

President's Message

Stronger PTAs do more for kids

by Celia Jaffe



Have you listened to a flight attendant's instructions recently? One of the standard lines said about loss of cabin pressure is, "If you are seated next to a child or someone who needs assistance, put on your own mask first." The point is that if you faint from lack of oxygen before giving assistance, both you and the other passenger are in danger because you are no longer in a condition to help.

This situation has a parallel in your PTA. If a PTA does not make a priority of staying strong itself, it endangers the future work that PTA can accomplish for kids and families.

We all know that schools have been suffering terrible budget cuts for several years, but for your PTA to remain in a position to support your schools and advocate for additional education funding, you must be a fundamentally strong organization. It is imperative to devote time and resources towards efforts that make your PTA and its leaders function better.

Ways to strengthen your PTA in the next few months

Put together a proper nominating committee, talent search, and election. The nominating committee should seek new talent in the school community to ensure that there are always fresh leaders gaining experience to take up the reins in the future. A well-publicized and properly run election assures that the membership has a say in the future of the PTA. See information in the *California State PTA Toolkit* or at www.capta.org about proper procedure.

Send your leaders to convention. PTA officers can transform from hesitant coordinators into inspirational, knowledgeable leaders through their experiences at California State PTA Convention. Attending sessions that instruct and inspire, participating in our statewide organization's business, and networking with fellow leaders are all facets of attending convention that cannot be replaced.

Finish a year-long membership campaign. Have you given the school community one more chance to join PTA, especially emphasizing the great things PTA does locally and through advocacy statewide? Have all your members been given PTA membership cards and been told about the perks and discounts associated with membership? Have you remitted the proper dues through channels for all of your members? Now is the time to do so!

Continue to plan and conduct PTA meetings that matter, and attend council meetings representing your unit.

This is the heart of the year – a time to keep in touch with your network of PTA support, gain information, and explore new ideas to keep your PTA on a growth track.

Kudos on work you have already done to keep your PTA viable

Congratulations and THANK YOU for the fantastic work you've all done to keep your PTA compliant with Internal Revenue Service and California Franchise Tax Board filing requirements, new charitable trust registry requirements from the Califor-

(Continued on page 9)

**Fourth District
PTA®**

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*Artículos en español—
paginas 10 y 11*

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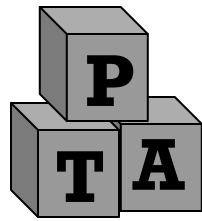
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Advocacy

Basics

Want to make a difference in children's lives? Then become an Advocacy Chairman!

By Kim Anderson, Fourth District PTA VP of Advocacy

It's time to start thinking about who's going to be the Advocacy Chairman for your unit or council for the 2013-14 school year. PTA was essentially founded as an advocacy organization and has been instrumental in the passage of many important laws over the last 116 years. Today, we continue our mission to advocate for all children with regard to their education, health, safety, and well-being.

Question: So, what does it take to become an effective Advocacy Chairman?

Answer: Passion...and a desire to fight on behalf of all kids!

Question: But don't I need to have some experience?

Answer: No, because the Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team provides a thorough and comprehensive training at the beginning of the school year and there are many ongoing training opportunities throughout the year.

Question: What if I attend the training but I can't remember everything I was told?

Answer: No problem! We have a fabulous *Advocacy Resource Binder* that you can purchase at the training for \$10 that contains everything you ever wanted to know...and more!

Question: How do I stay informed?

Answer: By signing up for our legislative e-mail alerts from Fourth District, State, and National PTAs, as well as reading other youth-related information.

Question: Who will help me if I don't know what to do?

Answer: The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team is here for you...always! Our goal is to ensure you are successful and feel confident in your advocacy role, so we make ourselves highly accessible to you.

Question: What would I be expected to do?

Answer: Some or all of these:

- Give an advocacy report at your PTA meetings. (We provide Talking Points for you, if you need them, plus we can send a speaker to your unit or council if you want us to address a specific advocacy or legislative topic.)
- Write regular advocacy articles for your PTA newsletter. (We create a monthly piece called the *Advocacy Communicator* which you are free to reproduce).
- Ask parents at your school to take action on issues when requested by California State PTA or Fourth District PTA – typically by writing letters, sending e-mails, or calling elected representatives.
- Attend as many advocacy events as possible:
 - Four Advocacy Roundtables per year (two hours each) with wonderful guest speakers.
 - Two-day Sacramento Safari trip – usually each March.
 - Others events as your schedule permits (such as EdSource Forums, advocacy workshops at convention, or the California State PTA Legislation Conference).

Question: So, I'm really interested in doing this – it sounds very exciting and I can really make a difference in the lives of children – where do I sign up?

Answer: Let your unit or council PTA president know that you are interested, as that is who would appoint you.

Want to talk it over some more? Feel free to e-mail Kim Anderson at advocacy@fourthdistrictpta.org to set up a chat!

Creative Edge Lecture 2013

By Shanin Ziemer, Fourth District PTA Cultural Arts

Are you looking for a way to encourage your school board and administration to increase their support for the arts in your schools? The Creative Edge Lecture, this year featuring Tom Kelley, is a great opportunity to do just that.

Our schools are undergoing big changes with the introduction of the new Common Core Standards and the goal of creating “college- and career-ready” high school graduates. One of the primary indicators of that success – and one of the key qualities employers are looking for in prospective employees today – is the ability to innovate. The skills learned through the arts are critical to teaching students to be creative and innovative.

Tom Kelley is a globally recognized expert on innovation, design thinking, and organization design, and is the general manager of IDEO, one of the world's leading design firms. In his presentation, Kelley will describe how the human-centered approach of "design thinking" can help companies and schools reinforce their own unique cultures of innovation. Kelley has written two books on innovation, *The Art of Innovation* and *The Ten Faces of Innovation*, which are business bestsellers considered must-reads by many successful leaders. He is an engaging and entertaining speaker who will give leaders, from parents and teachers to superintendents and school board members, tools and insights for managing innovation.

Unit PTA presidents, invite your principal to join you. Council presidents, invite your superintendent and school board members. Arts education chairmen, be sure to attend! This event is ideal for anyone who wants to be energized and come away with new ideas for improving innovation in our schools and understand the importance of a complete curriculum that includes the arts.

THE ART OF INNOVATION

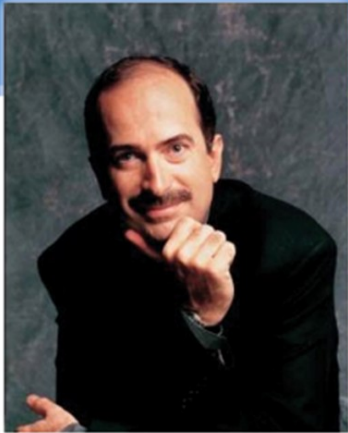
Tom Kelley

Wednesday, April 10, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall
 Segerstrom Center for the Arts

**Early-bird tickets on sale for \$25 on
 January 28, 2013 at WWW.SCFTA.ORG**

How innovation can transform the entire culture of organizations from one of its most successful practitioners: **Tom Kelley, General Manager and Co-founder, IDEO**



“Tom Kelley has unlocked the magic box of innovation for corporate America.”
 Bruce Nussbaum, BusinessWeek

This event presented by:







FOURTH DISTRICT PTA CALENDAR

March

- 1 Sacramento Safari Orientation**
9:30am—11:00am
Fountain Valley District Board Rm.
- 13 Administrators Dinner and PTA General Meeting**
5:30pm—Biennial Election Meeting
6:15pm—Registration/Reception
6:45pm—Dinner & Program
- 18-19 Sacramento Safari**
Embassy Suites, Sacramento
- 21 Council Presidents Roundtable**
9:30am—Fourth District PTA office

April

- 18 District Board Meeting**
OCDE, 200 Kalmus, Costa Mesa
9:30am—CP Roundtable
10:30am—Board Meeting
- 26 Advocacy Roundtable**
9:30am—11:30am
Fountain Valley District Board Rm.

OC Dept. of Ed. honors Fourth District PTA and Irvine Council for education contributions

Congratulations to Fourth District PTA and the Irvine Unified Council of PTAs, each of which were recognized and honored with an *Outstanding Contribution to Education Award* for their support of the Orange County Department of Education and Medical Emergency in Schools Committee. Parent and Community Issues Vice President Barb Shaugraw and LEAPS Liaison Marlene Vermeer-Campbell accepted the award on behalf of Fourth District PTA, and Petra Schaefer and Marlene Vermeer-Campbell accepted the award on behalf of the Irvine Council at the OCDE’s February 14 board meeting.

All about elections

By Bev Berryman

Fourth District PTA Parliamentarian

As unit parliamentarians have been working to update their bylaws over the past few months, I have often been asked to clarify when a unit should conduct elections. While there is no generic answer to this question, there are factors to consider when a unit establishes its election month.

According to California State PTA policies, elections must be held on or before the second week of April. This is because if a unit holds elections later than that, the president-elect may not have time to register and make travel plans for the CAPTA Convention. Article V- Section 9 of the bylaws state that the president-elect is entitled to be a delegate at convention; if late elections prevent the president-elect from attending convention, the unit would be in violation of its bylaws. Even if attendance is still feasible, the PTA would certainly incur higher costs than would otherwise have been possible for registration, air fare, and lodging.

Now that you know when your unit should conduct its election meeting, here 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 presents the proposed slate of officers.
 - The president restates the slate of nominees and asks each nominee to stand.
 - The president then asks for nominations from the floor. Only members of the PTA unit or council may nominate and vote for candidates 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.
- Please refer to the *California State PTA Toolkit* for a full election script for the president, as well as procedures for the ballot vote and a contested election.

This annual meeting is also the time for your unit or council to elect convention delegates, one of whom should be the president-elect, so be sure to add this item to your election meeting agenda.

Finally, the complete list of officers for the coming year should be forwarded to the council and Fourth District PTA as soon as possible after the election.



Young artists celebrated at Reflections Gallery

By Kathleen Sarangay,
Fourth District PTA Reflections Chair

Fourth District PTA extends special thanks to the talented students who participated in the 2012-2013 Reflections program, and to their families for their support. More than 250 schools across Fourth District PTA participated this year, with over 7,000 total entries submitted. From the 300+ council finalists received by Fourth District PTA, 25 were selected as "Award of Excellence" winners and advanced to California State PTA to be considered for possible advancement to the National PTA level.

The Fourth District PTA Reflections Gallery and Awards Reception was held last month at the Orange County Department of Education. We extend our gratitude to OCDE for allowing us to use their facility.

FOURTH DISTRICT PTA REFLECTIONS AWARD RECIPIENTS — LITERATURE — AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary

Brent Siteman - Laguna Road Elementary - Fullerton Council

Intermediate

Nemea Courellis - Macy Elementary - La Habra Council

Middle

JiHyun Limb - McAuliffe Middle School - Los Alamitos Council

High School

Molly McMillen - Laguna Beach High - Laguna Beach Unified Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary

Isabella Barrett - Mariposa Elementary - Brea
Charline Chen - Canyon View Elementary - Irvine Unified Council

Membership:

Teachers Matter!

By Lisa Boler

Fourth District PTA Membership VP

Congratulations to the following units from Fourth District PTA! Each of these schools increased their PTA membership over last year's total and had 100% of their full-time teachers join their PTA. They have all qualified for the *Teachers Matter* award and will receive a free registration to this year's California State PTA convention in San Jose.

Bathgate Elementary PTA

C. Fred Schroeder Elementary PTA

Castille Elementary PTA

Chapman Hills Elementary PTA

College Park Elementary PTA

Corona del Mar High PTA

Eastshore Elementary PTA

Francis Hopkinson Elementary PTA

Frank Eastwood Elementary PTA

George B. Miller Elementary PTA

Golden Elementary PTA

Harry C. Fulton Middle PTA

Horace Ensign Jr. High PTA

John R. Peterson Elementary PTA

Juliet Morris Elementary PTA

Kraemer Middle School PTA

Laguna Niguel PTA

Laguna Road Elementary PTA

Los Alamitos Elementary PTA

Macy Parent Teacher Association, Inc.

Mariners Elementary PTA

Meadow Green Elementary PTA

Montevideo Elementary PTA

Oso Grande Elementary PTA

Paularino Elementary PTA

Rancho Canada Elementary PTA

Richard Henry Lee Elementary PTA

S. A. Moffett Elementary PTA

Sierra Vista Elementary PTA

Truman Benedict Elementary PTA

Van Buren Elementary PTA

Viejo Elementary PTA

Westpark Elementary PTA

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Intermediate

Payton Peterson -Newport Beach Elementary - Harbor Council
Faith Watanabe - Bryant Ranch Elementary - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified

Middle

Kelsey Bond - Isaac L. Sowers Middle - Huntington Union Council
Troy Goudzwaard - Tuffree Junior High - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified

High School

Allison Kubo - Troy High - Fullerton Council
Chiara Burns - Trabuco Hills High - Saddleback Valley Council

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary

Jake White - Sierra Vista Elementary - Placentia -Yorba Linda Unified Council
Alyssa Guerrero - Buena Terra Elementary - Buena Park Council

Intermediate

Aliya Lachman - Arovista Elementary - Brea Council
Chelsea Olivares - Canyon View Elementary - Irvine Unified Council

Middle

Gloria Bae - Brea Junior High - Brea Council
Anovshka Vinekar - Robinson Elementary - Saddleback Valley Council

High School

Alejandra Malagon - Savanna High - Anaheim Secondary Council
Gwen Thomas - Dana Hills High - Capistrano Unified Council

— VISUAL ARTS —

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary

Devon Chang - Alderwood Elementary - Irvine Unified Council

Intermediate

Marcus Chen - Agnes L. Smith Elementary - Huntington Union Council

Middle

Minji Monica Lee - Sierra Vista Middle School - Irvine Unified Council

High School

Jeong Won Hwang - Brea Olinda High - Brea Council

Special Artist

Lelia Woods - Trabuco Hills High School - Saddleback Valley Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary

Nils Dahl - Top of the World Elementary - Laguna Beach Council

Kaitlyn Kavanagh - Arroyo Elementary - Out Of Council

Intermediate

Pallavi Sajeev - A.E. Arnold Elementary - Cypress Council
Yasmeen Kazaz - Anaheim Hills Elementary - Orange Community Council

Middle

Layla Lee - Laguna Road Elementary - Fullerton Council

Lynn Fong - Corona del Mar Middle - Harbor Council

High School

Kile Young - Troy High School - Fullerton Council

Daniella Trevino - Laguna Hills High School - Saddleback Valley Council

Special Artist

Annie Barnes - Frank Vessels Elementary - Cypress Council

Zarrar Zubair - Davis Elementary - Harbor Council

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary

Shane Goodbrand - Las Flores Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council
Galatea Bollinger - Chapman Hills Elementary - Orange Community Council

Intermediate

Brandon Paul - Rossmoor Elementary - Los Alamitos Council
Isabella Paulus - Travis Ranch Elementary - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified

Middle

Emmanuelle Evans - Oak Middle School - Los Alamitos Council
Payton Bladow - Travis Ranch Elementary - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified

High School

Nicolette Martin - Canyon High School - Orange Community Council
Faith Angelie de la Cruz - Esperanza High School - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified

Special Artist

Adrian Garcia - Crosby Elementary - Garden Grove Council
Alex Fisher - Esperanza High School - Placentia -Yorba Linda Unified

**— FILM PRODUCTION —
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Primary

Ryan Meali - Philip J. Reilly Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council

Intermediate

Melodie Pugar - Alderwood Elementary - Irvine Unified Council

Middle/Junior

Sterling Belaire - Brea Junior High - Brea Council

High School

Cole Friedman - Corona del Mar High - Harbor Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary

James Cruz - Brywood Elementary - Irvine Unified Council
Allyson Tiffin - Portola Hills Elementary - Saddleback Valley Council

Intermediate

Madeline McDonald - Las Palmas Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council
Reed Sharp - Agnes L. Smith Elementary - Huntington Union Council

Middle

Emily Carmichael - Ladera Ranch Middle School - Capistrano Unified Council

Jake Bowren - Santiago Elementary - Saddleback Valley Council

High School

Kathan Fish - Tesoro High School - Capistrano Unified Council

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary

Kevin Waldman - Steve Luther Elementary - Cypress Council
Gavin O'Neill - Top of the World Elementary - Laguna Beach Council

Sienna Cole - Village View Elementary - Huntington Union Council

Intermediate

Pramit Mazumder - Mariposa Elementary - Brea Council
Andrew Pena - George Patton Elementary - Garden Grove Council

Middle

Jack Springer - Marine View Middle School - Huntington Union Council

Pierre Schantz - Stonegate Elementary - Irvine Unified Council

High School

Kristine Yu - Sunny Hills High School - Fullerton Council

— DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY —

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary

Aurea Jolly - Bathgate Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council

Intermediate

Delaney Shanley - Vista del Mar Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council

Middle/Junior

Madeline Woo - Dwyer Middle - Huntington Union Council

High School

Kensey Conti - Corona del Mar High - Harbor Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary

Kristine Lu - Westpark Elementary - Irvine Unified Council
Arushi Somani - Woodsboro Elementary - Placentia -Yorba Linda Unified

Intermediate

Madison Ashley Tanap - Hermosa Drive Elementary - Fullerton Council
Dylan Shube - Woodsboro Elementary - Placentia -Yorba Linda Unified

Julia Gaspari - Foothill Ranch Elementary - Saddleback Valley Council

Middle

Laurel Lechuga - Ladera Ranch Middle School - Capistrano Unified Council

Camryn Sparrevohn - Oak Middle School - Los Alamitos Council

Martin Pierro - Van Buren Elementary - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified

High School

Emma Hatanaka - San Clemente High School - Capistrano Unified Council

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary

Rylee Lyng - Joseph R. Perry Elementary - Huntington Union Council



Honoring excellence in teaching



By Al Mijares, Ph.D., OC Superintendent of Schools

On October 19, 2012, it was my honor to meet and congratulate the Orange County Teachers of the Year nominees at the annual ceremony and dinner celebration. The program is a prelude to the national Teachers of the Year competition which began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program focusing public attention on excellence in teaching.

Teaching is one of the few professions where practitioners truly have an impact on the future. Teachers are heroes in our communities, charged with the immense task of encouraging, motivating, and challenging young people to learn and achieve in school and beyond. They spend an enormous amount of time with our students to inspire and instruct them for school success. Beyond student growth, a teacher's passion for teaching and learning also encourages their colleagues to grow and become more creative and effective in their own classrooms.

The selection process for the Orange County Teachers of the Year involves both school districts and the Orange County Department of Education. Each district submits up to three nominees, depending on the number of teachers employed. A panel of educators reviews the applications and selects fifteen nominees to participate in interviews with corporate and community sponsors. The interview panel selects four K-12 finalists who represent our county in the California Teachers of the Year program. Although there is not a state program for Community College districts, Orange County includes them in the program, and selects one finalist from that group as well.

This year, Orange County was fortunate to have one of our finalists selected as a California Teacher of the Year by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson: David Goldenberg, of Beckman High School in the Tustin Unified School District, is now in the

running for the national competition. A social science teacher who is passionate about student success, Mr. Goldenberg's Advanced Placement (AP) World History students average an 80 percent passing rate on the AP exam. A proponent for community service, he founded a successful freshman orientation and mentoring program where participating students have written over 2,000 letters to United States troops serving abroad, created care packages for juvenile cancer patients, and provided academic support for English language learners. It is clear that Mr. Goldenberg is making a lasting contribution to the lives of our students and the community.

The Orange County Teachers of the Year are passionate about their work, demonstrate the highest level of integrity, and ignite curiosity in their students. They find ways to relate to their students and meet their individual needs while teaching students the important twenty-first century skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. We can all be proud of these amazing teachers, and many more like them, who encourage students to set high goals and reach for their dreams, while creating meaningful learning opportunities that last a lifetime.

To learn more, visit www.ocde.us/toty.

School violence

By Barb Shangraw

The issue of violence on school campuses has risen to the forefront of our media. Many concerns affect this matter, including the use of guns, drug and alcohol abuse, bullying, depression, mental illness, domestic abuse, and numerous other factors. However, don't let the scope of the problem or the fear of violence overwhelm you. There are things that you can do to help keep your school community safe.

- Encourage all school volunteers to check in at the office and wear a visitor badge. Work with your school administration to establish rules for visitors on campus.
- Work with your local police department to see what trends they are seeing in youth violence, and discuss how your PTA can help as a community partner.
- Team up with local health agencies that work with issues such as mental

illness or alcohol/drug abuse to determine how the community can work together to identify and combat these problems.

- Work to help all kids achieve a sense of belonging. Set up mentorship programs with older children or adults.
- Include students in your discussions of violence. Learn about their concerns and perceptions.
- For a reading day, select a book about bullying and discuss the issues addressed.
- Work with school administrators to determine if parent volunteers are needed to help monitor school grounds before school, during lunch or recess, and after school.
- Work with school officials to make sure emergency plans are up-to-date and that the needs of disabled children are considered in campus evacuations.

Don't let fear freeze your efforts. Work to develop a caring environment. Identify problems and take them on!

(Continued from page 5)

...Reflections

Emy Chen - Richard Henry Lee Elementary - Los Alamitos Council

Intermediate

Paige Yauchzee - S.A. Moffet Elementary - Huntington Union Council

Lucy Manzer - El Portal Elementary - La Habra Council

Madison Harris - Anaheim Hills Elementary - Orange Community Council

Middle

Amanda Gao - Margaret Landell Elementary - Cypress Council

Claire Milinski - Robinson Elementary - Saddleback Valley Council

High School

Hannah Hoffman - Los Alamitos High School - Los Alamitos Council

— PHOTOGRAPHY — AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary

Erin Lee - Travis Ranch Elementary - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Council

Intermediate

Jillian Blohm - Del Cerro Elementary - Saddle-

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Fourth District PTA
Administrators Dinner

Wednesday, March 13
The Turnip Rose—Celebrations
1901 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa
(Just west on 19th Street at the south end of the 55 Fwy)

Cost: \$40 per person

Parking included

5:30 p.m. Fourth District Election Meeting
6:15 p.m. Registration and Reception
6:45 p.m. Program and Dinner

Reservation Deadline: February 25

NEW!
Register and pay online at
www.fourthdistrictpta.org

PTA del Cuarto Distrito
Cena de los Administradores

Miercoles, 13 de Marzo
The Turnip Rose—Celebrations
1901 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa
(Al este de 19th Street y al sur del final del 55 Fwy)

Precio: \$40 por persona

con el estacionamiento incluido

5:30 p.m. Elección
6:15 p.m. Registro y Recepcion
6:45 p.m. Programa y Cena

Fecha limite para reservar, 25 de Febrero

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?)

Enclosed is a check payable to Fourth District PTA for _____ person(s) @ \$40 each.

Incluido 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, Administrators 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

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back Valley Council

Middle

Taegan Ogle - Laguna Road Elementary - Fullerton Council

High School

Natasha Molly Levy - Newport Harbor High - Harbor Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary

Danika Outericky - College Park Elementary - Irvine Unified Council

Michelle Kraemer - Margaret Landell Elementary - Cypress Council

Intermediate

David Huff - Linda Vista Elementary - Orange Community Council

Jack Byers - Buena Terra Elementary - Buena Park Council

Middle

Maya Gutierrez - Lexington Junior High - Anaheim Secondary Council

Sarah Grulikowski - Carl Hankey - Capistrano Unified Council

High School

Adam Einck - Edison High School - Huntington Union Council

Lily Huang - University High School - Irvine Unified Council

HONORABLE MENTION



Primary

Audrey Ewell - Vista del Mar Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council

Natalie Reilly - Foothill Ranch Elementary - Saddleback Valley Council

Intermediate

Keith Hanssen - Garden Park Elementary - Garden Grove Council

Sarah Beale - John R. Peterson Elementary - Huntington Union Council

Middle

Hayden Brenier - Rancho-Starbuck Junior High - La Habra Council

Ryan King - Canyon Rim Elementary- Orange Community Council

High School

Sarah McCarter - Trabuco Hills High Saddleback Valley Council

Taylor Best -Yorba Linda High School - Placentia -Yorba Linda Unified

Special Artist

Matthew Arcade - Mariposa Elementary - Brea Council

— MUSICAL COMPOSITION —

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Primary

Troy Mills - Travis Ranch Elementary - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified

Intermediate

Delaney Miller - Concordia Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council

(Continued on page 11)



Governor Brown proposes to increase education funding by 5% and launch school finance reform

Highlights from the Governor's 2013-14 January Budget Proposal

(Excerpted from the Association of California School Administrators article by Adonai Mac and the EdSource staff article, both from January 10, 2013)

Submitted by Kim Anderson, Fourth District PTA, VP Advocacy

When the governor came into office, the state faced ongoing budget deficits that reached approximately \$20 billion. After major reductions to state expenditures and the passage of Proposition 30, the state is now on the verge of seeing budget surpluses with a balanced budget for the coming years.

Calling education a critical priority, Governor Jerry Brown proposed to increase general spending for K-12 and community colleges in the 2013-14 state budget by 5 percent, or \$2.7 billion. Growth in revenue, together with extra money from the passage of Proposition 30 in November, would be split between continuing to pay off late payments to schools – part of the state's "wall of debt" that Brown is determined to shrink – and phasing in a new education funding system that would steer more money to low-income children and English learners.

The new system, now christened the **Local Control Funding Formula**, is similar to the weighted student funding formula that the governor unsuccessfully proposed last year. But it also incorporates some suggestions proposed from a series of meetings that Brown's advisers held with district officials and children's advocates in November.

Along with extra money for some districts, Brown is promising spending flexibility and funding simplicity for all districts. That process of transferring power from Sacramento started four years ago, in exchange for sharp budget cuts. Brown wants to speed up what he calls the "principle of subsidiarity" – giving more authority to local educators to solve problems in the classroom, school, and district levels – and make it permanent.

In a press conference, Brown asserted that redistributing money may displease those districts that have fared relatively well under the current inequitable funding formulas or that educate few in the targeted groups of children. But, quoting Aristotle, he said, "Treating unequals equally is not justice." The resource needs of students in Compton are not the same as those in Santa Monica, he said, and it is not right, fair and just to fund them similarly. "Suburbanites who can see over the horizon have an interest in seeing that inequalities are eliminated," he said.

Community colleges – The governor's budget proposal would allow community colleges to open new course sections to bring back some of the half-million students denied access in recent years due to cutbacks. It also advances the work of the Community College Student Success Task Force by putting into law some of its recommendations aimed at improving graduation and transfer rates.

Community colleges would receive nearly \$197 million more in 2013-14 and, continuing his doctrine of local control, Brown would leave it up to the Community College Board of Governors to decide how to spend it.

However, a significant—and likely controversial—proposal is to set a 90-unit cap on students, after which their course fees will no longer be subsidized by the state.

Another \$179 million would go toward continuing to pay down deferrals, late payments the state has built up. They would be reduced to \$622 million from a high of \$960 million. Brown has also added nearly \$50 million from Proposition 39 for an energy efficiency fund at community colleges.

Adult education – The budget proposal supports moving responsibility for adult education from K-12 schools to community colleges, allocating \$300 million to the colleges for this purpose. An additional \$15.7 million is earmarked for an apprenticeship program.

Early childhood programs – After years of funding cuts to early childhood programs, the proposed budget would keep funding levels nearly the same as last year.

Brown's proposal allocates \$2.2 billion, including designated federal funds, to cover child care and state preschool for 340,000 children in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Some funding would be moved around within the CalWORKS child care program for low-income children, but it would not affect the number of children served or the overall funding available.

Early childhood education has been cut by \$1 billion dollars since the 2008-2009 fiscal year and now serves 110,000 fewer children than it did before the recession.

To read both these articles in full, please go to: www.acsa.org and www.edsource.org.

California State PTA President Carol Kocivar issued the following statement on January 10:

"After years of horrible budget cuts to public education, we are pleased that cuts to schools are not part of the conversation this year. That is welcome news.

"Making education a priority, even in an austere budget, is important. This budget proposes additional dollars for K-12 schools, community colleges, and higher education.

"There remains much work ahead to ensure that our state once and for all addresses its school funding crisis, so that we move up from the basement among states in per-student funding and restore and build up the programs and services all children need to be successful in life and careers. This includes restoring and investing in early childhood education.

"California State PTA also supports the objective to improve the school funding system so that it is more rational, transparent, accountable, and provides additional resources for the students who need them most. Both adequacy and equity in school funding are essential. We appreciate the Governor's recognition that those closest to schools should have an increased say in school funding decisions.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

...Budget statement

"There are many specific details to study in the Governor's proposal, and much discussion and input that will need to take place, but we are confident this is a year when positive changes to the school funding distribution system can be achieved. We look forward to analyzing the proposal more closely and ensuring that parents have an important voice in the legislative deliberations."



The Governor's budget proposal begins the annual conversation regarding the state's finances. There will now be committee hearings on the budget, and revenue forecasts may change when the April tax receipts come in. The Governor will release his "May Revise" in mid-May, and then the legislature has until June 15 to pass a balanced budget and send it to the Governor for his signature or veto by June 30. Stay tuned!

(Continued from page 1)

...President's message

nia Attorney General's office, and the normal requirements to stay in good standing as a PTA unit.*

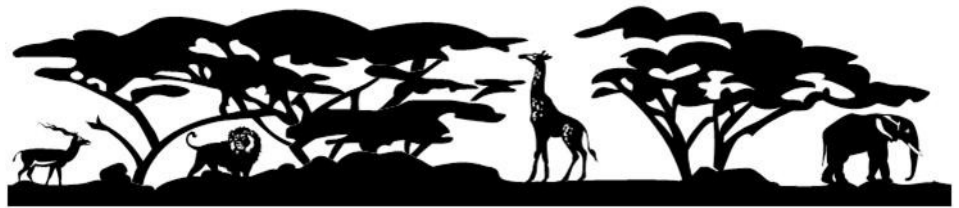
It's worth it!

When your PTA is a vibrant, growing, trusted group, it has widespread influence throughout your school community and can accomplish wonderful work for kids and families. That is our mission, and we need to be strong to inspire the confidence and involvement of our membership to accomplish it.

**Note that many units are being given one more hoop to jump through: an RRF-1 form with fee and copies of 990 tax forms included. Do not ignore the attorney general's letter requesting these items!*

Resources for PTA leaders:

Fourth District PTA
www.fourthdistrictpta.org
 California State PTA
www.capta.org
 National PTA
www.pta.org



Last chance! Sacramento Safari is the place to be on March 18 & 19

By: Kim Anderson, VP Advocacy

YOU could be the expert everyone turns to for information on the latest state budget proposal, education funding reform, Common Core, teacher evaluations, and so much more! The best way to accomplish that goal is to attend Sacramento Safari on Monday, March 18 – Tuesday, March 19. 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's state 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.

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Mac Taylor**, California State Legislative Analyst
- **Karen Staph Walters**, Governor Brown's top education advisor and Executive Director of California State Board of Education
- **George Skelton**, Los Angeles Times Columnist
- **Rick Simpson**, Deputy Chief of Staff to Assembly Speaker John Perez
- **Ron Bennett**, President & CEO School Services of California
- **Monique Ramos**, California Department of Education
- **Carol Kocivar**, California State PTA President
- **Patty Scriptor**, CAPTA Director of Legislation
- **Paul Richman**, CAPTA Executive Director

Sacramento Safari Conference Details

- **Hotel:** \$265 double occupancy; \$365 single
- **Included:** One night, Embassy Suites Hotel, Sacramento; lunch & dinner on Monday; breakfast & lunch on Tuesday; conference materials.
- **Not included:** Airfare, ground transportation, parking, Tuesday's dinner
- **Orientation:** 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 1, Fountain Valley School District Board Room; ALL participants should attend.
- **Register now:** www.fourthdistrictpta.org

Save the Date: Friday, April 26

What: Advocacy Roundtable
Where: Fountain Valley School District Board Room
When: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Who: All Fourth District PTA members
Cost: FREE!

Speakers Bureau!

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



Mensaje de la Presidenta

Una fuerte PTA hace más por los niños

Por: Celia Jaffe

¿Ha escuchado las instrucciones que le dan en los aviones o camiones en los viajes largos? Ellos siempre recomiendan que en caso de emergencia primero se atiende a sí mismo y después atiende a su hijo inmediatamente. El punto es que si usted está a salvo, es más fácil que pueda salvar a su hijo (a).

Esta situación es muy similar en la PTA. Si la PTA no tiene como prioridad agarrar fuerza, entonces pone en peligro la ayuda que en el futuro puede dar a las familias y los niños.

Todos sabemos que las escuelas han sufrido recortes de presupuesto por varios años, pero para que su PTA continúe estando en la posición de abogar por más fondos para la educación, debe mantenerse fuerte. Por ello es muy importante que se dedique tiempo y esfuerzo para que su PTA y sus líderes cada día funcionen mejor.

Maneras de reforzar su PTA en los próximos meses

Establezca un comité nominativo apropiado, que realice una búsqueda de talento y elección. El comité nominador deberá buscar nuevo talento en la comunidad escolar para asegurar que

siempre habrán líderes “frescos” que adquieran experiencia para el futuro. Una campaña de elección bien publicada y manejada le ayudara a que sus miembros tengan voz y voto en el futuro. Mire la información que se proporciona en la *Carpeta de Recursos de la PTA de California* al respecto.

Mande a sus líderes a la convención. Los oficiales de la PTA se pueden transformar de coordinadores dudosos en líderes inspiradores y conocedores a través de las experiencias adquiridas en la convención de la PTA de California. Asistir a las sesiones que instruyen e inspiran, participar en los asuntos de la organización estatal y conectarse con otros líderes son oportunidades invaluable.

Termine su campaña anual de membresía. ¿Le ha dado a su comunidad escolar una última oportunidad para hacerse miembros de la PTA, especialmente enfatizando los logros tan importantes que la PTA hace localmente además de la defensa estatal? ¿Les ha repartido a sus miembros las tarjetas de membresía y les ha dicho de todos los beneficios y descuentos asociados con la

misma? ¿Ha mandado sus pagos de cuotas correspondientes de sus miembros a través de los canales adecuados? ¡Ahora es momento de hacerlo!

Continúe con su plan de PTA y conduzca juntas que valgan la pena, además de asistir a las juntas de su concilio para representar a su unidad.

Esto es la esencia del año – un momento de contactarse con otros compañeros de PTA para obtener apoyo, información y explore ideas nuevas para poder hacer crecer su PTA.

Felicitaciones por el trabajo que usted ya hizo para conservar su PTA

Felicitaciones y GRACIAS por el trabajo tan fantástico que ha hecho para mantener su PTA al día con el IRS y la organización de impuestos de California.*

¡Valió la pena!

Cuando su PTA es un grupo vibrante que crece y es confiable, su influencia es muy respetada por toda la comunidad escolar y puede lograr muchos trabajos maravillosos en favor de los niños y sus familias. Esta es nuestra misión y necesitamos ser Fuertes para inspirar confianza y lograr que los miembros se involucren en nuestra causa.

**Fíjese que a algunas unidades les han dado un trabajo más: la RRF-1 que debe ser presentada además de pagar una tarifa junto con las copias de las formas 990 de impuestos. No ignore la carta del procurador estatal pidiendo dicha información.*

Violencia en las escuelas

Por Barb Shangraw

El problema de violencia en nuestras escuelas se ha puesto en primera plana de los medios de comunicación. Existen muchos concernientes al respecto, incluyendo el uso de armas, drogas, alcohol, abuso, burla, depresión, enfermedades mentales, abuso doméstico y algunos otros factores. Sin embargo no deje que la complejidad de estos problemas lo agobie o atemorice. Hay muchas cosas que usted puede hacer para ayudar a que su comida escolar se mantenga segura.

- Pida a todos sus voluntarios que se registren en la oficina de la escuela y que se pongan una etiqueta de visitantes. Reúnase con los administradores de su escuela para establecer reglas para los visitantes de la escuela.
- Contacte al departamento de policía local para enterarse de las tendencias de los jóvenes violentos y pregunte como su PTA puede ayudar como socio comunitario.
- Reúnase con sus agencias locales de salud para trabajar con-

juntamente en asuntos como enfermedades mentales o abuso de alcohol o drogas, para determinar como la comunidad puede trabajar en conjunto para identificar y combatir estos problemas.

- Trabaje con los chicos para que desarrollen el sentido de pertenencia a su comunidad. Organice programas con mentores que involucren adultos que son buenos ejemplos a seguir..
 - Incluya a los estudiantes en sus discusiones de violencia. Aprenda de sus concernientes y puntos de vista..
 - Durante un día de lectura, escoja un libro que hable de “burla” y discuta los problemas que esto ocasiona.
 - Trabaje con sus administradores de la escuela para determinar si padres voluntarios son necesitados para ayudar a monitorear la escuela, durante la comida o recreo y durante la salida de la escuela.
 - Reúnase con los oficiales escolares para asegurarse de que existen planes de emergencia actualizados y que los chicos con discapacidades hayan sido tomados en cuenta para los planes de evacuación.
- No deje que el miedo paralice sus esfuerzos. Trabaje duro para desarrollar un ambiente de confianza. ¡identifique los problemas y atáquelos!

Todo lo que necesita saber sobre la elección

Por Bev Berryman, Parlamentaria del 4o Distrito de PTA

La gente siempre me pregunta los pasos para conducir una elección correctamente. Aunque no hay una fórmula perfecta, hay ciertos factores que ayudan a que la elección se haga correctamente.

De acuerdo a las políticas de la PTA de California, las elecciones deberán ser llevadas a cabo durante o antes de la segunda semana de abril. Esto se debe a que si la unidad realiza las elecciones más tarde de esta fecha, el presidente electo no tendrá tiempo para inscribirse y hacer planes de viaje para asistir a la convención estatal de la PTA. El artículo V de sus estatutos en la sección 9 dice que el presidente electo tiene el derecho de asistir como delegado a la convención; si las elecciones se realizan más tarde, la unidad se encuentra violando sus estatutos, pues impide que el presidente electo asista a la convención estatal. Y aunque hay manera que el presidente electo asista, se incurrirá en costos más altos por falta de planeación para la inscripción, reservación de hotel y pasajes de avión.

Ahora que queda claro cuando se debe conducir la elección, a continuación le doy ciertos pasos simples a seguir durante el proceso de elección.

- El presidente preside la junta y la elección se llevará a cabo en la parte de "Nuevo negocio" en la agenda.
- El presidente le pide al parlamentario que lea las secciones de los estatutos que se relacionan con el proceso de nominación y elección.
- A continuación el presidente le pide al director del comité nominador que lea el reporte de dicho comité, que contiene la lista de candidatos a los puestos de oficiales de PTA.
- El presidente repite la lista de candidatos y les pide a los nominados que se levanten.
- El presidente entonces preguntará si existen más nominaciones que se hagan desde el piso. Solo miembros de la unidad o del concilio de la PTA pueden nominar y votar por los candidatos durante esta junta..
- El presidente entonces conduce la elección aun cuando él o ella, este nominado para algún puesto. Si solamente existe un candidato para cada puesto, el voto se ejerce por voz. Si algún miembro pide una boleta de votación, su solicitud debe ser reconocida y deberá llevarse a cabo el voto sin debate. Este tipo de voto por boleta también se hace cuando hay más de 2 candidatos nominados para un solo puesto.

Por favor revise *la carpeta de recursos de la PTA de California* para encontrar un guión escrito de lo que el presidente tiene que decir en la junta de elección, así como las instrucciones para conducir una elección por boleta en caso de que la elección sea impugnada.

Durante esta junta anual se deberá aprovechar para elegir a sus delegados de la convención, uno de los cuales deberá ser el presidente electo. Asegúrese de añadir esta acción a su agenda.

Finalmente, la lista completa de los oficiales electos deberá de entregarse lo más pronto posible al concilio quien la entregara al 4o Distrito de PTA por obligación.

2 al 5 de mayo en San José

Prepárese para la convención estatal de la PTA de California

Por Shereen Walter, Vicepresidenta de Convención del 4o Distrito de PTA

Lo importante...

- Usted se puede inscribir para la convención por internet hasta el 26 de abril. Toda la información y materiales se encuentran disponibles en el sitio de internet www.capta.org
- La reservación de hotel puede ser hecha también por internet apretando el enlace que se encuentra en nuestro sitio www.capta.org hasta el 31 de marzo. Después de esta fecha, las reservaciones deberán hacerse directamente contactando el hotel y no se garantiza la tarifa ofrecida para los delegados de la convención. El cuarto de hospitalidad del 4o Distrito de PTA se encontrará localizada en el hotel Fairmont, así como la cena.
- Usted se puede registrar en la convención del 1 al 5 de mayo, pero el precio de inscripción subirá de \$199 a \$249 a partir del 1 de abril.

Lo divertido...

Orientación de delegados de la convención del 4o Distrito de PTA Martes 16 de abril de 9:30 a 11:00 am.

En la oficina del Distrito escolar de Fountain Valley, 10055 Slater Ave, FV
Todos los delegados de la convención del 4o Distrito de PTA deberán de asistir para enterarse de como obtener el mayor beneficio de la convención, las cosas que deben y no deben hacer, conocer al comité de convención y recoger su playera de la convención del 4o Distrito de PTA.

Tema de la cena de la convención del 4o Distrito de PTA: ¡Fiebre de PTA! Viernes 3 de mayo a las 7:15 pm, Hotel Fairmont - \$40 por persona

Póngase su ropa de los años 70 y diviértase mientras cada concilio presenta sus canciones o rimas sobre sus PTA. Los boletos pueden ser comprados a través de internet durante el proceso de inscripción a la convención. Cualquier boleto adicional puede ser comprado llenando la forma de "registro de cena" en el sitio www.fourthdistrictpta.org; imprima la forma, llénela y mándela a: Fourth District PTA, 1520 Brookhollow Dr, #40, Santa Ana, CA 92705.

(Continued from page 7)

...Reflections

Middle

Sidharth Subbarao - Venado Middle - Irvine Unified Council

High School

Alex Flavell - Valencia High - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Council

AWARD OF MERIT

Primary

Aashvi Bist - Newport Coast Elementary - Harbor Council

Amanda Mui - Chaparral Elementary - Capistrano Unified Council

Intermediate

Bethany Villacruz - Robinson Elementary - Saddleback Valley Council

Stephen Kelman - Jack L. Weaver Elementary - Los Alamitos Council

Middle

Alexander Behura - Kraemer Middle School - Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified

Sho Omoto - Macy Elementary - La Habra Council

High School

Kasia Kosmala-Dahlbeck - San Clemente High - Capistrano Unified

Sarah Sukardi - University High School - Irvine Unified Council

HONORABLE MENTION

Primary

Kyra Donovan - Portola Hills Elementary - Saddleback Valley Council

Sean Kelman - Jack L. Weaver Elementary - Los Alamitos Council

Intermediate

Matthew Diep - Plaza Vista - Irvine Unified Council

Maya Buchwald - Newport Coast Elementary - Harbor Council

Middle

Stacy Chang - Foothill Ranch Elementary - Saddleback Valley Council

Tatyana Buchwald - Corona del Mar - Harbor Council

High School

Sharon Liu - Oxford Academy - Anaheim Secondary Council

Tyler Churchill - Troy High School - Fullerton Council



Translation by



After School Spanish Program: 949-887-4339

May 2-5 in San Jose

Get ready for the California State PTA Convention

By Shereen Walter, Fourth District PTA VP of Convention

The Important Stuff...

- You can register for Convention online through April 26. All registration information and materials are available at www.capta.org.
- Housing can be arranged via the online link at www.capta.org through March 31. After March 31, reservations must be made directly with the hotel and may be at a higher rate. The Fourth District PTA Hospitality Suite will be in The Fairmont Hotel, as will the Fourth District PTA Dinner.
- You can register onsite from May 1-5, but the registration fee goes up from \$199 to \$249 as of April 1.

The Fun Stuff...

Fourth District PTA Convention Delegate Orientation

Tuesday, April 16, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Fountain Valley School District Office
10055 Slater Ave, Fountain Valley 92708



Fourth District PTA Convention Dinner Theme: PTA Night Fever!

Friday, May 3 at 7:15 pm
The Fairmont Hotel - \$40 per person

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

Dress in your finest '70s 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 (dinner registration form is at www.fourthdistrictpta.org); 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