



President's Message

Overcoming "PTA Drama"



by Maureen Christensen

I am a people person. As I go about my daily life, I love to meet new people and find out what is important to them. I also like to share with others my "loves" in life: my family, my religion, and, of course, PTA.

As I share that I am the president of Fourth District PTA, the largest PTA district in the PTA universe, I am met with many different reactions. One reaction really made me stop and think. I was on an airplane and started talking to the lady next to me, and I brought up PTA. She said, "I love to help in my kid's classrooms but I don't DO PTA." I asked her why she didn't belong to the PTA if she loved to volunteer. She said, "Because of the drama." We talked further about all of the drama that was happening at her school. The PTA at her school was known for being full of gossips. They were cliquey, always swapping PTA positions and not including others. They were always fundraising, but no one could see where the money was being spent.

I would hope that this was an isolated incident, but this week alone I have had calls from four principals who were asking for intervention. Their PTAs were "out of control." Gossip was running rampant. The PTAs felt "entitled" to do whatever they wanted whenever they wanted. HELP!

So how do we change others' perception of our PTAs? First, we need to take an honest look at ourselves. Look at who volunteers at your school and if they don't belong to PTA ask them why. Ask your principal and teachers what they think of your PTA. And then listen. Really listen and take a personal inventory. Do we contribute to the problem or the solution? Are we willing to make changes to better our organization?

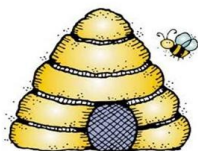
How do we stop the drama? We need to remember that PTA is about *doing what is best for children*. We need to check our personalities at the door. We need to be able to work with all different types of people. If we keep those things in mind, then our focus changes to the children and not the gossip and drama.

And how do we work on our relationships with our schools? We need to remember that as PTAs we are guests on our school's campus. We need to follow all policies and guidelines set forth by the administration and school district. We need to have open lines of communication with our administrators so that we can work together to do what is best for all children.

The theme for Fourth District PTA this term is "Sweeten the World, One Drop at a Time". Remember this as you represent PTA. Remember, YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Maureen

Sweeten the World



One Drop at a Time

Fourth District PTA®

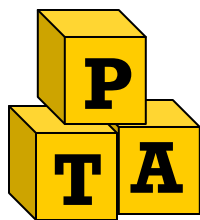
everychild.onevoice.®

*Artículos en español
paginas 10 y 11*

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Communicating with Basics: Confidence

From www.CAPTA.org

PTA leadership provides ample opportunities to improve communication skills. A PTA leader learns to speak before the organization; write letters, articles, and reports; make public presentations; and respond to the media.

REPRESENTING PTA

A PTA officer represents his or her unit, council or district PTA and is also a local representative of the California State PTA and the National PTA.

Leaders should...

- ◇ Reflect the PTA's official positions.
- ◇ Refrain from making statements that would commit you or the organization to programs or projects upon which no action has been authorized or taken.
- ◇ Build credibility as an individual so that your comments are of value to the audience.
- ◇ When a personal opinion is requested (and it will be), be sure to qualify it as such.

PLANNING YOUR REMARKS

- Announce in the introductory statement what will be discussed.
- Capture the attention of the group before delving into details.
- Become knowledgeable about the organization – its structure and purpose, and its positions and projects. Keep abreast of current developments.
- Be comfortable with yourself. If jokes or puns are not your strong point, do not tell them. Success comes from projecting one's own personality.
- Don't flutter about "butterflies." We all have them; in fact, we need them to keep us from becoming complacent.
- Do the homework. Few people can "wing it." The trick is to appear relaxed, and you can be if you are well prepared.
- Be flexible. When necessary, adjust remarks to help meet the need at hand.
- Find out in advance who the audience will be and why they selected you to speak.
- Cultivate effective listening skills. If you are part of a program, listen to what other participants are saying. If the previous speaker "steals your thunder," comment on how you share similar viewpoints and suggest, "Let's talk about this from another angle." Then continue with your own remarks.
- Know when to stop. If a standing ovation is desired, sit down.

Fourth District PTA

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Fourth District PTA comprises 20 councils in Orange & Los Angeles Counties with over 400 unit PTAs.

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Fourth District PTA Advocates at the California State PTA Legislation Conference



Members of the "A-Team"—the Fourth District PTA Advocacy Committee—outside the Governor's office: (Back,) Celia Jaffe, Fran Sdao, Kim Anderson, Gisela Meier, Chrystie Adams; (Front) Donna Artukovic, Bev Berryman, Sher-reen Walter.



California State PTA President Colleen A.R. You presents an Honorary Service Award to Ron Bennett, CEO of School Services of California. Ron is a long-time friend of Fourth District PTA. In fact, he received recognition from us at last year's Sacramento Safari for his many years of participating in our advocacy events.

Advocate and Past State President Carol Kocivar, Special Committee for Arts Education Chairman Barbara Lederman, and Education Advocate Donna Artukovic urge conference attendees to "Be a Super Hero for Arts Education"



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA CALENDAR

March

- 3** First day of registration for California State PTA Convention
- 4** Leadership Workshop
9:30 am - 12:00 pm; Orange County Dept of Education, Bldg A; 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa
- 7** Sacramento Safari Orientation
9:30-11:00 am
Fountain Valley School District
- 12** Annual District Meeting & Administrators Dinner
5:30 Annual District Meeting
6:15 Registration & Reception
6:45 Dinner & Program
Costa Mesa Country Club
1701 Golf Course Drive, CM
- 17-** Sacramento Safari
- 18** Embassy Suites, Sacramento
- 20** Council Presidents' Roundtable
9:30 am Fourth District Office

April

- 4** Advocacy Roundtable
9:30 am, Orange County Dept of Education, Bldg D; 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa
- 15** Last day of lower, early bird registration fees for convention
- 17** District Board Meeting
9:30 am Council Presidents
10:30 am District Board
Orange County Dept of Education, Bldg D; 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa
- 29** Segerstrom Arts Teach Annual Showcase

May

- 1** Annual Historian Reports due from councils to 4th District
- 7-10** California State PTA Convention
Los Angeles Convention Center
- 14** Spring Workshops I
Morning & evening, OCDE
- 20** Spring Workshops II
Morning & evening, OCDE

Thank you,
Kathleen Sarangay,
Programs VP



Photography

Awards of Excellence

Primary: **D. Outericky** - College Park Elem., Irvine Unified Council

Intermediate: **S. Templeton** - Rossmoor Elem., Los Alamitos Council

Middle: **H. Hall** - Hewes Middle, Out of Council

High: **M. Salvini** - Laguna Beach High, Laguna Beach Council

Special Artist: **T. Cerda Ofogh** - Las Flores Middle, Capistrano Unified Council

Awards of Merit

Primary: **G. Aslanian** - Del Cerrito Elem., Saddleback Valley Unified Council

Primary: **K. Hanrahan** - Hermosa Drive Elem., Fullerton Council

Intermediate: **S. Gates** - Truman Benedict Elem., Capistrano Unified Council

Intermediate: **A. Huebner** - Eastbluff Elem., Harbor Council

Middle: **S. McClure** - Canyon Rim Elem., Orange Community Council

Middle: **G. Romulo** - College Park Elem., Irvine Unified Council

High: **S. Walker** - El Dorado High, Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

High: **J. Jordan** - Fullerton Union High, Fullerton Council

Special Artist: **Z. Zubair** - Davis Elem., Harbor Council

Honorable Mention

Primary: **R. Reid** - Truman Benedict Elem., Capistrano Unified Council

Primary: **I. Evans** - Top Of the World Elem., Laguna Beach Council

Intermediate: **M. Manaloto** - Golden Hill Elem., Fullerton Council

Intermediate: **A. Palmer** - Olita Elem., La Habra Council

Middle: **B. Paul** - McAuliffe Middle, Los Alamitos Council

Middle: **W. Nicargi** - Isaac Sowers Middle, Huntington Union Council

Middle: **B. Wood** - Mariposa Elem., Brea Council

High: **J. Phan** - Canyon High, Orange Community Council

High: **K. Fowler** - Edison High, Huntington Union Council

Special Artist: **G. Tabor** - El Morro Elem., Laguna Beach Council

Congratulations, Reflections Artists!

More than 250 PTA units at schools throughout Orange County participated in the Fourth District Reflections Program this year with over 7,000 entries. Entries are judged at the local unit/school level, and the top entries are forwarded to their PTA council to be judged alongside entries from other schools in the council (usually their school district). Each PTA council selects the top entries to forward to Fourth District PTA.

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Film Production

Awards of Excellence

Primary: **C. Adams** - Linda Vista Elem., Orange Community Council

Intermediate: **D. Wheeler** - Golden Hill Elem., Fullerton Council

Middle: **P. Schantz** - Sierra Middle, Irvine Unified Council

High: **A. Fickman** - Laguna Beach High, Laguna Beach Council

Awards of Merit

Primary: **M. Conway** - Harbour View Elem., Huntington Union Council

Intermediate: **D. Singhal** - Bathgate Elem., Capistrano Unified Council

Middle: **N. Suvarnasuddhi** - Travis Ranch Elem., Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

Middle: **M. Garmany** - Ladera Ranch Middle, Capistrano Unified Council

High: **A. Phan** - Canyon High, Orange Community Council

Honorable Mention

Primary: **S. Tyagi** - Deerfield Elem., Irvine Unified Council

Primary: **R. Wilson** - Robinson Elem., Saddleback Valley Unified Council

Intermediate: **M. MacKenzie** - Hopkinson Elem., Los Alamitos Council

Intermediate: **S. Cole** - Village View Elem., Huntington Union Council

Intermediate: **S. Kelly** - Top Of the World Elem., Laguna Beach Council

Middle: **G. Thomson** - Beechwood Elem., Fullerton Council

Middle: **Lucinda Becker** - Thurston Middle, Laguna Beach Council

Middle: **Ryan Cutler** - El Rancho Charter, Orange Community Council

High: **Tony Zeng** - Irvine High, Irvine Unified Council

High: **Bianca Nemtoc** - Yorba Linda High, Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

High: **Sabrina Sanclair** - Valencia Elem., Saddleback Valley Unified Council

Literature

Awards of Excellence

Primary: **K. Parayao** - Chapman Hills, Orange Community Council

Intermediate: **I. Cervantes** - Fairmont Elem., Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

Middle: **K. Bond** - Isaac Sowers Middle, Huntington Union Council

High: **D. Lansigan** - Irvine High, Irvine Unified Council

Awards of Merit

Primary: **A. Perez** - Tynes Elem., Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

Primary: **A. Watson** - John S. Malcom Elem., Capistrano Unified Council

Intermediate: **E. Freeborn** - Trabuco Canyon, Saddleback Valley Unified Council

Intermediate: **C. Mulligan** - Truman Benedict, Capistrano Unified Council

Middle: **D. Chaderjian** - Beechwood Elem., Fullerton Council

Middle: **C. Wimberly** - Don Juan Avila Middle, Capistrano Unified Council

High: **R. Stillman** - Trabuco Hills High, Saddleback Valley Unified Council

High: **C. Brown** - Cypress High, Anaheim Secondary Council

Honorable Mention

Primary: **H. Belshe** - Harbour View Elem., Huntington Union Council

Primary: **S. Rizvi** - Culverdale Elem., Irvine Unified Council

Intermediate: **E. Marsh** - Frank N. Eastwood Elem., Westminster Council

Intermediate: **M. Grigoli** - Mariposa Elem., Brea Council

Middle: **B. Powers** - Bernardo Yorba Middle, Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

Middle: **S. Mummert** - Brea Junior High, Brea Council

High: **A. Best** - Sonora High, La Habra Council

High: **D. Hill** - Los Alamitos High, Los Alamitos Council

2013-14 Theme: "Believe, Dream, Inspire" Visual Arts

From more than 350 entries received by Fourth District PTA, 27 entries were selected for Awards of Excellence and these advanced to California State PTA for consideration. Fourth District PTA also recognized students with 49 Awards of Merit and 57 Honorable Mention Awards.

California State PTA will select entries to advance to the National PTA. All PTA district-level entries were displayed at the Reflections Gallery held on Saturday, February 15, at the Orange County Department of Education.

Music Composition

Awards of Excellence

Primary: **J. Burdett** - John S. Malcom Elem., Capistrano Unified Council

Intermediate: **A. Lim** - Turtle Rock Elem., Irvine Unified Council

Middle: **S. Soewono** - Deerfield Elem., Irvine Unified Council

High: **R. Slate** - El Dorado High, Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

Awards of Merit

Primary: **F. Adidarma** - Alderwood Elem., Irvine Unified Council

Primary: **R. McMullen** - Eastbluff Elem., Harbor Council

Intermediate: **K. Bisetti** - Frank N. Eastwood Elem., Westminster Council

Intermediate: **N. Gage** - Macy Elem., La Habra Council

Middle: **K. Wittry** - Beechwood Elem., Fullerton Council

Middle: **A. Pham** - Portola Hills Elem., Saddleback Valley Unified Council

High: **P. Yang** - Oxford Academy, Anaheim Secondary Council

High: **D. Ramirez** - Canyon High, Orange Community Council

Special Artist: **S. Sinclair** - Valencia Elem. Saddleback Valley Unified Council

Honorable Mention

Primary: **M. Berro** - J.H. McGaugh Elem., Los Alamitos Council

Primary: **S. Larson** - Montevideo Elem., Saddleback Valley Unified Council

Intermediate: **E. Doezie** - Oso Grande Elem., Capistrano Unified Council

Intermediate: **T. Cox** - Agnes L. Smith Elem., Huntington Union Council

Middle: **G. Mishra** - Brea Junior High, Brea Council

Middle: **A. Behura** - Kraemer Middle, Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

High: **N. Wu** - University High, Irvine Unified Council

High: **K. Kosmala-Dahlbeck** - San Clemente High, Capistrano Unified Council

High: **M. Keces** - Laguna Beach High, Laguna Beach Council

Dance Choreography

Awards of Excellence

Primary: **S. Oppegard** - Newport Coast Elem, Harbor Council

Intermediate: **K. Wolfe** - Truman Benedict Elem, Capistrano Unified Council

Middle: **A. Alizadeh** - Melinda Heights Elem, Saddleback Valley Unified Council

High: **K. Kurzweil** - Corona del Mar High, Harbor Council

Special Artist: **S. Garreton** - Philip J. Reilly Elem, Capistrano Unified Council

Awards of Merit

Primary: **G. Silberman** - Anaheim Hills Elem, Orange Community Council

Primary: **R. Lyng** - John H. Eader Elem, Huntington Union Council

Intermediate: **S. Matthews** - AE Arnold Elem, Cypress Council

Intermediate: **H. Adnani** - Canyon View Elem. Irvine Unified Council

Middle: **L. Backer** - Vista del Mar, Capistrano Unified Council

Middle: **A. Cruz** - Olita Elem, La Habra Council

High: **D. LeMaster-Dwyer** - Los Alamitos High, Los Alamitos Council

High: **D. Creager** - Huntington Beach High, Huntington Union Council

Honorable Mention

Primary: **J. Levasheff** - Springbrook Elem., Irvine Unified Council

Primary: **S. Beery** - Travis Ranch, Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

Intermediate: **H. Osborne** - J.H.

McGaugh Elem., Los Alamitos Council

Intermediate: **A. Somani** - Woodsboro Elem., Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

Middle: **N. Loram** - Beechwood Elem., Fullerton Council

Middle: **M. Chen** - Dwyer Middle, Huntington Union Council

High: **L. Hatanaka** - San Clemente High, Capistrano Unified Council

Awards of Excellence

Primary: **L. Huynh** - Lakeview Elem., Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

Intermediate: **N. Nam** - AE Arnold Elem., Cypress Council

Middle: **F. (Hyeseung) Son** - Rancho San Joaquin, Irvine Unified Council

High: **E. Morton** - El Dorado High, Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

Special Artist: **O. Barajas** - El Morro Elem., Laguna Beach Council

Awards of Merit

Primary: **S. Galey** - John H. Eader Elem., Huntington Union Council

Primary: **A. Lea** - Stone Creek Elem., Irvine Unified Council

Intermediate: **Z. Molteni** - Top Of the World Elem., Laguna Beach Council

Intermediate: **R. Fujimori** - George Patton Elem., Garden Grove Council

Middle: **M. Dominguez** - Brea Junior High, Brea Council

Middle: **J. Cha** - Oxford Academy, Anaheim Secondary Council

High: **S. Yeon Ahn** - Brea Olinda High, Brea Council

High: **G. Moon** - Woodbridge High, Irvine Unified Council

Special Artist: **D. Pineda** - Katella High, Anaheim Secondary Council

Special Artist: **A. Czinder** - Pacific Drive Elem., Fullerton Council

Honorable Mention

Primary: **S. Paramane** - Don Juan Avila Elem., Capistrano Unified Council

Primary: **A. Babikian** - Frank N. Eastwood Elem., Westminster Council

Intermediate: **A. Yamamoto** - Tustin Ranch Elem., Out of Council

Intermediate: **K. Chung** - Springbrook Elem., Irvine Unified Council

Middle: **M. Lopez** - Glenview Elem., Placentia Yorba Linda Unified Council

Middle: **B. Paul** - McAuliffe Middle, Los Alamitos Council

Middle: **K. Kim** - Aliso Viejo Middle, Capistrano Unified Council

High: **A. Eftimie** - Laguna Beach High, Laguna Beach Council

High: **M. Wickstrom** - Fountain Valley High, Huntington Union Council

High: **R. Zhu** - Troy High, Fullerton Council

Special Artist: **Z. Zubair** - Davis Elem., Harbor Council

Special Artist: **S. Sinclair** - Valencia Elem., Saddleback Valley Unified Council



Orange County Department of Education's Vision

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



“Orange County students will lead the nation in college and career readiness and success.”

As educators, we are preparing our students to succeed in an increasingly globalized and competitive workplace. It is imperative that students develop competencies in the areas of critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, communication, collaboration, and character to assure their success in college, careers, and life.

Recognizing the essential need to keep pace in education, and to assure our accountability, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) undertook a strategic planning process. This activity will enable us to stay ahead of the vast changes in technology, culture, and the global economy - while working hard to close the achievement gap. In developing our plan for the next five years, we looked at our history, core strengths, areas of improvement, challenges, and opportunities. Through the process, we affirmed our Mission, developed our Vision, and outlined the blueprint to achieve our goals.

We have come away from the strategic planning process with a living document and the compass for our ambitious journey—a journey that sets high expectations and allows us all to unite on the path to ensure Orange County students lead the nation in college and career readiness and success. The plan includes a set of strategic priorities, goals, key performance indicators, and a learning vision to guide our work. It revolves around our primary focus of student achievement, which is at the center of everything we do on a daily basis. The plan will enable us to build upon the successes of the past as we continue

to enhance our services to students, parents, and the community.

To lead the nation in college and career readiness and success is a high ambition, but within the reach of Orange County students. We recognize that OCDE plays a supportive role in reaching this vision and its fulfillment is ultimately dependent on the engagement and the contributions of educators at all levels of student development from early childhood through higher education. Success will require that our students cultivate not only academic mastery but also emotional and social development in safe and supportive schools and communities. Individual student interests, choices, and capacities define college and career success, but we know students need support to acquire competencies that will allow them to succeed in learning experiences beyond their PreK-12 education.

I want to express my gratitude to the many of you who contributed to the development of the plan by responding to surveys and participating in discussions with our leadership team members. I truly appreciate your constructive, thoughtful, and valuable input. I am confident that if we work together, our students will graduate from high school prepared with the competencies they need to thrive in the 21st century.

Thank you for your interest in the students of Orange County and for your contributions to their success.

For additional information about OCDE services, visit www.ocde.us.

To lead the nation in college and career readiness and success is a high ambition, but within the reach of Orange County students.

Registration has ended for the
Fourth District PTA Administrators Dinner
 Wednesday, March 12, 2014
 Costa Mesa Country Club
 For information, contact Kim Nichols
banquets@fourthdistrictpta.org

All PTA members are welcome to the
 5:30 p.m. Fourth District PTA Annual Meeting
 Registered paid guests only for
 6:15 p.m. Registration and Reception
 6:45 p.m. Program and Dinner



Connecting Families and Schools: California State PTA Convention 2014

It's time to register for convention!

Registration opens on March 3 for convention as well as for hotel reservations. (Register online at www.capta.org) Convention is May 7-10 at the LA Convention Center with the JW Marriott as the convention hotel.

Where can you build the skills to strengthen your school and community while having fun and connecting with PTA leaders from across the state? The 2014 California State PTA Annual Convention!

Attending convention is an investment in the future of your school and your children. Whether you are a newly-elected officer or a seasoned PTA leader, you'll obtain tools and resources to share with your local PTA.

Convention is the place to get the resources and support you need to build an even stronger PTA:

- Hear from motivating and inspiring keynote speakers on hot topics.
- Participate in workshops and learn new skills to help your school and PTA.
- Exchange ideas and network with PTA leaders from across the state.



The Fourth District Convention Dinner is on Thursday, May 8 after the workshops. It is at **Border Grill**, a restaurant within a mile of the convention center and hotel. Cost is \$45, which may be paid online at the time of registration, or by check directly to Fourth District PTA.

(**Border Grill** is run by co-chef/owners Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feniger, nationally known for their Food Network show "Too Hot Tamales" and through their appearance Bravo's "Top Chef Masters.")

Contact Cheri Jones, Vice President for Convention. with questions: convention@fourthdistrictpta.org

See www.capta.org or www.fourthdistrictpta.org for more details.

For ALL registered Sacramento Safari Attendees!!

Please be sure to attend the all-important Orientation...

Friday, March 7, 2014
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District
10055 Slater Avenue
Fountain Valley 92708

Binders will be distributed, valuable details shared, your input on certain items sought AND primers offered on some of the hot topics you'll be hearing about, so don't miss out!!

Questions?

Please contact Kim Anderson
at sac-safari@fourthdistrictpta.org

Fund Our Future: The Proposed State PTA Dues Increase

From California State PTA

For 18 years, Californians have watched the value of their dollar shrink. Buying power has diminished. Items purchased with a dollar bill in 1996 now cost \$1.48 to purchase, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. That means tightening the belt for all families in California.

California State PTA has been tightening its belt, too. We have adopted cost-control measures during these tough financial times that have allowed us to maintain, and in many cases to *increase*, our service offerings to local PTAs, our members, leaders and families throughout California, without having to increase membership dues. But time and inflation have taken their toll, and California State PTA can no longer sustain these current levels of service on 1996 dollars.

We encourage you to **FUND OUR FUTURE** by approving a dues increase for the California State PTA. Ensure that California State PTA will continue to positively impact the lives of children and families in California by voting yes for the dues increase at the year's PTA convention.

1996= \$1.00 = 2013= \$1.48





What parents know: The arts matter

By Joe Landon and Colleen You

The new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) recognizes the critical role parents play in the education of their children – and embeds it into law by requiring parents’ input into local school district budgets and accountability plans.

We are excited about the opportunities for parents, educators and school board members to talk more frequently with each other, listen to each other, and work more collaboratively to help all students succeed.

Parents understand how their children learn and what motivates them to succeed. Through the new funding formula, parents now have a true opportunity to articulate what matters to them to their local school boards, as well as to inform the school districts’ goals for all students, and the programs and services they’d like to see to help achieve them.

And what matters to parents? For one thing, parents overwhelmingly support exposure to the arts throughout the curriculum because they witness firsthand the impact of the arts in the lives of their children, reaching hidden talents and building confidence. They recognize the way the arts connect people more deeply to the world and open them to new ways of seeing.

We believe the arts are essential for a creative, engaged, work-prepared and civic-minded student population. The arts are a critical link to learning success.

That sentiment of parents is echoed by business leaders who understand the needs of the workforce. Joseph Calahan, Vice President of Xerox Corporation, observed: “Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence.”

In the coming months, as school boards seek input and develop their Local Control

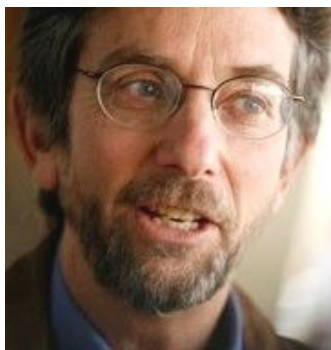
and Accountability Plans (LCAPs), parents will be raising questions: What is a quality arts program and do our students have access to it? Are the arts included in professional development for Common Core State Standards? How can the district use its additional LCFF money to provide access to arts education for low-income students, English Language Learners and foster youth?

Districts will have much to accomplish and address in their LCAPs across the eight identified state priority areas, but we know the arts can and should factor into most of those areas.

There is evidence throughout the state that districts are already responding to the voice of parents. Earlier this year, Michael Hanson, superintendent of Fresno Unified School District, wrote, “The arts are essential to a well-rounded education for our students, expanding their thinking and experiences in ways that simply cannot be achieved by any other avenue.” The school board responded by allotting an additional \$1 million investment in the arts, which has yielded more than 1,000 new musical instruments, new equipment for visual and performing arts, as well as new arts teaching positions and professional development in schools throughout the district.

We are entering a new era in education with greater parent engagement and more local decision-making authority. It’s an opportunity for parents to communicate what matters to them and their children – including access to the arts – and an opportunity for local school board officials to receive that input and to integrate its perspective into the specifics of their local plans. When parents have more of a say, that’s good news for the future of the arts in our schools.

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Joe Landon is executive director of California Alliance for Arts Education



Colleen A.R. You is president of California State PTA.

Congratulations, Membership Award Winners!

By Fourth District PTA Vice President for Membership Lisa Boler

Congratulations to the all the units who qualified for the "Teachers Matter...Members Matter Award." Statewide there were about 250 recipients. Here at Fourth District PTA we have 31 schools that qualified. Congratulations to the following units that will be receiving a free registration to California State PTA Convention in Los Angeles.

- Agnes L. Smith Elementary PTA
- Bathgate Elementary PTA
- Brookhurst Jr. High PTSA
- Buena Terra Elementary PTA
- Dr. Ralph E. Hawes Elementary PTA
- Frank Eastwook Elementary PTA
- George B. Miller Elementary PTA
- Glen H. Dysinger, Sr. Elementary PTA
- Harbour View Elementary PTA
- Hermosa Drive Elementary PTA
- Jack L. Weaver PTA
- John H. Eader Elementary PTA
- John R. Peterson Elementary PTA
- Jordan Elementary PTA
- Juliet Morris Elementary PTA
- Kraemer Middle School PTA
- Las Palmas Elementary PTA
- Lincoln Elementary PTA
- Mariners Elementary PTA
- Marjorie Veeh Elementary PTA
- Montevideo Elementary PTA
- Newport Heights Elementary PTA
- Nicolas Junior High PTSA
- Olita Elementary PTA
- Pacific Drive Elementary PTA
- Panorama Elementary PTA
- S. A. Moffett Elementary PTA
- Truman Benedict Elementary PTA
- Washington Middle School PTA
- Westpark Elementary PTA

5th Annual Creative Edge Lecture Wednesday, March 26th 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa

"Redesigning Leadership"
How Digital Connectedness and Creativity Changes Leadership
From the foremost thought leader for STEAM Education



John Maeda

Chairman of eBay Design Advisory Board
Former President of the Rhode Island School of Design

Tickets are on sale online at <http://artsoc.org/lecture.htm>
or by phone at (714) 556-2787
and at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts box office
600 Town Center Drive in Costa Mesa.

Save the Dates:

Spring 2014 PTA Workshops

Wednesday, May 14 and Tuesday, May 20

National University
3390 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa



NEW FORMAT!

Each workshop can be taken on either of two days! Sessions that are offered in the morning on the first date will be offered in the evening on the second date. You only pay once!

Registration information will be in the next issue of *Orange Leaves* and online at www.fourthdistrictpta.org.



¿Cómo detenemos el drama?

Por Maureen Christensen, Presidente del 4o Distrito de PTA

Yo soy una persona muy sociable. A medida que avanzo en mi vida cotidiana, me encanta conocer gente nueva y descubrir lo que es importante para ellos. También me gusta compartir con los demás "lo que más me apasiona" en la vida: mi familia, mi religión y por supuesto PTA.

Al compartir que yo soy la presidente del Cuarto Distrito de PTA, el distrito de PTA más grande en el universo de PTA, estoy enfrentada con muchas reacciones diferentes. Una reacción realmente me hizo parar y pensar. Yo estaba en un avión y comencé a hablar con la señora que estaba junto a mí, y toqué el tema de PTA. Ella dijo: "Me gusta ayudar en los salones de mi hijo, pero NO A PTA." Le pregunté por qué ella no pertenecía al comité de PTA si amaba ser voluntaria. Ella dijo: "Por el drama." Hablamos con más detallan referente al drama que estaba ocurriendo en su escuela. El comité PTA de su escuela era conocido por ser chismoso. Ellos eran antipáticos, intercambiando siempre los puestos de PTA y

no incluyendo a otros. Siempre estaban recaudando fondos pero nadie podía ver como el dinero estaba siendo gastado.

Espero que esto haya sido un incidente aislado, pero sólo esta semana he tenido llamadas de cuatro directores que pedían una intervención. Sus comités de PTA "estaban fuera de control."

Chismes corrían desenfundadamente. Los comités de PTA creían tener el "derecho" de hacer lo que quisieran cuando quisieran. ¡AYUDA!

Entonces, ¿cómo podemos cambiar la percepción de PTA con los demás? En primer lugar, tenemos que mostrar una imagen honesta de nosotros mismos. Observar quienes son voluntarios en su escuela y si ellos no pertenecen a PTA preguntarles por qué. Pregúntele a su director y los maestros lo que piensan de su PTA. Y luego escúcheles. Realmente escuchar y hacer un auto reflexión personal.

¿Contribuimos al problema o a la solución? ¿Estamos dispuestos a hacer cambios para mejorar nuestra organización?

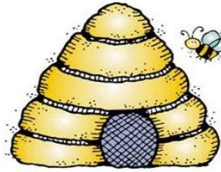
¿Cómo detenemos el drama? Tenemos que recordar que PTA trata de hacer lo que es mejor para los niños. Necesitamos comprobar nuestra personalidad en la puerta. Tenemos que ser capaces de trabajar con todos los diferentes tipos de personas. Si mantenemos estas cosas en mente, entonces nuestro enfoque cambia a los niños y no el chisme y el drama.

¿Y cómo se trabaja para mantener una estrecha relación con nuestras escuelas? Tenemos que recordar que los comités de PTA son invitados en las escuelas. Tenemos que respetar el reglamento y directrices establecidas por la administración y el distrito escolar. Tenemos que tener abiertas las líneas de comunicación con nuestros administradores para que podamos trabajar en conjunto para hacer lo mejor posible para todos los niños.

El tema para el Cuarto Distrito de PTA en esta ocasión es "Endulzar el Mundo, una Gota a la Vez." Recuerde esto como representante de PTA. Recuerde, ¡USTED ESTÁ HACIENDO LA DIFERENCIA!

Maureen

Sweeten the World



One Drop at a Time

Aparte la fecha:

Talleres de PTA en la primavera de 2014

Miércoles, 14 de mayo y Martes, 20 de mayo
National University, 3390 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa

¡NUEVO FORMATO!

¡Cada taller se ofrecerá en dos días y en dos horarios!

Las sesiones que se ofrecen en la mañana en la primera fecha se ofrecerán por la noche en la segunda fecha. ¡Usted sólo paga una vez!

El espacio es limitado así que por favor regístrese sólo por aquellas sesiones que usted podrá asistir.



Conectar a familias y escuelas en la convención anual de 2014

Por Cheri Jones, Vicepresidenta del 4to Distrito de la Convención

¡Ya es hora de registrarse para la Convención!

La registración comienza el 3 de marzo para la convención, así como para hacer reservaciones de alojamiento. (Regístrese en línea en www.capta.org)

¿Dónde puede construir las habilidades para fortalecer su escuela y comunidad mientras se divierten y establecen una conexión con los líderes de PTA de todo el estado? ¿En la Convención Anual Estatal de California del 2014!

Asistir a la convención es una inversión para el futuro de su escuela y sus hijos. Si usted es un funcionario electo o un líder con experiencia de PTA, obtendrá las herramientas y los recursos para compartir con su PTA local.

La convención es el lugar para obtener los recursos y el apoyo que necesita para construir un PTA aún más fuerte.

- Escuche a oradores motivadores e inspiradores sobre temas de actualidad.
- Participe en talleres y aprenda nuevas habilidades para ayudar a su escuela y PTA.
- Intercambie ideas y establezca contactos con líderes de PTA de todo el estado. Diviértase y celebre PTA.

Habrà una cena del cuarto distrito el jueves 8 de mayo. Más detalles serán anunciados próximamente.

En caso de tener alguna pregunta referente a la convención contacte con a:
Cheri Jones, VP a través del correo electrónico:

convention@fourthdistrictpta.org

Visite la página www.capta.org o
www.fourthdistrictpta.org para más detalles.



"¡Quiero ser presidente por cuatro años!"

Por Erin Jenks, Parlamentaria del 4o Distrito de PTA

Muchas veces nos confundimos con la redacción de los estatutos sociales que se encuentran en el Artículo V - Oficiales y su Elección, Sección 8. En esta sección se establece que... "Los oficiales serán elegidos por un término de un (1) año o hasta que se elija a sus sucesores. "

Muchas veces pensamos que esto significa que, dado que no se ha encontrado a otro candidato , el oficial actual puede permanecer en esa posición otra vez. Pero leemos más en esa sección que ... "en el caso de que ningún sucesor sea elegido, ese puesto se **declarará vacante.**" **Los puestos vacantes deben ser llenados por la mesa directiva electa o mesa directiva, según el**



Artículo V, Sección 11 y 12.

Muchas de nuestras unidades están teniendo dificultades en cubrir los puestos de la mesa directiva, y es muy tentador mantener la misma persona por un tercer año consecutivo, pero no hay que tirar la toalla y decir "No pudimos encontrar a nadie más."

Pregúntele a su director o representante docente de como los padres son vistos como voluntarios dentro de su escuela; reclutar padres de familia de las escuelas secundarias, si usted es parte de una escuela secundaria o preparatoria; hacerse amigo de aquellos padres que van a recoger a sus hijos todos los días. Puede parecer más fácil de rotar y reciclar las mismas personas, pero eso crea problemas. Los líderes experimentan el agotamiento, le damos la percepción de exclusivismo, y nos robamos a nosotros mismos y nuestras unidades de nuevas ideas y entusiasmo.

En algún lugar en el salón de clases o en el estacionamiento podría estar alguien increíble a la espera de ser invitado a ¡ser parte de su PTA!

“I Want to be President for Four Years!”

By Fourth District PTA Parliamentarian Erin Jenks

Many times we are confused by the wording in our bylaws found in Article V – Officers and Their Election Section 8. In this section it states that “Officers shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected.”

Many times we think this means that since another candidate has not been found, that the current officer can hold that position again. But we read further in that section that “...in the event that no successor is elected, that position is *declared vacant*.” **Vacant positions must be filled by the executive board-elect or executive board, per Article V, Section 11 and 12.**

Many of our units are struggling to fill executive board positions, and it is very tempting to keep the same person a third year, but we mustn't throw in the towel and say, "We couldn't find anyone else."

Ask your principal or teacher rep what parents are seen volunteering around school; recruit parents from feeder schools if you are a junior or senior high; befriend those parents you see picking up their kids every day. It may seem easier to rotate and recycle the same people, but it creates trouble. Leaders experience burnout, we give the perception of cliquishness, and we rob ourselves and our units of new ideas and enthusiasm.

Somewhere out there in the classroom or parking lot could be someone amazing just waiting to be asked to be a part of your PTA!



Visit our Facebook Page for the Latest News

By Fourth District PTA Social Media Chairman Shanin Ziemer



Like us on Facebook!

Some recent posts have included information about getting free admission to museums, our Advocacy Roundtable, our Fourth District PTA A-Team working for you in Sacramento, the latest on the Governor's budget proposal for schools, what's going on with the Local Control Funding Formula and the implementation of Common Core, Membership Perks, Scholarships, and much more!

Lots of timely, interesting, and fun information. Once you've liked us, be sure to click on the gear (to the right of Messages) and select "Add to Interest Lists" to be sure you see all our posts. Don't miss out, like us today! And be sure to share the information with your PTA families.

March
2014

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Fourth District
PTA