

President's Message

Lessons to learn from Jan Harp Domene

by Celia Jaffe



The PTA community was stunned recently by the passing of Jan Domene, former California State PTA and National PTA president. Living in Anaheim since childhood, Jan grew to national prominence through her volunteer work and leadership in PTA. At her memorial service, stories of her life were shared by family, State and National PTA leaders, Anaheim Union High School District Superintendent Elizabeth Novack, and State Senator Lou Correa. Each presented anecdotes to illustrate Jan's dedication, warmth, and humor.

As I sat listening in that overflowing church, I thought about the ways all of us in PTA share some of the same traits and experiences. We have made lasting friendships with fellow volunteers, drawn together by our shared dedication to children and service to others. PTA helps us to become vital parts of the wider world, learn about issues, meet people of influence, and encounter other organizations within our community. And we all hope to make a difference through our efforts. Examples from Jan's life ran the gamut from grand (working to move California State PTA headquarters to Sacramento) to humble (rearranging a buffet line to feed people faster).

Besides finding some commonality with Jan's life in listening to the tributes to her, I also heard several life lessons and words of wisdom. "Get involved!" was what her husband, Greg Domene, said was the lesson of his wife's life.

This is the PTA way: Get involved to help out. Get involved to have a stronger link with your child's education. Get involved when you see a problem – suggest a solution and then make it work.

Another lesson was, "Think big." Jan was starting a drive to raise money for a pool at her local high school. She suggested large-scale plans and then worked to make them reality. It takes vision and courage to consider something new, look past what is usually done, and to figure out a better plan.

The last and most important of Jan's life lessons was to cherish our loved ones every day. Given all her commitments, it was amazing to hear from her children and other family members how she was part of all family gatherings, and talked with people daily. None of us knows how much time we have on this earth, so I hope we all dedicate time to spend with our precious ones and "keep first things first."

California State PTA is thinking big by bringing the considerable volunteer efforts and talents of PTA to support the **Our Children, Our Future** ballot initiative.

I hope you have learned about this initiative already. If not, please contact Kim Anderson at advocacy@fourthdistrictpta.org, visit www.ourchildrenourfuture2012.com, or go to our Fourth District PTA website at www.fourthdistrictpta.org. Get involved!



Fourth District
PTA®
everychild.one voice.



*Artículos en español—
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"Orange Leaves, Fourth District PTA, CCPTS."

Orange Leaves is published nine times per year.

Fourth District PTA comprises 20 councils in Orange County and over 400 unit PTAs.

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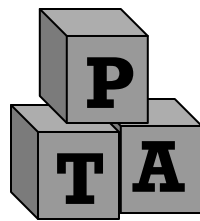
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Financial transition & training

Basics

Tips from your treasurer

By Julie Redmond, Fourth District PTA Treasurer

This is a busy time for most units and councils – elections are held and audits are adopted. This is also a good time to begin thinking about transitioning your position to the person who will take your place in the next school year. To start, it is important to remember how you felt when you were first elected into the position. For some of you, it may have been a refresher course, but for most, it was the first time you held a position of this type. Assure your replacement that while the job is important, staying on top of it and doing everything necessary on a regular basis is the best way to avoid becoming overwhelmed.

- ✓ Transition
- ✓ Charitable Trust #
- ✓ Training

This year, treasurers have been faced with all types of new financial reporting requirements, but we made it! I hope all of you applied for your Charitable Trust Number and are now waiting for a response from the Attorney General's office. If it has been longer than three months since you applied for your number, please let your council treasurer know about the delay. Fourth District PTA will work with your council treasurer to determine the status of your application. All units and councils must have their Charitable Trust Numbers by December 31, 2012 – no exceptions.

Don't forget that the annual California State PTA convention is in Anaheim this year, so it is virtually in our backyard. The financial training available to officers at convention is second to none. For those unable to attend convention, financial training is also available at the Fourth District PTA Training Workshops being held on May 30 in Costa Mesa.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

OC STEM event for youth

By Fran Sdao, Fourth District PTA VP of Education



Orange County students will have an opportunity to explore exciting careers, meet industry experts, and make college connections at the STEM and Digital Media Arts Showcase at the OC Youth Expo, April 13-15, at the Orange County Fair and Event Center, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa. The event is free. Go to <http://vitallinkoc.org/youth/special-programs> for complete details.

The program is sponsored by Vital Link, an organization that works to link business and education to prepare students for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Other sponsors include the Orange County Department of Education, the Orange County Workforce Investment Board, and the international Electrical and Electronics Engineering Association.

More information about STEM programs and efforts may be found at the Orange County STEM Initiative website at <http://ocstem.org/>.

A remarkable journey

Profile of a PTA leader: Alejandra Sobrera

By Laura Anaya de Zuchovicki
Fourth District PTA Leadership Committee

Imagine moving to a new city, far away from your family and friends; you are pregnant, and also have a another child, a kindergartener. You have to leave your native land due to a financial crisis, and go to another country where you do not know the language or the customs.

This was the situation that Alejandra Sobrera and her family had to face ten years ago when they left Uruguay and relocated to Anaheim, California. Alejandra, who had been pursuing a degree in business administration, had to leave her education, pack her bags, say goodbye, and start traveling north on an uncertain adventure, hoping to provide a better future for her young family.



The family's arrival in the USA was brutal. Alejandra had taken some English courses, but it was impossible for her to follow a conversation, or even order food at the market. Alejandra felt very lonely, profoundly sad, and wished to go back to her country. Her son, Alejandro Danko, was trying to adjust to the American school system. He was a kindergartener in Uruguay, where they use a different school calendar; in America, he was placed as a first-grader. Alejandro cried with frustration because he couldn't communicate and couldn't understand what he was being taught. He became sad and withdrawn. Alejandra, being a good mother, figured out what was wrong: If she was feeling scared and sad, her poor son must be terrified. So she set her sadness aside and went to look for help at her son's school.



Fortunately, at her son's school, she found a community liaison – a woman who would remain her friend, and who would be the key to her adjustment to the American educational system. This woman was like a mother to all the Latino families, always making recommendations and offering words of help for any problem. She asked Alejandra to come and supervise her son and his classmates while they used the computer to learn English. Alejandra was thrilled with her new assignment because her presence in those computer sessions gave her son the strength to adjust. She was also able to increase her English vocabulary while helping the students use the computer program. The school administration observed this quiet mom who came to school very diligently and responsibly; they asked her to get involved in PTA so she could help in other school projects.

By this time, Alejandra had given birth to her second child, Tabaré Aarón, who, unfortunately, was born with a severe case of epilepsy. For the first two years of his life, he had recurrent seizures that damaged his

(Continued on page 5)

FOURTH DISTRICT PTA CALENDAR

April

- 1 **DUE:** Fourth District PTA Award applications (application forms are in the directory and on the web-site).
- 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: *Ron Bennett*

May

- 1 **DUE:** Annual Historians Reports from Councils
- 9-12 **CAPTA Convention, Anaheim** Anaheim Convention Center; register online at www.capta.org
- 23 **CP Roundtable,** 9:30am at Fourth District PTA office.
- 24 **Executive Committee Meeting,** 9:30am at Fourth District office
- 28 *Fourth District PTA office closed for Memorial Day Holiday*
- 30 Fourth District PTA Spring Training Workshops at National University, Costa Mesa; morning & evening

Spring PTA Workshops Wednesday, May 30th, 2012



National University

3390 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa

Morning Session: 8:30 am - 12:15 pm

Evening Session: 5:45 pm - 9:15 pm



Registration Fee: \$10 per person (no refunds)

Registration Deadline: May 22

After May 22, register on site.

Hand-outs may not be available for all on-site registrants.

Complete the form below and mail it along with a check payable to:

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

Sorry, no childcare provided

One form per person, please. Print clearly & fill out completely. Keep top portion; return bottom with payment.



NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

UNIT/SCHOOL: _____ COUNCIL/SCHOOL DISTRICT: _____

Select morning or evening & mark your workshop(s) below.

Morning: Registration at 8:30 am & classes begin 9:00 am

Double Session: Basics for Presidents (for President & Executive Vice President)
9:00-12:15 Financial Procedures (for financial officers)

Single Session: Choose one or two classes

9:00-10:30 am Membership (the heart of PTA) Reflections (PTA's arts recognition program)
 Secretary (minutes/legal records of PTA) Auditor (how to conduct a PTA audit)

10:45 am -12:15 pm

Spanish-speaking attendees:

Please see other side of this sheet for Spanish language offerings.

Evening: Registration at 5:45 pm & classes begin 6:00 pm

Double Session: Basics for Presidents (for President & Executive Vice President)
6:00-9:15 pm Financial Procedures (for financial officers)

Single Session: Choose one or two classes:

6:00-7:30 pm Care and keeping of Volunteers Membership (the heart of PTA)
 Parliamentarian/Bylaws Secretary
 Auditor Reflections (PTA's arts recognition program)
 PTA Role in Elections, Candidate Forums, and Ballot Measures

7:45-9:15 pm

Office Use Only:

Date received _____

Cash _____ Check _____ Check # _____ PTA Personal: _____

Elections are complete. . . Now what?

By Bev Berryman, Fourth District PTA Parliamentarian

Don't wait to appoint your parliamentarian. Now that the unit and council elections are complete, it is a great time to add the finishing touches to your board-elect. The parliamentarian is appointed by the president-elect and subject to the ratification of the executive board. This position is a very important member of the team and can help in many ways.

What is a parliamentarian?

- A parliamentarian is a consultant to the president;
- The role of parliamentarian is as advisor and consultant, since parliamentary procedure gives the chair alone the power to rule on questions of order or to answer parliamentary inquiries. The parliamentarian can only speak to the group on such matters if the president makes such a request.

The parliamentarian shall:

- Attend all meetings of the association and of the executive board, and give necessary advice in parliamentary procedure when requested;
- Call the first meeting of the nominating committee, conduct the election of its chairman, and give instructions in procedure. The parliamentarian may be contacted for additional information, if needed, but will attend meetings of the nominating committee only if

elected to serve as a member of the committee;

- Chair the bylaws committee, review bylaws and standing rules annually, and update as necessary;
- Be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership including the right to make motions, debate, and vote.

The parliamentarian can assist the president in the following ways:

- Study PTA bylaws and standing rules, Robert's Rules of Order, and other parliamentary resources;
- Advise the president, executive board, and members how to use parliamentary procedure;
- Listen carefully to all meeting proceedings;
- Keep a list of members wishing to speak to an issue;
- Answer parliamentary questions as needed.

As a member of your leadership team, your parliamentarian plays a critical role in helping to keep order at meetings, ensure that all are members are fairly heard, and make certain that the association maintains proper procedures.



...Profile of a PTA leader: Alejandra Sobrera

(Continued from page 3)

brain. But this situation did not break Alejandra's fighting spirit. She took advantage of her PTA connections and managed to have her son placed in a program offered by UCLA, where they were able to control Tabaré Aarón's medical problems. With this new development in her life, Alejandra got involved in the school's Special Education programs so she could be aware of what was happening with her youngest son at school.

Alejandra continued her PTA work, serving in several board positions at the different school sites her sons attended, always working diligently for the children's well-being. She believes that no one in PTA is irreplaceable, that we need to continue looking for new leaders who will implement changes and make improvements. To her surprise, she discovered that the Latino community is very diverse, and she feels it is a mistake to try to label this diverse community as one culture. At her PTA meetings, Alejandra asks that everyone respects and understands one another. She says that this has been her biggest challenge because not only has she had to learn, respect, and love the customs and culture of her new country, but she also had to learn about the various customs and culture within her Latino community "so that they don't get offended by [her] Uruguayan ways."

Alejandra is very proud of her work as a PTA volunteer, and is now the treasurer for her PTA council. She feels that through PTA work, she is giving back to the community, as a repayment of all that she has received in the last ten years.

Keep up the good PTA work, Alejandra, as you are an inspiration for all our PTA members!





Celebrating 20 years of youth development

By William M. Habermehl, Orange County Superintendent of Schools



Since 1992, the Orange County Friday Night Live Partnership (OCFNLP) has been empowering youth to make healthy decisions, to be a positive influence amongst their peers, and to be active citizens. The program provides opportunities for positive and healthy youth development by engaging kids as active leaders and resources in their communities. With this mission, youth throughout the county are taking a leadership role to address alcohol, drugs, violence, and other issues of concern in their schools and communities.

The youth development program takes the form of a club or chapter on school campuses, and in community-based, faith-based, and other youth serving organizations. Each chapter consists of a group of young people and an adult advisor. Chapter members develop meeting agendas and conduct their own meetings. The youth identify, plan, and execute school and community projects. The OCFNLP program provides leadership development training, technical assistance, and project support.

While the name of the program might imply activities taking place on Friday night, the significance of the name is far more meaningful. In 1984, the State of California identified Friday as the night of the week when youth are more at risk to use alcohol and other drugs. Friday Night Live (FNL) was initiated as a pilot program dedicated to reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by teen motorists driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

The pilot program incorporated youth-led high school activities. The outcomes were so successful that in 1988 a statewide office, California Friday Night Live Partnership (CFNLP), was established to assist counties in implementing the program for high school students. Today, the program has evolved to engage youth in meaningful activities and opportunities to develop competencies and skills that prepare them for work and adult life, helping them build relationships and community connections. Friday Night Live programs are currently implemented in 54 of the 58 counties in California.

The success of FNL, along with prevention and intervention research data, led to two additional program components. Club Live (CL) for middle/junior high schools and Friday Night Live Kids (FNL Kids) for elementary schools were developed to introduce a prevention framework and leadership skill development. There are cur-

rently 19 FNL, 6 CL, and 3 FNL Kids programs in Orange County, serving over 500 youth.

On an annual basis, OCFNLP surveys youth participants to evaluate program effectiveness. In June of 2011, 84 percent of chapter members reported the FNL/CL program helps them make a difference and feel more connected to their communities, and 91 percent of FNL and 83 percent of CL members reported that the program provides them with opportunities to build relationships with their peers, make friends, and interact with adults in a meaningful way.

OCFNLP is funded by the County of Orange Health Care Agency, Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team. For additional information, contact Elke Petras, Orange County Department of Education Program Manager, at 714-966-4458 or epetras@ocde.us.

Additional Resources:

Orange County Friday Night Live Partnership
www.ocde.us/ocfnlp

California Friday Night Live Partnership
www.fridaynightlive.org

Time to get sweaty!

By Barb Shangraw
VP Parent & Community Issues



Are you looking for some fitness information for your unit? Try www.getswatty.com.

This website is designed for kids, and it is free! Kids can register to win points which they can use to collect prizes. There are videos – made by kids for kids – that show children how to do various exercises. There are tips on healthy eating. There are suggestions for working exercise into your routine—even things you can do during commercials while watching TV.

Teachers can use the website. It requires no preparation work tools for them to get the kids in the classroom moving. There are new exercises every day. The Orange County Department of Education is supporting this health and wellness program and they are testing it in classrooms now.

Only 38-39 percent of our children in Orange County pass the fitness test. A target rate of passage is 70-80 percent. *Getswatty.com* is an easy way to support health and wellness for our kids.

Arts Education Discussion recap

Bringing arts education back into California's public schools

By Shanin Ziemer, Cultural Arts Chairman

Those who attended our second annual *Arts Education Discussion* came away with tools to help them work successfully with their schools to strengthen their commitment to arts education.

Our first speaker was Pat Wayne, Deputy Director of Arts Orange County. Pat discussed the importance of soft advocacy, which is advocacy through positive messaging, without confrontation. It is important when speaking to your school board or administrators to tell them good news about what your schools are doing to support the arts, and to tell them why you care about the arts with personal stories as well. The soft advocacy part is asking them to keep supporting the arts, or asking for support for a specific program. She also stressed the importance of framing the debate: "He who frames the issue wins the issue." She said there are three important issue "frames" we need to use when discussing arts education:

1. We used to have the arts in our public schools. We are asking for the arts to *return* to the classroom – not anything new and revolutionary. We just want to get back what we lost.
2. If our goal is to graduate students that are "college and career ready," those students will need the skills learned through the arts. Students with a complete and rich education that includes the arts are better innovators, more creative thinkers, effective problem solvers, skilled collaborators, confi-

dent communicators, and complex multi-taskers. These students will be successful in college and will be stand-out employees.

3. The arts aren't just for the creative or at-risk student. The arts benefit every student.



Our second speaker was Jim Thomas, Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Coordinator for the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE). Jim discussed the new Common Core Standards and the new state testing format starting in 2014. The new tests will be project-based and require collaboration. They will be looking for the four "C's" of education: Creativity and Innovation; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Communication; and Collaboration. Jim discussed OCDE resources available to school districts to help them strengthen their commitment to the arts as part of the core curriculum, including assistance in developing a strategic plan for an arts curriculum, and professional development for administrators and teachers. He ended with a quote from former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, "Paradoxically, we're embracing standardized tests just when the new economy is eliminating standardized jobs."

We also heard from California State PTA Arts Education Chairman Mary Galuska, who emphasized CAPTA's support for a complete curriculum for every student, including the arts. And finally, Fourth District Vice President of Education Fran Sdao discussed the *Our Children/Our Future* ballot initiative, and how the funding from that measure could help us bring back the arts.

It was an exciting morning, and if you are interested in learning more about any of these topics, please contact me at cultural-arts@fourthdistrictpta.org.

Membership basics

By Su Craig, Membership VP



Just a reminder that membership is available throughout the school year. Continue your membership drives!

How to handle membership remittances:

What happens when unremitted funds are found after year-end? Since unremitted funds are generally per capita and "monies not belonging to the unit," that money must be forwarded even though it is late and the reporting period for the membership year has ended. Upon discovery of the error, write the necessary check promptly and forward through channels with a written explanation for the oversight on the Remittance Form.

The year-end financial report, the audit, and the current treasurer's report should clearly reflect and explain the correction.

How can a PTA avoid errors?

All membership dues received at any level of PTA should be recorded in every financial report (monthly treasurer's reports, financial secretary's reports, annual financial reports, and budget-to-actual reports throughout the year) and should be separated into "monies belonging to the unit" and "monies not belonging to the unit."

The membership vice president/chairman should report at every meeting and reconcile the member-

ship records with the records of the financial officers on a monthly basis.

Order membership envelopes now!

California State PTA has redesigned the membership envelope! The new envelope has colored printing, three surfaces for PTA marketing and will be available this May. Envelopes are \$15 per box of 500. Orders forms will be available soon. Please write the check to your council. Councils, please remit for all unit orders at one time.

We will place the order for envelopes with CAPTA at the end of April. Once this order has been placed, additional envelopes will be ordered on an as-paid/as-needed basis.

Our Children, Our Future**Could California's schools use a billion dollars?**

By Kim Anderson, Fourth District PTA Vice President of Advocacy

QUESTION:

How can our Orange County schools get an additional almost *half a billion dollars* in 2013-14, with an increasing amount every year for 12 years, culminating in *one billion dollars* by 2023-24?

ANSWER:

By getting the *Our Children, Our Future* education funding initiative to the ballot, and then passing it, in November 2012!

Thank you to the many of you who are already working hard gathering signatures, as well as organizing your council and units to recruit PTA members to do likewise. The idea of being able to restore arts, music, P.E., science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), vocational and technical education classes, counselors, librarians, nurses, and lower class sizes is incredibly exciting and is a strong motivational factor in our efforts to gather our 15,000

signatures here in Fourth District!

Do you want to know exactly what this initiative would mean for your school district and/or local school site? Then please go to the *Our Children, Our Future* benefit calculator:

<http://ocof.advanceproj.org/widget.php>

When you are talking to people about signing the petition, tell them about the highlights of what *Our Children, Our Future* would do:

- Provide an average of \$1100 per student, per year for the first four years, and then an average of \$1700 per student, per year for the remaining eight years - depending on the type of school (elementary, middle or high school), plus an additional allocation for low-income students.
- Provide **local control** of these new education dollars by giving school boards decision-making authority based on school site input.

- Help restore programs, such as those listed above.
- Support low-income students with additional dollars.
- Require funds to be spent at local school sites, not district offices (no more than 1% may be spent on administrative costs).
- Not allow schools to use these new funds to increase salaries or benefits.
- Establish accountability and transparency for how the money is used.
- Place the money in a separate trust fund outside the state legislature's control.

Need petitions? Please contact our local GroundWorks Campaign staff:

- Amada Mooers, 714-686-8828, amanda.mooers@gmail.com; or
- Jose Ugarte, 818-571-5391, jugarte@gmail.com

The deadline for submitting the petitions is Tuesday, April 10.

For further details about the initiative, please go to:

www.ourchildrenourfuture2012.com

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

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND A VERY EXCITING EVENT!

**Fourth District PTA Advocacy Roundtable**

Friday, April 27, 2012
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Featuring Special Guest Speaker:

Mr. Ron Bennett

President and CEO, School Services of California

one of the premier business, financial, management, and advocacy resources for educational agencies in California.

Mr. Bennett will shed light on the state's economic forecast and what it means to local school districts budgets for 2012-13. He'll share the latest inside scoop from Sacramento as it impacts schools and children across the state.

All PTA Members are welcome!

Fountain Valley School District – Board Room: 10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

(Please park at the back or side of the building and not at the front!)

Questions? Contact Fourth District PTA Advocacy Roundtable Chairman Fran Sdao at roundtables@fourthdistrictpta.org



Hopkinson Reads Across O.C.

By Amanda Lenton, Membership VP,
Hopkinson Elementary School PTA, Los Alamitos



Where would our children be if it weren't for the adult volunteers who spend countless hours in the classroom? When I walk into my son's third grade classroom, the children barely notice my presence. They are accustomed to parents in the classroom: we grade papers, give art instruction, work with small groups of students, or check-out library books. Hopkinson's teachers and students are quite spoiled, and we like it that way. Countless studies show that children benefit from knowing that responsible adults are invested in their education. When we "show up" it shows our children that we support their teachers and recognize the importance of the curriculum. Our children feel valued, which in turn develops an essential sense of security, self-esteem, and improved academic performance. Hopkinson boasts an 85% PTA membership, a dedicated booster club in Friends of Hopkinson, and stellar faculty and staff. In general, our Huskies are provided every opportunity to benefit from our adult volunteers. However, just a few miles away from Rossmoor, there are dozens of elementary schools who report that they have ZERO parental participation. Whether this is due to socio-economic reasons or out-and-out apathy, it is the children who lose out from the lack of volunteers. It is this concern that led us to the rationale for "Hopkinson Reads Across O.C."

The overall purpose of PTA is "to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children." As members of PTA, we want to take a small step towards advocating for all children. In conjunction with the National Education Association's *Read Across America* campaign, two dozen Hopkinson parents will travel across Orange County to Paul Revere Elementary School in Anaheim to help celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. We will spend the morning reading Dr. Seuss stories to the children and leading them in craft activities. As many of Paul Revere's students do not have a book of their own, we will be leaving at least one book for each student to keep. Thanks to the generosity of Hopkinson families who donated their books and time, we are positive the day will be a success.

We want the students of Paul Revere to know that there is a group of adults who appreciate the efforts that they and their teachers make every day in their classroom.

The merits of community work and philanthropy are countless. We truly believe that this venture will benefit our adult volunteers as much as it will benefit the students at Paul Revere. We look forward to a successful event this year and every year to follow. In future years, our vision is to bring some willing fifth-grade mentors from Hopkinson to spend the morning with the younger children of Paul Revere. There is much evidence to support the integration of service projects into education. The benefits for student mentors include: enhanced interpersonal skills, increased care for others, a desire to cooperate and get involved in positive ways, and a feeling of social connectedness. Students often experience an increased sense of social responsibility and sensitivity to the diversity that surrounds us. This service project is a win-win situation: Francis Hopkinson learns from a day in the life of Paul Revere while Paul Revere experiences a day in the life of Francis Hopkinson.

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

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

Wear your 60s attire!
 Each Council will present a short limerick or song, so be creative!

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?)

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



Mensaje de la Presidenta

Lecciones de aprendizaje de Jan Harp Domene

por Celia Jaffe

Recientemente la comunidad de la PTA se conmocionó por el fallecimiento de Jan Domene, ex presidenta de la PTA de California y de la PTA Nacional. Desde su infancia vivió en Anaheim, a través de su trabajo voluntario y liderazgo en la PTA, Jan alcanzó la prominencia nacional. En el funeral compartieron historias de su vida su familia, líderes de la PTA estatal y nacional, la Superintendente de el Distrito Escolar de Anaheim Union High Elizabeth Novak y el Senador Lou Correa. Cada uno presentó anécdotas demostrando la dedicación, calidez y sentido del humor de Jan.

Mientras estaba sentada escuchando en la iglesia desbordante de personas, me puse a pensar en todas las maneras en que nosotros en PTA compartimos algunos de las experiencias y rasgos. Hemos hecho amistades duraderas con compañeros voluntarios, atraídos por nuestra dedicación compartida a los ni-

ños y servicio a nuestros semejantes. La PTA nos ayuda a ser partes vitales en el mundo entero, enterarnos de asuntos, conocer a personas influyentes y reunirnos con otras organizaciones dentro de nuestra comunidad. A través de nuestro esfuerzo todos esperamos hacer una diferencia positiva. Ejemplos de la vida de Jan fueron tan variados recorrieron toda la gama, desde cosas de gran importancia (cambiar la matriz de la PTA de California a Sacramento) hasta lo más modesto (ordenar de otra manera una cola de buffet para que las personas se sirvieran más rápido).

Aparte de encontrar trazos comunes con la vida de Jan al escuchar los tributos que hacían en su honor, también escuché varias moralejas y palabras de sabiduría mundana. "Involúcrese", fue lo que su esposo, Greg Domene, dijo que fue el legado de la vida de su esposa.

Esta es la forma de la PTA: Para ayudar, involúcrese. Involúcrese para forjar una conexión más fuerte con la educación de su hijo. Cuando ve un problema, involúcrese, busque y sugiera una solución.

Otra lección fue, "Piense en grande". Jan había comenzando una recaudación de fondos para una alberca en su preparatoria local. Ella sugirió planes a gran escala y luchó para que se hicieran realidad. Para considerar algo nuevo conlleva visión y audacia, mira más allá de lo normal y procura un mejor plan.

Por último la lección más importante de la vida de Jan es el que todos los días valoremos a nuestros seres queridos. A pesar de todos sus compromisos, fue asombroso escuchar por parte de sus hijos y otros familiares presentes como ella participaba en todas las reuniones familiares, y a diario hablaba con mucha gente. Ninguno de nosotros sabemos cuánto tiempo nos queda en este mundo, así que espero que todos dediquemos tiempo a nuestros seres queridos y mantengamos nuestras prioridades en orden.

En Anaheim del 9-12 de mayo

Prepárese para la convención de la PTA de California

Por Shereen Walter, Vice Presidenta de Convención del Cuarto Distrito de PTA

Cosas importantes...

- Hasta el 30 de abril podrá registrarse para la convención. Visite el sitio www.capta.org para encontrar toda la información y materiales para su inscripción.
- Del 8 al 12 de mayo podrá registrarse en la puerta, pero la cuota de inscripción sube a \$259.
- Antes del 20 de abril, través de la página de www.capta.org puede hacer reservaciones de hospedaje para el Hilton de Anaheim. Después del 20 de abril, las reservaciones se deberán hacer directamente al hotel, es posible que el costo sea mayor.

Cosas de Diversión...

El Cuarto Distrito de PTA

La Orientación para los Delegados de la Convención

Martes, 17 de abril 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District Office, 10055 Slater Ave, Fountain Valley 92708

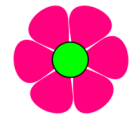
Todos los delegados de la convención del Cuarto Distrito deberán asistir para que aprendan como sacarle el mayor provecho a la convención, lo que es y no es permitido al estar presente, conocer el Comité de Convenciones y recoger su playera de convención del Cuarto Distrito de PTA.



El Cuarto Distrito de PTA

La Cena de la Convención

Jueves 10 de mayo a las 7:15 pm - Anaheim Hilton - \$40 por persona



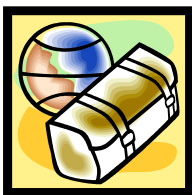
Vístase con su mejor atuendo de los años 60 y diviértase mientras los Concilios presentan su propia canción o verso chistoso de su PTA. Los boletos podrán ser adquiridos a través del proceso de registro electrónico de la convención de la PTA de California. Boleto adicionales podrán ser comprados usando el formulario de la página 9 de este boletín; sírvase a enviarlo por correo a: Fourth District PTA, 1520 Brookhollow Dr, #40, Santa Ana, CA 92705

Perfil de una líder de PTA

Por Laura Anaya de Zuchovicki

Imagínese mudarse a una ciudad lejos de su familia y amigos, embarazada y con hijo en kindergarten; a esto agregue tener que salir de tu país por una mala situación financiera y sin saber el idioma y costumbres del país al que se está mudando. Eso les pasó a Alejandra Sobrera y su familia, nativos de Uruguay quien hace 10 años viven en la ciudad de Anaheim en California. Alejandra, quien había tenido que cortar sus estudios universitarios en Administración de Empresas debido a las dificultades económicas que se vivían en aquel entonces en su país, tuvo que empaclar sus pertenencias y se lanzó al norte, como muchos de nosotros, a buscar una mejor vida para su pequeña familia.

Al llegar a Estados Unidos el cambio fue brutal. Ella había estudiado cursos básicos de inglés pero era imposible seguir el ritmo de una charla y mucho menos poder comunicarse en las cosas cotidianas. Alejandra se sentía por primera vez muy sola, desamparada y con profunda tristeza añorando continuamente su vida en Uruguay. Mientras tanto su hijo mayor Alejandro Danko trataba de adaptarse al nuevo sistema escolar. El cursaba el grado de kindergarten en Uruguay pero al llegar a Estados Unidos por la diferencia de calendario escolar fue puesto en 1º grado. Alejandro lloraba de frustración pues no podía comunicarse en la escuela y no podía entender nada de lo que le decían. Estaba triste y un tanto retraído. Alejandra como buena madre se dio cuenta de su desdicha y se puso en los zapatos de su hijo. Si ella estaba sintiendo miedo y profunda tristeza, su pobre hijo debía sentirse aterrado. Fue entonces que ella decidió sacudir su tristeza y decidió buscar ayuda para su hijo en la escuela. Para su fortuna en la escuela contaban con una mujer que trabajaba como enlace comunitario entre la gente que hablaba español y así nació una relación amistosa que duro años y que se según Alejandra fue la clave para poder llegar a adaptar al sistema educativo americano. Esta mujer era como una madre para todas las familias hispanas recién llegadas, siempre con recomendaciones y consejos para cualquier problema. Ella consiguió que Alejandra empezara su labor de voluntariado en la clase de su hijo, simplemente supervisando cuando los chicos usaban un programa para aprender inglés en la computadora. Esto le vino muy bien pues no sólo ayudo a Alejandro Danko a adaptarse más rápido a la escuela, sino que le ayudo a ella misma a adquirir más vocabulario para comunicarse. La administración de la escuela mientras tanto la observaba de cerca como abejita trabajadora y responsable, fue así que le pidieron que se involucrara en la PTA para poder ayudar en proyectos mayores.



Para ese entonces Alejandra tuvo a su segundo hijo Tabaré Aarón, quien desafortunadamente nació con un caso severo de epilepsia y por los 2 primeros años tuvo ataques recurrentes que dañaron parte de su cerebro. Sin embargo esta situación no derrumbó el espíritu luchador de Alejandra pues ella aprovechó todos los recursos que hasta ahora se le habían ofrecido a través de sus conexiones con la PTA y logró que su hijo se integrara a un programa de rehabilitación en el Centro Médico de UCLA donde lograron controlar su problema. También se involucró para ayudar en los programas de educación especial que ofrecía su distrito escolar de manera que así podía estar al tanto de lo que ocurría su hijo.

Alejandra ha continuado su labor en PTA ocupando diversos puestos en las mesas directivas de las escuelas de sus hijos, siempre trabajando incansablemente para lograr el bienestar de los niños en la escuela. Ella dice que nadie es imprescindible por eso hay que entrar en una búsqueda continua de los líderes que nos reemplazarán para que las mejoras que se han implementado no se pierdan y al contrario se continúen. Para su sorpresa ella ha encontrado que la comunidad hispana en los Estados Unidos es sumamente diversa y aunque siente que hay un empeño para etiquetar a todos los hispanos por igual, ella trata que todas las personas en su comunidad escolar se respeten y se entiendan. Alejandra dice que esta parte ha sido uno de los retos más grandes que ha tenido pues no solo ha tenido que aprender a respetar y querer las costumbres y cultura de su país adoptivo, pero ha tenido que aprender las diferentes costumbres y cultura de mis compañeros hispanos para que no se ofendan con su manera “uruguayana” de decir las cosas directamente.

Alejandra está orgullosa de su trabajo como voluntaria en la PTA no sólo porque ha tenido importantes logros en su desarrollo personal (no está nada mal ser la tesorera de su concilio) pero ella siente que con su trabajo en PTA está pagando el “favor” de lo mucho que ha recibido en estos 10 años.

¡Sigue adelante Alejandra pues eres una inspiración para todos los miembros de la PTA!

Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería, Matemáticas

Evento OC STEM para jóvenes

Por Fran Sdao, VP de Educación del Cuarto Distrito de PTA

Los alumnos del Condado de Orange tendrán la oportunidad de explorar carreras emocionantes, conocer a expertos dentro de la industria y hacer conexiones con universidades en la Exhibición de Artes de Media Digital y STEM (por sus siglas en inglés) en la Feria de la Juventud del Condado de Orange que se llevara a acabo del 13 al 15 de abril en la Feria del Condado de Orange en el 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa. El evento es gratis. Para mayor información visite la página <http://vitalinkoc.org/youth/special-programs>.

Este programa esta siendo patrocinado por Vital Link, que se dedica a vincular compañías y educación para preparar a los estudiantes en las carreras de Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas (STEM). Otros patrocinadores son la Secretaria de Educación del Condado de Orange, la Junta Directiva Laboral e Inversión del Condado de Orange y la Asociación Internacional de Ingenieros Eléctricos y Electrónicos.

Para mayor información sobre los programas e Iniciativa STEM del Condado de Orange visite la página de internet <http://ocstem.org/>.

Translation by
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909-319-9796



May 9-12 in Anaheim

Get ready for the California State PTA Convention

By Shereen Walter, Fourth District PTA VP of Convention

The Important Stuff...

- You can still register for Convention online through April 30. All registration information and materials are available at www.capta.org
- You can register onsite from May 8-12, but the registration fee goes up to \$259.
- You can still arrange housing at the Anaheim Hilton via the online link at www.capta.org through April 20. After April 20, reservations must be made directly with the hotel, and may be at a higher rate.

The Fun Stuff...



Fourth District PTA Convention Delegate Orientation

Tuesday, April 17, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Fountain Valley School District Office
10055 Slater Ave, Fountain Valley 92708

All convention delegates in Fourth District should attend to find out how to get the most out of convention, learn the do's and don'ts of attending, meet the Convention Committee, and pick up your Fourth District PTA convention t-shirt.

Fourth District PTA Convention Dinner

Thursday, May 10 at 7:15 pm
Anaheim Hilton - \$40 per person

Dress in your finest '60s outfit and enjoy yourself as each council presents its own song or limerick about their PTA. Tickets can be purchased through the CA PTA Convention online registration process. Additional tickets can be purchased using the form on page 9; mail to: Fourth District PTA, 1520 Brookhollow Dr, #40, Santa Ana, CA 92705



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

Fourth District
PTA[®]