adminstrators Dinner
1520 Brookhollow Drive, #40
Santa Ana, CA 92705**

- ❖ Questions? Call the Fourth District PTA Office at (714) 241-0495 or contact Judi Kusumoto at banquets@fourthdistrictpta.org
- ❖ ?Preguntas? Llame a la linea telefonica en espanol del Cuarto Distrito de PTA (714) 540-1575.

Midyear membership

By Su Craig, Membership

If you think that one membership drive per year is enough, here are some facts to consider: PTAs that run more than one campaign a year have, on average, **20 percent more members!** Nationwide, approximately 18 percent of PTA members join in January and February.

California State PTA is encouraging units to work toward the state challenge of a five percent increase in membership this year. A midyear membership campaign is a great way to welcome new participants into your PTA. Have membership fliers available at PTA meetings, programs and activities. Consider offering discounts on events such as family movie nights to members who bring their PTA membership cars.

Once your midyear membership campaign is completed, let us know about your accomplishments by completing a brief online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/januarychallenge. Your PTA will be honored on-screen at the 2012 PTA Convention in Anaheim!

Running membership campaign more frequently reminds your members that membership is everyone's business, especially if you weave your campaign efforts into programs, activities, and general PTA work

CAPTA Membership Awards

The last day to remit membership dues to Fourth District PTA to be eligible for awards presented at the California State PTA Convention is **March 15**. Final remittance for year-end awards due to Fourth District PTA is by June 12.

Jamba Juice Program

Register your school in the Jamba Juice School Appreciation Program (information below) to encourage parents, staff and community members to join your PTA.

Jamba Juice has joined forces with National PTA to help you raise money for your school while promoting healthier lifestyles. A keychain-sized School Appreciation Card can be swiped at 742 Jamba Juice stores nationwide. Every time a card is used, **10 percent of the purchase will be donated to your PTA**. Jamba Juice will process the funds and mail checks to participating PTAs every 90 days. PTA officers may go to www.jambajuice.com/pta to register and download information, including a fillable flier. The swipe cards will be shipped for distribution in your community.

Young artists celebrated at Reflections Gallery

By Kathleen Sarangay
Fourth District PTA Reflections Chairman

Fourth District PTA extends special thanks to the talented students who participated in the 2011-2012 Reflections Program, and to their families for their support. More than 250 PTA units at schools throughout Orange County participated in Reflections this year, with a total of 7,409 entries. From more than 300 winning entries received by Fourth District PTA, 24 were selected as "Award of Excellence" winners and advanced to the California State PTA for consideration. CAPTA will select entries to advance to compete at the National PTA level. This year's Fourth District Reflections Gallery and Awards were held at the Orange County Department of Education on February 11. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to OCDE for use of the facility.

Award Recipients

LITERATURE

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary: Blake Britton - Chaparral Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council
Intermediate: Connor Ree - Robinson Elementary - Saddleback Valley Unified Council
Middle: Madeline Barakoff - Ladera Ranch Middle - Capistrano Unified Council
Senior: Suzanne Donahue - Laguna Hills High - Saddleback Valley Unified Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary: Mai Omoto - Macy Elementary - La Habra Council
Georgia Sinacori - Newport Elementary - Harbor Council
Intermediate: Matthew Jacquez - Macy Elementary - La Habra Council
Conrad Walt - Smith Elementary - Huntington Union Council
Middle: Molly McMillen - Thurston Middle - Laguna Beach Unified Council
Abirami Vina - Beechwood Elementary - Fullerton Council
Senior: Veonte Barnes Anaheim High School - Anaheim Secondary Council
Gita Bhattacharya - Troy High School - Fullerton Council

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary: Natalie Salvatierra - Red Hill Elementary - Tustin Unified Out of Council
Joelle Wong - Rose Drive Elementary - Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council
Intermediate: Sofia Torres Copca - Tustin Ranch Elementary - Tustin Unified Out of Council
Adeline Woltkamp - John O. Tynes - Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council
Middle: Evan Ling - Dwyer Middle School - Huntington Union Council
Senior: Alexandra Ashbrook - Yorba Linda High - Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council
Ryan Rogers - Los Alamitos High - Los Alamitos Unified Council

VISUAL ARTS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary: Devon Chang - Alderwood Elementary - Irvine Unified Council
Intermediate: Ryan Kaneko - Huntington Seaciff Elementary - Huntington Union Council
Middle: Jihyun (Noel) Limb - McAuliffe Middle School - Los Alamitos Unified Council
Senior: Faith Angelie Dela Cruz - Esperanza High School - Placentia-Yorba Linda Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary: Morgan Garay - Fairmont Elementary - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Council
Tay Kim - Sunset Lane Elementary - Fullerton Council
Intermediate: Siena Giddens - Trabuco Mesa Elementary - Saddleback Valley Unified Council
Kayla Hodak - Fairmont Elementary - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Council
Middle: Emily Byun - Margaret Landell Elementary - Cypress Council
Claire Chang - Rancho San Joaquin Middle School - Irvine Unified Council
Senior: Clara Baik - Irvine High School - Irvine Unified Council
Jason Nimitjaroon Hsu - Laguna Hills High School - Saddleback Valley Council

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary: Levite Huang - George Patton Elementary - Garden Grove Unified Council

Grace Huh - Margaret Landell Elementary - Cypress Council
Rachel Richins - Melinda Heights Elementary - Saddleback Valley Unified Council
Intermediate: Jake Evans - Red Hill Elementary - Tustin Unified Out of Council
Ruthy Shin - Country Hills Elementary - Brea Council
Zachary Wurtz - George Patton Elementary - Garden Grove Unified Council
Middle: Linda Feregrino - Valadez Academy - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Council
Isabel Hadley - Isaac L. Sowers Middle School - Huntington Union Council
Bryan Lu - Valencia Elementary School - Saddleback Valley Unified Council
Senior: Ellen Hong - Canyon High School - Orange Community Council
Kile Young - Troy High School - Fullerton Council

FILM PRODUCTION

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary: Sienna Cole - Village View Elementary - Huntington Union Council
Intermediate: Sofia Perri - John H. McGaugh Elementary - Los Alamitos Unified Council
Middle/Junior: Austin Fickman - Thurston Middle School - Laguna Beach Council
Senior: David Feinzimer - Sonora High School - La Habra Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary: Jamil McKean - John S. Malcom Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council
Anika Parekh - Oak Creek Elementary - Irvine Unified Council
Intermediate: Aaron Koether - de Portola Elementary - Saddleback Valley Unified Council
Wesley Ruby - Golden Hill - Fullerton Council
Middle: Garrett Elms - Santiago Charter Middle - Orange Community Council
Delaney Marchant - Bernice Ayer Middle School - Capistrano Unified Council
Senior: Kaarad Bombe - Aliso Niguel High School - Capistrano Unified Council
Kim Brucal - University High School - Irvine Unified Council

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary: Mathew Myers - Steve Luther Elementary - Cypress Council
Intermediate: April Cracraft - Ambuehl Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council
Aaron Goclowski - Margaret Landell Elementary - Cypress Council
Middle: Troy Charbonnet - Sierra Vista Middle School - Irvine Unified Council
Isabella Marestaing - Fairmont Elementary - Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council
Senior: Roshni Biswas - Oxford Academy - Anaheim Secondary Council
Skylar Jensen - Edison High School - Huntington Union Council

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary: Jackson Keays - Linda Vista Elementary - Orange Community Council
Intermediate: Raegan Kirby - Robinson Elementary - Saddleback Valley Unified Council
Middle/Junior: Lacey Smith - Lakeside Middle School - Irvine Unified Council
Senior: Angelica Pratt - Los Alamitos High School - Los Alamitos Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary: Tara Afshari - Vista Del Mar - Capistrano Unified Council
Ashlynn Viramontes - Benito Juarez Elementary - Anaheim Elementary Council
Intermediate: Amanda Gao - Margaret Landell Elementary - Cypress Council
Jayden Ruth - Huntington Seaciff Elementary - Huntington Union Council
Middle: Laura Hatanaka - Bernice Ayer Middle - Capistrano Unified Council
Madeline Woo - Dwyer Middle School - Huntington Union Council
Senior: Dinara Gabdrakhmanova - University High School - Irvine Unified Council
Victor Gonzalez - Anaheim High School - Anaheim Secondary Council

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary: Natasha Groves - Moffett Elementary - Huntington Union Council
Zoe Hunter - Golden Hill Elementary - Fullerton Council
Intermediate: Melodie Pugar - Alderwood Elementary - Irvine Unified Council
Koosha Yar - Running Springs Elementary - Orange Community Council
Middle: Katelyn Deines - Hewes Middle School - Tustin Unified Out Of Council
Senior: Jessica Allen - Troy High School - Fullerton Council
Emily Williams - Newport Harbor High School - Harbor Council

PHOTOGRAPHY

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary: Troy Leigber - Valencia Elementary - Saddleback Valley Unified Council
Intermediate: Ava Bachelder - Harold Ambehel Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council
Middle: Jaden Johnson - Brea Junior High - Brea Council
Senior: Kacie Kline - Corona del Mar High School Harbor Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary: Rio Schultz - Linda Vista Elementary - Orange Community Council
Christina Veski - Top Of The World Elementary - Laguna Beach Unified Council
Intermediate: Luke Heine - Huntington Seaciff Elementary - Huntington Union Council
Gianna Longo - Santiago Elementary - Saddleback Valley Unified Council
Middle: Katie Isola - Bernice Ayer Middle - Capistrano Unified Council
Sierra Matthews - Lexington Junior High School - Anaheim Secondary Council
Senior: Demi Boxley - Canyon High School - Orange Community Council
Sheridan Schwartz - El Dorado High School - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Council

(Continued on page 6)



English learners: Where do we shine the light?

By William M. Habermehl, Orange County Superintendent of Schools



In the past decade, the achievement gap of English Learners (ELs) in the United States has received considerable attention. The achievement gap refers to the disparity measured by test scores or graduation rates between different groups of students. Under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, these groups are based on racial or ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic status, student disability, or English language proficiency. In Orange County, while the test scores for non-native English speakers continue to rise and be above state averages, a gap persists between ELs and monolingual English speakers.

While shining a light on the achievement gap has drawn resources and attention to disparities in performance, one downside is a tendency for stakeholders to point fingers in search of causes. Attention on who is to blame hinders efforts to ensure that all students achieve equal outcomes. Instead, educators, parents, and community members must work locally and collaboratively with a focus on promising practices that serve all of our children. These practices range from knowing our students and examining data to professional development and leadership.

In terms of knowing our students, ELs are a diverse and often misunderstood group. Data shows that 75% of ELs are born in the United States, and while three-quarters of ELs speak Spanish at home, ELs speak more than 150 different languages. This diversity requires targeted solutions. According to prominent researcher Laurie Olsen, newcomers have different instructional needs than Long-Term English Learners (LTELs), students who are typically born in the United States but speak a language

other than English at home, and have been struggling academically for a number of years.

Fortunately, certain best practices have demonstrated effectiveness for ELs. The California Department of Education's recent publication, "Improving Education for English Learners: Research-Based Approaches," details such promising practices as bilingual and dual language immersion programs, English Language Development (ELD), and sheltered content instruction, to name a few.

Comprehensive professional development is necessary to meet the specific needs of ELs. For instance, Orange County Department of Education's "Leadership for EL Success" program consists of five modules ranging from knowing our EL students to leadership and infrastructure. Such models of professional development move beyond simply addressing classroom strategies to weaving research and practice into a facilitated series that provides local leaders with the opportunity to support their schools in the area of English language development.

Shared leadership is critical if we are to improve outcomes for ELs. Teachers and principals, students and parents, county and state educators, and business and community members with the courage and discipline to work together will ultimately shine the light on solutions that best serve our children.



For more information, visit www.ocde.us/SSI/Pages/Secondary-School-Leadership-for-English-Learner-Success.aspx or contact Val Callet, Services for English Learners Coordinator, at 714-966-4159.

(REFLECTIONS: Continued from page 5)

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary: Benjamin Poland - Rossmoor Elementary - Los Alamitos Council
Hannah Torres - Golden Hill Elementary - Fullerton Council
Intermediate: Jack Byers IV Buena Terra Elementary - Buena Park Council
Dylan Young - Arovista Elementary - Brea Council
Middle: Kennedy Vega - McAuliffe Middle - Los Alamitos Council
Megan Yamane - Laguna Road Elementary - Fullerton Council
Senior: Dana Lansigan - Irvine High School - Irvine Unified Council
Miguel Velazquez - Anaheim High School - Anaheim Secondary Council

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary: Ashley Chu - Plaza Vista Elementary - Irvine Unified Council
Intermediate: Mia Jativa - Woodsboro Elementary School - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Council
Middle: Gaurav Mishra - Mariposa Elementary - Brea Council
Senior: Kasia Kosmala-Dahlbeck - San Clemente High - Capistrano Unified Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary: Payton Moore - Fred Moiola Elementary - Huntington Union Council
Mandy Mui - Chaparral Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council
Intermediate: Benny Blackstone - Eastbluff Elementary - Harbor Council
Jade Nicoletti - El Morro Elementary - Laguna Beach Council
Middle: Noah Myers - Buena Terra Elementary - Buena Park Council
Jenni Rudolph - Isaac L. Sowers Middle School - Huntington Union Council
Senior: Joelle Reyes - Valencia High School - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Council
Derrick Wong - Northwood High School - Irvine Unified Council

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary: Sophia Berro - J.H. McGaugh Elementary - Los Alamitos Council
Avery Wright - Running Springs Elementary Orange Community Council
Intermediate: Emily Frazier - Tustin Ranch Elementary - Tustin Unified Out of Council
Sirui Zhou - Foothill Ranch Elementary - Saddleback Valley Unified Council
Middle: Alexander Flavell - Kraemer Middle School - Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council
Samantha Ree - College Park Elementary - Irvine Unified Council
Senior: Matine Azadian - Canyon High School - Orange Community Council
Jared Eckenweiler - Corona Del Mar High - Harbor Council

The Second Family: Bridging the gap with your adolescent

By Barb Shangraw
VP Parent & Community Issues

We know that adolescents have their primary family or primary care giver. But there is a second group of people that have a lot of influence—the second family. The second family consists of intimate friends where feelings are expressed and affirmed, and the “crowd” which is the extended family of friends where interests, attitudes and direction for life take place. Sometimes we find that the second family is influencing our child in a way that we don’t approve.

How do you bridge the gap between primary and secondary family? There are numerous ways to do so. One, establish a relationship with

your child. Two, embrace the second family and show an interest that is not antagonistic. Three, balance between empathy and expectation with understanding and support. Then get up to speed—talk about their world and learn their vocabulary. You need to connect with the child to increase your knowledge and understanding of the child to make intervention possible. Avoid taking the child’s behavior personally—discover what really is going on. Listen so that you can discover what is your part in the behavioral dance, and change the dance.

Interaction, though difficult, leads to a higher ground. Avoid inaction and denial. Sometimes punishment is necessary (set limits). Kids will stay connected at least until they obtain what they want.

Based on The Second Family by Dr. Ron Taffel with Melinda Blau.

Young Authors’ Faire

By Debi Grant
Cultural Arts Committee

Fourth District PTA joins the Orange County Department of Education in celebrating the writing efforts of K-8 students at the 11th Annual Young Authors’ Faire, 8 a.m. – noon on Saturday, May 19, at OCDE, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa.

The Faire recognizes and encourage young writers and illustrators; it is not a competition. Each school will receive registration information from OCDE. PTA leaders are encouraged to talk to their teachers and principals about supporting this important student recognition event. Important deadlines:

- April 18 – For schools to register with “An Intent to Participate.”
- May 11 – Schools may submit up to ten entries.

Fourth District PTA will host a booth at the Faire. Please contact Debi Grant at if you are interested in helping on the day of the Faire: veryspecialarts@fourthdistrictpta.org.

For more information about the Young Authors’ Faire, contact: Joan Perez, OCDE Language Arts Coordinator, (714) 966-4046; jperez@ocde.us; or <http://ocde.us/yaf>.

Note to Nominating Committees

Here is a quote from California State PTA President Carol Kocivar about the work all of us do in PTA:

"We do this not to be somebody, but to do something."

As you consider leaders for your PTA board, I hope you focus on people who want to do meaningful things. Find the right person for each job and persuade her or him to accept the nomination. Your task is not to fill in slots, but rather to set up the future success of your PTA. Good luck!

- Celia Jaffe
Fourth District PTA President

PTA Secretaries

Pobody’s Nerfect

By Gisela Meier, Fourth District PTA Secretary



Nobody is perfect. Sometimes even PTA secretaries make mistakes.

But don’t worry. Mistakes in your minutes can be corrected. To do so, please use the following procedure.

Every meeting agenda should include approval of minutes from the preceding meeting. Minutes may only be approved by the group that had the meeting. The association approves the association minutes and the executive board approves the executive minutes.

Meeting participants should be given a few minutes to look over the minutes, especially the motions that were made. If there are no corrections, note in the current minutes that the minutes of the [date] meeting were approved as presented.

At a large meeting, minutes may be reviewed by an appointed committee of three members who were present at the previous meeting. The committee members must sign their names at the end of the master copy of the minutes to signify their approval.

If there is a correction, it must be stated openly at the meeting. Describe the correction in your current minutes and state that the minutes were approved as corrected.

The next step is to go to the previous minutes, which should be pasted in a Secretary’s Book (available at the Fourth District PTA office). Using a red ink pen, circle the incorrect words and write the correction in the margin. Date and initial the correction.

Do not erase or strike out words when correcting the minutes. Do not correct and reprint a computer-generated copy.

Welcome to the world of advocacy!

By Kim Anderson, Vice President of Advocacy

Our Children, Our Future – Education Funding Initiative Update

The campaign has decided to go with the alternate version of this California State PTA-supported initiative. It still raises the same amount of money (\$10 billion per year for the next 12 years), and still goes to restore programs for kids, but would allocate 30% per year for the first four years to pay down school bond debt, thus providing some relief to the General Fund.

Signature gathering to get this qualified for the November 2012 ballot will begin as soon as we get the petitions, which are expected at the end of February. CAPTA has committed to gathering 100,000 signatures and our Fourth District PTA goal is 15,000. When we break that down for our 21 councils, it can be done, considering that we have about 140,000 PTA members in our district. Most of these signatures will come from friends and family networks, plus some fun events. GroundWorks (the professional grassroots organization) has opened an Irvine office and hired two staff members to support our efforts.

Want to help and be part of this transformational change for kids? Please email me at advocacy@fourthdistrictpta.org or call our office at (714) 241-0495. See

Governor Brown's Proposed Budget

This budget is extremely complex; much is still being analyzed and evaluated for better understanding. For schools, the funding for the 2012-13 school year would be essentially flat if the governor's initiative passes (since he is proposing to pay down some of the monies owed to schools), but there would be "trigger cuts" of \$4.8 billion to schools if it doesn't.

The governor also proposes dramatic changes to the way schools are funded:

- Eliminates all categorical funding except for special education, school nutrition, and after-school programs. Funding would be distributed to school districts through a weighted student formula phased in over five years, with additional funding for English Language Learner and low-income students.
- Replaces existing K-14 mandate system with a new block grant.
- Doesn't provide funding for the new Transitional Kindergarten program, although the new age requirements for school admission remain.
- Eliminates school transportation funding for both regular and special education students.

The governor's proposal is just the starting point of the budget process,

which kicks into high gear once the governor releases his mid-May budget revision, which is based upon updated revenue estimates.

For an excellent overview of the budget proposal and details of the governor's proposed initiative, please see our February Advocacy Communicator at www.fourthdistrictpta.org.

Last chance! Sacramento Safari is the place to be on March 26 & 27

YOU should be the expert everyone turns to for information on the latest state budget proposal, ballot initiatives, and education funding reform! The best way to accomplish that goal is to attend Sacramento Safari on Monday, March 26 – Tuesday, March 27. This is a great opportunity to hear first-hand from experts about those education issues you read about in newspapers and online. You will have the opportunity to advocate directly to Orange County assembly members and senators. The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Committee is working hard to provide you with two days of outstanding speakers, educational materials, leadership and direction for legislator visits, hotel accommodations, and meals. Invited speakers include:

***Molly Munger** – principal author of *Our Children, Our Future Initiative*; **Mac Taylor**, California State Legislative Analyst; **Sue Burr**, Director, Executive Director - California State Board of Education; **Tom Torlakson**, California Superintendent of Public Instruction; **Deb Sigman**, California Department of Education; Assembly Member **Julia Brownley**; **Rick Simpson**, Deputy Chief of Staff to Assembly Speaker John Perez; **John Fensterwald**, Co-editor of *Thoughts on Public Education*; **Carol Kocivar**, California State PTA President; **Patty Scripser**, CAPTA Director of Legislation; **Paul Richman**, CAPTA Executive Director.*

Sacramento Safari Conference Details

Hotel: \$265 double occupancy; \$365 single
Included: One night, Embassy Suites, Sacramento; lunch & dinner Monday; breakfast & lunch Tuesday; conference materials.
Not included: Airfare, ground transportation, parking, dinner Tuesday
Orientation: 9:30am Friday, March 16, Fountain Valley School District Board Room; all participants should attend.
Register by March 2: fourthdistrictpta.org

SAVED FOR LEG CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

► **Want some help explaining this initiative to your unit or council? Fourth District Advocacy Team representatives are available to address your meeting! Contact Shereen Walter at speakers@fourthdistrictpta.org.**

California State PTA Convention

By Shereen Walter, Convention Chairman

The primary purpose of PTA Convention is to conduct the business of our organization. If this doesn't sound exciting enough for you, PTA convention is also loaded with other fun and exciting activities. There are informative workshops, exhibition booths, opportunities to meet State and National PTA officers, motivating speakers, student entertainment, and much more!

Fourth District PTA delegates are invited to attend the District Dinner on Thursday night at the Anaheim Resort and Spa. This 60's theme dinner, including a song or lyric performed by each council, is not to be missed.

Just to give you a few of the highlights of convention, I have picked out a few events that are sure to please:

Wednesday

EdSource Special Event – Get the latest analysis of the impact of the state's fiscal crisis on schools from leading policy experts.

Meet the CA State PTA Board of Directors (BOD) and Town Hall Meeting with the National PTA President – Take an opportunity to stop by and meet the BOD at the PTA Booth or come and share ideas with Betsy Landers, the National PTA President.

Speaker Mike Robbins – Come get inspired by Mike Robbins, author of two bestselling books, *Focus on the Good Stuff* and *Be Yourself, Everyone Else is Taken*. Mike focuses on inspiring and motivating others by appreciating them.

Fourth District PTA Hospitality Suite – Drop in for a chance to unwind and meet other delegates from Fourth District in our Hospitality Suite. Watch for Hospitality Suite hours in your convention orientation handouts!

Thursday

Membership Magic Idea Exchange – Stop by the PTA Booth and meet with the Membership Commission and other PTAs to share stories, successes and concerns about PTA membership.

Speaker Rosalind Wiseman – Come hear from this internationally recognized expert on children, teens, parenting, bullying, social justice and ethical leadership. Besides her "Ask Rosalind" column in *Family Circle* magazine, she is the author of *Queen Bees and Wannabes*, the basis for the movie *Mean Girls*.

PTA Power Fourth District Dinner – Come join us at this fun and exciting 60's themed dinner, filled with songs and lyrics from our PTA Councils. Pull out your old bell-bottoms and beads while you enjoy meeting other delegates from your district.

Fourth District
PTA
everychild.onevoice®

Fourth District Convention Dinner

PTA Power

**Fourth District PTA
invites you to join us as we relive
the fun of the 60s!**

Location: Anaheim Hilton Resort & Spa

Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012

Time: Registration at 7:15 pm
Dinner and Fun at 7:45 pm

Cost: \$40

Tickets can be purchased during the online State PTA Convention Registration process at www.capta.org or directly through 4th District PTA. Deadline April 15

Dinner Attendee(s) _____

Unit _____ Council _____

Confirmation email address: _____

Please indicate vegetarian plate options _____ (how many?)

Wear your 60s attire!

Each Council will present a short limerick or song, so be creative!

GROOVY

Enclosed is a check payable to Fourth District PTA
For ____ person(s) @ \$40 each
Send completed form and check to:
Fourth District PTA, Convention Dinner
1520 Brookhollow Drive, #40
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Questions? Call the 4th District office 714-241-0495

Friday

Arts Advocacy Luncheon – Enjoy lunch and a presentation by Larry Powell, a long-time champion of arts education and Fresno County School Superintendent as we also honor our Reflections winners.

Ask Finance – Stop by to ask members of the Finance Commission those burning Finance or Treasurer's questions you have been saving!

Speaker Mark Yudof – Come hear from the President of our 10-campus University of California system. Yudof is a distinguished authority on constitutional law, freedom of expression, and education law.

Disneyland – Spend the night under the stars at Disneyland with your new friends from PTA convention.

Saturday

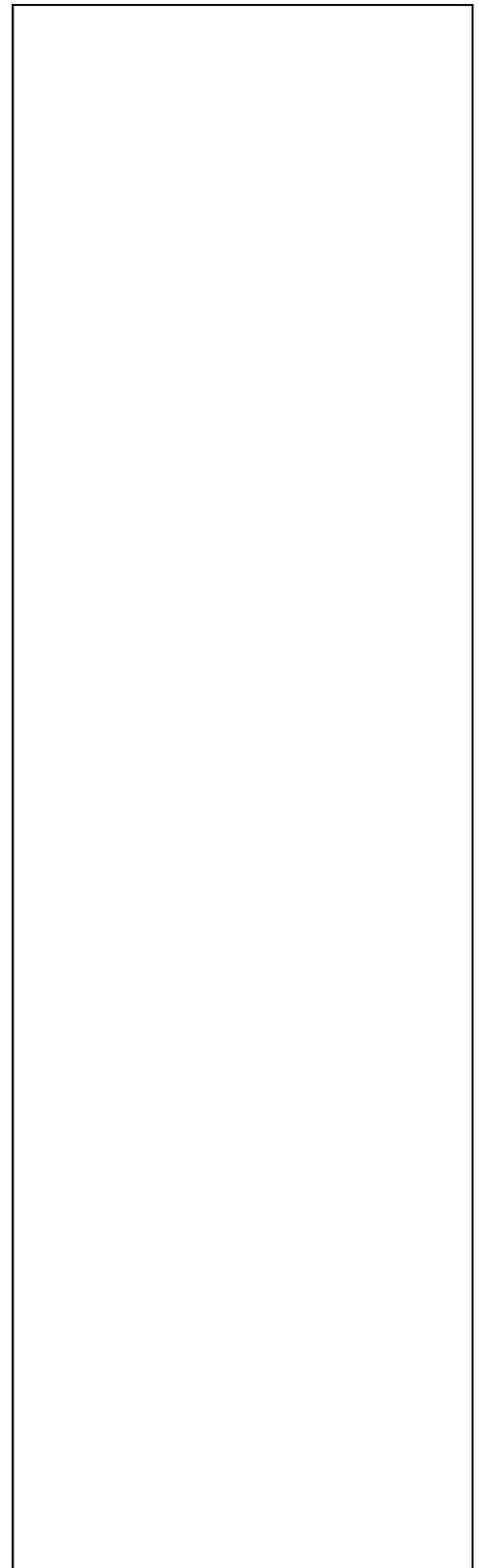
Teacher of the Year – Every year, we hear from the California Teacher of the Year at the CAPTA Convention. It is always humbling and exciting to hear from these winners about their views on education and how they make a difference in the lives of their students.

**CAPTA Convention Orientation, 9:30 a.m., April 17,
Fountain Valley School District Office
10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley**



Mensaje de la Presidenta

Por Celia Jaffe



**Translation by
After School Spanish Program
909-319-9796**



2012 California State PTA Convention

May 9 – May 12, 2012

Anaheim Hilton Resort & Spa and Anaheim Convention Center

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 1 – Feb 29	Due date for registration to be entered into “Behind the Scenes” opportunity drawing.
Feb 1– March 31	Due date for Early Bird registration via online/mail.
Feb 1– April 20	Online hotel reservations open to all attendees. Contact hotels directly for reservations after April 20.
April 15	Last day registration company can receive mail-in registration.
April 1 – April 30	Registration fee increases.
April 17	Fourth District PTA convention delegate orientation
April 27	Last date for hotel reservation refund
April 30	Online registration closes; no registration between May 1 and May 7
May 8 - May 12	On-site registration open.
May 10	Fourth District PTA Convention Dinner



1520 Brookhollow Dr., #40
Santa Ana, CA 92705-5449

Fourth District
PTA[®]