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

March 2014

Fourth District PTA, CCPTS, National PTA

www.fourthdistrictpta.org
Communicating with 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 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, Sherileen 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

17-18 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
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.

**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: 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 Nemtce -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
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"

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. Malcolm 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. Wittrry** - 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

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. Garretton** - 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: **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

Visual Arts

Awards of Excellence
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. Domínguez** - 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. Efthimie** - 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

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.
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

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.

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 Boier

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 presidenta 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 tocó 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 detalle 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 desenfrenadamente. 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 escúchelos. 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

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.

Habrá 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


"¡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!
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!