

## President's Message Change for the Better

by Maureen Christensen



May is a time of change and transition in PTA. We are electing new officers and boards. I have to admit...I hate change. I guess that is just human nature. But over the years in PTA I have come to not only accept change, but to appreciate it and even enjoy it.

The transition and change of PTA officers is very beneficial to our organization...if it is done correctly. I have met several PTA presidents and boards who tell me that they can't find people to fill the PTA positions. And then I get asked the age old question, "Can't I just stay on for another year?"

PTA officers should always be looking for and training their potential replacements. That doesn't mean that you should promise positions to people. It also doesn't mean that we automatically move from one position to the next. What that means is that there should always be several people on your board who are learning PTA procedures at all levels and are becoming prepared to step into leadership positions. This will not happen if you are not open to bringing new people and ideas into your PTA.

When I first started in PTA almost 20 years ago, I didn't realize that I was walking into a PTA that had the mentality of "passing PTA positions around the current board." They just seemed to switch places each year. When

I came in, I was a new person with new ideas. I am a rule follower, so I thought we should...FOLLOW THE RULES. That didn't make me particularly popular when I asked about electing a nominating committee. I was told that a nominating committee wasn't necessary. They knew who was going to be on the board for next year. It took some time, but finally this unit stopped the position passing and started letting new people in.

Another unit comes to mind when I think of change. I looked around at the board of my local junior high school and noticed that the board didn't reflect the makeup of the school population. I thought, "It is time for a change." This required a lot of work and patience. We first had to gain the trust of the local parents. They thought that their ideas

and opinions weren't wanted or needed. (Probably because we hadn't asked or accepted any new ideas in a long while.) Then we had to train them in a meaningful way and in a language they could understand. And then we had to prove to them that we really did value their ideas. Instead of always doing what we always did, we had to step out of our comfort zone and CHANGE. Now that board reflects the local population. I have to admit, they don't do things the way we used to. But that is the point.

Change isn't bad. It is just different. As we come to accept new ideas and new people we can become stronger PTAs and a better organization.

*Maureen*



### Sweeten the World



*One Drop at a Time*

## Fourth District PTA®

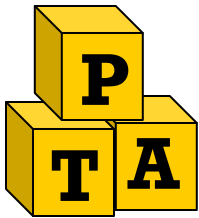
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*Artículos en español  
paginas 11 y 13*

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# Basics: Membership

## Qualify for Awards, Clean up your Books, and Prepare for Next Year

By Fourth District Vice President for Membership Lisa Boler

Thank you to all of you for remitting your membership dues in a timely manner.

### Qualifying for the National PTA Membership Challenge: 14 in '14

Remember we have until our next Fourth District PTA meeting, Thursday, May 15, to get membership dues turned in to Fourth District PTA to qualify for the National PTA challenge. Any unit that increases its membership by 14 members between February 1, 2014, and our May 15 due date will receive an entry ticket for the drawing. There are no forms to fill out or applications to send in. You don't have to do anything but increase your membership by 14 within that time frame and remit it to us, and you will have a chance to **win \$1,000.00 for your PTA**. The drawing for the prizes will be done at National PTA Convention in June. You do not have to be present to win! Good luck.

**NOTE: 2013-2014 Dues will be accepted through channels to Fourth District PTA through June 13. Before you close your PTA financial books for audit, make sure you have properly forwarded all appropriate dues remittances.**



### Membership Envelopes

It is time to think about ordering membership envelopes for next year. If your unit plans to use the California State PTA membership envelopes, please place your order with your council as soon as possible. The order form showing a copy of the envelope is available on the Fourth District PTA website ([www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org)) under **Membership** and then **Forms**. The price is **\$15.00 for a box of 500 envelopes** (same price as last year). All orders must be in multiples of 500. Please write the check to your council. Councils, please forward one check for all your units. Additional envelopes will be ordered as needed.

## 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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**Of COURSE your PTA is wonderful!**

Please take a minute to fill out an application and tell us about it!

We are still accepting applications for Fourth District PTA Awards,  
due to the office **April 30th.**

There are four Fourth District PTA Awards available:

1. Creative Program Award: Did your school do something creative? (Not a fundraiser) We'd like to hear about it!
2. Creative Membership Award: How did you get your members? Let us know!
3. Outstanding Unit: We know you are, but you need to fill out the paperwork to be considered!
4. Outstanding Council: This great level of PTA deserves recognition, too!

Applications are available online: <http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/forms/>  
Award winners will be notified and invited to attend the Fourth District PTA Awards Luncheon on June 5. Questions? Email Jill at [awards@fourthdistrictpta.org](mailto:awards@fourthdistrictpta.org). Good luck!

## Maeda on Creativity, Communication, and Plum Trees

By Cultural Arts Committee Member Shanin Ziemer

This year's Creative Edge Lecture was inspirational and enlightening. The speaker was John Maeda, an artist, author and longtime champion of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics). He is considered to be one of the world leaders in the area of creative design and he discussed how to foster a culture of creativity within organizations by redesigning leadership.

Maeda started by discussing the importance of creativity and the arts in education by drawing comparisons between skills learned through the arts and skills needed to be successful in the workplace. One example was that through music you learn to communicate in a whole new language with its own writing and meaning, which are skills needed to be a good computer programmer. Also, arts are important to teach students that there isn't just one right answer. It's important to make you think and wonder and create, not just look for a solution. And arts are critical in teaching students to learn from their failures, adjust, and try again, and learn how to productively fail.

Maeda explained how to make an organization more successful and creative, and a lot of his advice pertained to things we already work towards in PTA. One of the key factors that has changed in recent times is the flow of information and communications.

Previously, organizations were arranged like a pyramid, where all the information flowed to the top point, and only the person at the top had access to it all. Communication was limited. But now, organizations can work more like a plum tree, where management is like the roots pulling in nourishment from the ground and supplying it to the creators/workers to help them grow and produce fruit. Leaders and the organization connect people to help good things happen. This is how our PTAs should be.

We should work to educate our members and communicate so everyone can have the information needed to support our students, our schools, and our PTAs. We are not an organization where the top leadership directs everything below, but an organization where the leadership supports our members. We need to remember to be open and welcoming to new ideas, to be willing to try new things even if they don't work out perfectly the first time, and to work to reach out to all our members. And remember that your unit is supported by your Council, District, State, and National PTAs, all working to be the roots that nourish our members.

## FOURTH DISTRICT PTA CALENDAR

### May

- 1 PTA Historian Reports Due--**  
Council report, including compiled unit hours, due to 4th District
- 7-10 California State PTA Convention**  
**Los Angeles Convention Center**
- 14 Spring PTA Workshops, Day 1**  
See flier in this issue  
National University, 3390 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa
- 15 Council Presidents' Roundtable**  
9:30 -11:30 am District Office
- 20 Spring PTA Workshops, Day 2**  
See flier in this issue  
National University, 3390 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa
- 22 Executive Committee Meeting**  
District Office
- 26 Office closed for Memorial Day**

### June

- 5 Association Meeting & End of Year Luncheon**  
9:30 a.m. - CP Roundtable  
10:30 a.m. - General Meeting  
12 noon - Luncheon
- 26 Last day of regular Fourth District office hours**
- 30 Office closed**

### July

- Office open only Wednesdays, July 2, 9, 16, and 23; 9:30 am - 2:00 pm**
- 28 Regular M-Th office hours resume**



Fourth District PTA has a wonderful website. Visit us at  
[www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org)

## 80 PTA Advocates + 2 Days + 17 Speakers + 11 Appointments in Legislators' Offices = Sacramento Safari 2014

By Vice President for Advocacy Shereen Walter

Safari 2014 began with Rick Simpson, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Assembly Speaker John Perez, speaking to us about current education issues.

- ◆ Regarding SB 837 (Steinberg), which would require school districts to provide one year of Transitional Kindergarten to four year olds, the Speaker would instead like to see an increase in funding for current programs that serve low income families.
- ◆ The need for additional monies to help school districts implement Common Core State Standards.
- ◆ Concerns with the Governor's proposal on blended learning. There is no research suggesting that online learning has the benefits or successful outcomes of traditional learning.

Mac Taylor, the Legislative Analyst, spoke to us about the Governor's proposed budget for 2014-2015.

- For the first time in many years, Governor Brown was able to bring us positive information regarding school budgets, including a proposed pay down of deferrals for K-12 and increases in the Local Control Funding Formulas base grant.
- The LAO believes the Governor's proposed budget is a smart mix of one-time and ongoing spending, that payments towards reducing the "wall of debt" are reasonable, and that the proposal keeps the implementation of LCFF on track.

Joan Buchanan, Chairman of the Assembly Education Committee, spoke about the Attorney General's office putting a spotlight on chronic absence with the introduction of 5 bills on the subject.

- Her office is looking for a path to move forward on the subject of teacher evaluation and dismissal after the defeat last year of her bill to reduce the amount of time and cost for teacher dismissals.
- It does not look like anything will be done by the State this year in the area of school facility bonds.

We heard from California State PTA President Colleen You,

Director of Legislation Kathy Moffat, and Executive Director Paul Richman on the importance of speaking up and speaking out for California's children as well as the priority that CAPTA is placing on preparing our PTA parents to engage with their school districts on the new Local Control and Accountability Plans.

Our dinner panel consisted of government relations representatives from top school groups (California State PTA, California Teachers Association, Association of California School Administrators, and the California School Boards Association) moderated by Rick Simpson. These representatives highlighted the similarities and differences between the groups regarding such issues as transitional kindergarten, teacher evaluation and dismissal, Common Core State Standards and their implementation and the governor's proposed budget.

Day two opened with a choice of sessions presented by members of the California Department of Education. Choices included the new Smarter Balanced Assessments, Superintendent's Initiative Update, Early Childhood Learning, LCFF and LCAP, Common Core State Standards, College & Career Readiness and School Climate.

We had a lunch planning session for our afternoon legislator visits and then finished up our day by visiting our legislators and then debriefing with the entire group about how those visits went.

I encourage our units and councils to send two representatives next year on this valuable trip.



### Leadership Workshop

## How to Run a Successful PTA: Tools to make Leadership Easier

By Vice President for Leadership Michele Langham



A Fourth District PTA Leadership Workshop was held on March 4 at the Orange County Department of Education. Jackie Wood, California State PTA Vice President for Leadership, and Linda Ross, Leadership Commissioner,

were guest presenters. Maureen Christensen, Celia Jaffe, Bev Berryman and Fran Sdao also presented for Fourth District PTA. Marilyn Amato, Diana Flores and Helen Martinez

from the Leadership team gave input and helped present this workshop.

Topics covered were leadership skills, how to hold effective meetings, team building, delegating and conflict resolution. Discussion questions provided attendees with a chance to collaborate with other PTA volunteers. A survey was sent to the attendees and the results will be used to update future presentations on Leadership. Thank you to all who helped to make this a success and thanks to all of you who attended. We encourage you to take advantage of our training at the upcoming May workshops. See pages 7-10.

## Good Communications Support Family-School Partnerships

By Fourth District PTA Vice President for Communications Kathleen Fay

Research shows that there is a positive and convincing relationship between family involvement and student success, regardless of race/ethnicity, class, or parents' level of education. When families are involved in their children's learning both at home and at school, their children do better in school. To address the specific types of involvement that were shown to be especially beneficial to children's academic success, National PTA has developed six important standards for effective family-school partnerships.

Good communication skills are essential to the positive implementation of all these standards, whether in speaking up for kids, offering messages of inclusion, improving policies, or practicing constructive collaboration. Remember that the best communicators focus on listening – giving people their full attention, clarifying to ensure understanding, and responding with honesty and empathy.

Learn more about the specific action steps that local PTA leaders can take to support these standards at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

### PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

- 1. Welcoming all families into the school community**—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.
- 2. Communicating effectively**—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.
- 3. Supporting student success**—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.
- 4. Speaking up for every child**—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
- 5. Sharing power**—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.
- 6. Collaborating with community**—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.



*OCDE Board Member/Liaison to Fourth District PTA Elizabeth Parker, speaker Dr. Jeff Hittenberger, Roundtable Chairman Fran Sdao, and Advocacy VP Shereen Walter at the April Roundtable.*

## The Role of OCDE & the Role of Parents in the LCAP

By Advocacy Committee Member Celia Jaffe

Jeff Hittenberger, Ph.D., the Chief Academic Officer of Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), was the featured speaker at Fourth District PTA's April 4 Advocacy Roundtable.

Dr. Hittenberger stirred up the crowd by teaching us the standard daily greeting and response in Haiti, where he grew up: When someone asks, "What's up?" Haitians respond, "I'm on fire!" He encouraged the audience to bring that kind of positivity and enthusiasm to every day.

In explaining the concepts behind the Common Core State Standards, he said, "In a world where a lot of tasks can be exported overseas, it's creativity or innovation that's likely to give you longevity in a career." The Common Core goes beyond the "3 Rs" and promotes the "4 Cs": creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

OCDE plays a role in helping school districts in Orange County develop their Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs). The county provides trainings regarding the new requirements and process, professional development related to each of the eight state priority areas required in the LCAP, and updates and interpretations of state regulations.

In developing an LCAP, school districts are required to consult with stakeholders, present a draft to a parent committee (and usually a District English Learner Advisory Committee--DELAC), give opportunity for public comment, and adopt the LCAP and the district budget by the end of June. How parent and other stakeholder input is given is not strictly defined, so districts may fulfill that requirement in different ways. In future years, the whole LCAP development process will be spread over a longer period of time.

After an LCAP is adopted by a school district, OCDE will evaluate it based on three questions: Is the LCAP aligned with the eight state priority areas? Does the LCAP follow the template? Does the LCAP show how the district budget aligns with the identified instructional goals? The county will then either approve the plan or provide the district with an extensive response on what its weaknesses are and what improvement is necessary.

Dr. Hittenberger's advice to parents on advocacy was

- ◆ To champion the new academic standards
- ◆ To champion the LCFF and LCAP system
- ◆ To champion parent and community involvement
- ◆ To partner with teachers and administrators to achieve priorities and goals for student learning.

Look for information on 2014-15 Advocacy Roundtables in the first *Orange Leaves* issue next year.

# Proud to be a Good-Enough Girl!

By Fourth District Vice President for Education, Health, and Community Issues Candi Kern



For most PTA volunteers, our work is never done. There is always something else we could be doing. We also tend to be the ones serving in multiple other volunteer duties such as Scouts, sports, and church. I am sometimes asked how I manage to get it all done. I usually reply that I'm a "good-enough girl." That typically elicits a laugh, but I am completely serious. Being a good-enough girl works for me, and it might help you too.

**What is a "good-enough girl" and why would I want to be one?** Picture a continuum of *complete flake* to *total perfectionist*. A "good-enough girl" would fall somewhere in the upper middle. A good-enough girl can get much done without burning out. She can balance her resources and allocate them appropriately. If she's doing it right, a good-enough girl will have a little something left over at the end of the day – at least on most days.

## Principles of a Good-Enough Girl:

Your "good" had better be pretty darned good. No flakes allowed. No shoddy work or half-heartedness. Missed due dates or things falling through the cracks are simply not good enough. In any group project setting, she must make sure that her work is supporting the team, and not impeding or slowing anyone down.

Manage your resources well. Though it may be cliché to say so, our time is perhaps our most precious resource. A good-enough girl is judicious about how she spends her time. Sometimes a cost-benefit analysis can be quite useful. Determine if the benefit of what you're working on is

truly worth the cost (time, money, energy, stress). For example, one would certainly see the benefit in investing time hand-sewing your daughter's wedding dress. However, do we need to toil for hours over the costume for the summer day camp skit? And since when did soccer snacks and birthday favors become so elaborate? Not every task needs to be Pinterest-worthy.

Delegate. We are all blessed with different gifts. Some things come easily to us, and others can be a burden. A

good-enough girl fills her plate with things that she enjoys and come fairly easily to her. If a task is not in her skill set, she seeks the help and advice of others who are strong in that area to lighten her load. (That said, a good-enough girl is always mindful of not burdening others or simply passing the buck.)

Prioritize. I was once asked to imagine if an outsider who didn't know our family were to observe how we spend our resources (time, money, etc.). Would it

truly reflect our family's values and beliefs? According to the number of hours we spent at the baseball field in those days, an outsider probably would have thought that we are huge baseball lovers, preparing a kid for the Major League. Neither of which were true. Though we enjoyed baseball, it was out of alignment with the rest of our family beliefs, and things that we truly value were taking a back seat. A good-enough girl recognizes her limited

time, and puts the most meaningful and valuable tasks at the top of the list.

A good-enough girl is less likely to get burned out. She tends to lead a more balanced life, making sure she has time for the truly important moments in life, such as spending time with friends and family. If a good-enough girl applies these principles well, she will have enough reserve and resources left in her to step up for the times she needs to be truly great!

**...imagine if an outsider who didn't know our family were to observe how we spend our resources (time, money, etc.). Would it truly reflect our family's values and beliefs?**



## 2014 Parent Support Services Faire

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, May 30, 2014



Participant Registration Opens on April 1, 2014

Do you know what resources are available for families in your area?

### Who Should Attend:

- Community Liaisons
- Parent Coordinators
  - PTA Members
- School Administrators
- School Site Council Members
- Teachers on Special Assignment
- Title I Coordinators

Over 65 Exhibitors

Community Resources

Parenting Class Providers

Parent and Educator Publications for Purchase

More information will be made available on the Family Involvement Network website: <http://www.ocde.us/FIN>

# Funding Our Future: California State PTA's Proposed Dues Increase



It is hard to believe that 18 years have passed since California State PTA last increased annual membership dues. State PTA has held the line for nearly two decades with no

increase in the cost of membership. However, annual operating costs have outpaced revenue growth and state PTA has reached a critical point financially. For this reason, California State PTA's board of managers has adopted a motion to present a \$0.75 dues increase to delegates at the upcoming California State PTA Convention.

According to California State PTA Treasurer Tim Davidson, the recommendation to increase the state portion of membership dues by \$0.75 is far from arbitrary, but rather it's based on a critical need to be fiscally responsible and to operate within a balanced budget. "We are in our sixth year of deficit spending," Davidson explains. "During which we've had to tap into reserves to pay our bills. That was a decision we made to help our members weather the fiscal crisis that began in 2008 – but our auditors have advised that we cannot rely on a strategy of deficit spending moving forward."

For 18 years, and confronted with substantial inflation since 1996, cost-control measures and new ways of operating have allowed the California State PTA to maintain, and in many cases to *increase*, its service offerings to community PTAs, their 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 1995 dollars.

California State PTA urges its members to support the dues increase proposed at this year's PTA Convention. This increase will ensure that the mission, purposes, goals and work of PTA, on behalf of all children, continues to move forward.

**LEARN MORE!**

At [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org) look for the "Business of the Association" link on the convention page. There you will find detailed information about the proposed dues increase, including "Frequently Asked Questions" and "Financial Background." The following are excerpts from those documents:

Q: What do my child and my PTA receive for the membership dues we remit annually to California State PTA? What do my dues pay for?

A: California State PTA offers a wide scope of resources, programs and services to our PTAs and our members, including but not limited to:

**From the California State PTA Dues Committee**

- ⇒ Programs-in-a-Box, packaged parent and family education programs;
- ⇒ Member Perks, benefits and discounts for our members;
- ⇒ Premier art programs such as the Reflections Arts Recognition Program,
- ⇒ Scholarship monies available to high school seniors, volunteers and school staff;
- ⇒ Grant monies for your PTA for programs, activities and events,
- ⇒ Respected and influential advocates in Sacramento and Washington D.C. speaking on your behalf on issues you care about;
- ⇒ At-your-fingertips information on our website;
- ⇒ Publications and communications to members and member leaders;
- ⇒ Counterpart support and training for PTA leaders;
- ⇒ PTAEZ, our financial accounting and reporting system available to local PTAs at low cost;
- ⇒ Tax-filing and CT number assistance;
- ⇒ Online officer contact system;
- ⇒ Affordable insurance coverage--\$1,000,000 liability, \$15,000 bonding--for your PTA and events;
- ⇒ Governance documents and bylaws;
- ⇒ Field services, sending state leaders into your area for training and events;
- ⇒ And many more

Q: What has California State PTA done to reduce expenses?

A: Cost-control measures and new ways of operating have allowed the California State PTA to maintain, and in many cases to increase, its service offerings to local PTAs, their members, leaders and families throughout California. Some of the measures implemented over the years that helped reduce costs include:

- A. Reduction in the number of state board of managers meetings annually;
- B. Reduction of in-person board of directors and committee meetings;
- C. Review of all service provider contracts, including issuing Requests For Proposals (RFPs) and renegotiating more favorable rates;
- D. Managing printing and mailing expenses by negotiating lower printing rates and developing more electronic versions of publications;
- E. Increased sponsorship donations for annual convention.

How much are PTA membership dues in other states?					
Oregon	\$7.25	Texas	\$2.25	Georgia	\$1.50
Hawaii	\$7.00	DC	\$2.00	Maryland	\$1.50
Washington	\$5.75	Delaware	\$2.00	Rhode Island	\$1.50
Idaho	\$5.25	Illinois	\$2.00	Utah	\$1.50
Alaska	\$4.00	Michigan	\$2.00	Vermont	\$1.50
Colorado	\$4.00	Missouri	\$2.00	West Virginia	\$1.50
Minnesota	\$4.00	Nebraska	\$2.00	Florida	\$1.25
Connecticut	\$3.25	Hampshire	\$2.00	Kansas	\$1.25
Montana	\$3.25	North Dakota	\$2.00	<b>California</b>	<b>\$1.25</b>
Wyoming	\$3.25	Puerto Rico	\$2.00	Kentucky	\$1.25
Indiana	\$3.00	South Dakota	\$2.00	Mississippi	\$1.25
New Mexico	\$3.00	Louisiana	\$1.75	Alabama	\$1.00
Wisconsin	\$3.00	Massachusetts	\$1.75	Arkansas	\$1.00
Pennsylvania	\$2.75	New Jersey	\$1.75	South Carolina	\$1.00
Iowa	\$2.50	New York	\$1.75	Tennessee	\$1.00
Maine	\$2.50	North Carolina	\$1.75	Virginia	\$1.00
Arizona	\$2.25	Ohio	\$1.75		
Nevada	\$2.25	Oklahoma	\$1.75		

# College and Career Readiness and Success

By Fourth District Leadership Committee Member Marilyn Amato

*"College and Career Readiness and Success: How Orange County Can Lead the Nation" was the topic of an event presented by the Orange County Department of Education with keynote speaker David T. Conley, PhD., who heads the Educational Policy Improvement Center and is a professor at the University of Oregon. The following is a summary of Dr. Conley's presentation.*

"College and career readiness" refers to the content knowledge, skills, and habits that students must possess to be successful in postsecondary education or training that leads to a sustaining career. A student who is ready for college should be able to succeed in entry-level credit-bearing college courses without the need for remedial or developmental coursework.

It is interesting to note that college and career readiness is not achieved for all unless there is a wide range of options available. Not every student needs exactly the same proficiency in each of these areas. And it acknowledges the reality that different programs of study can require different levels of entry skills and knowledge.

A student's field of interest influences the precise knowledge and skill profile necessary to be ready for postsecondary studies. A critical component for success is the student being at the center of the process. Success requires student buy-in.

Analyses of college courses reveal that the learning skills and foundational knowledge associated with college success overlap considerably those necessary for success in career training programs. Given this overlap, it serves no useful purpose to separate students into two groups, one bound for college, the other for work.

All students aspire to enter the workforce, and all will need a comparable set of

foundational skills and learning abilities if they are to succeed.

Taking this information into consideration, what skills need to be taught for success? Dr. Conley states that all student should be have these prerequisites:

- Proficiency in reading a wide range of materials and informational texts;
- Fluent writing in several modes, most notably expository and descriptive;
- Quantitative literacy through algebra and including geometry, combined with the ability to understand and interpret data;
- Comprehension of the scientific method and organization of knowledge in the sciences;
- Awareness of social systems and the study of these systems;
- Basic proficiency in a second language;
- Basic awareness of other cultures;
- Experiences in and appreciation of creative and expressive arts.

Educators must rethink remediation, recognizing the necessity of core skills but also recognizing that various careers require different skill sets. Grading should be based on competency of skills, and better ways to measure these skills need to be developed. High school graduation must focus of skills, not just certificates.

Research has shown this is the first time the labor force is decreasing at the same time as the economy and that college is no longer an opportunity, it is now a necessity. Therefore, college and career information must be given early to help raise student aspirations. The rigor of high school curriculum is a key indicator for whether a students

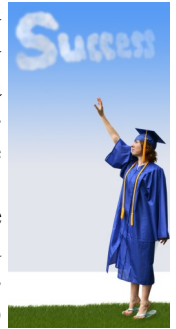
will earn a college degree after graduation from high school, and the rigor of the high school course work is more important than parent

education level, family income, or race/ethnicity in predicting whether a student will earn a postsecondary degree (Adelman, 1999, 2006).

More than a decade of research has led David T. Conley and his research team to develop the Four Keys to College and Career Readiness. The keys are:

1. Cognitive Strategies - Formulating hypotheses and developing problem-solving strategies, identifying sources and collecting information, analyzing and evaluating findings or conflicting viewpoints, organizing and constructing work products in a variety of formats, and monitoring and confirming the precision and accuracy of all work produced.
2. Content Knowledge- Technical knowledge and skills associated with career aspirations, the ways in which students interact with content knowledge, the perceived value of knowledge, the effort students are willing to expend to learn necessary content, and students' attribution of success or failure in mastering this knowledge.
3. Learning Skills and Techniques - Ownership of learning includes: goal setting; persistence; self-awareness; motivation; progress monitoring; help seeking; and self-efficacy. Learning techniques include: time management; study skills; strategic reading; memorization techniques; collaborative learning; technology skills; and self-monitoring
4. Transition Knowledge and Skills – Understanding academic expectations for postsecondary program admission, understanding financial aid options and procedures, concentrating on a career pathway or major, comprehension of college-level and workforce norms and expectations, and working as a self-advocate within the institutional framework of postsecondary programs.

"...the learning skills and foundational knowledge associated with college success overlap considerably those necessary for success in career training programs."





# Spring 2014 PTA Workshops

NEW FORMAT!



Each workshop will be offered on two days and at two times! Sessions that are offered in the morning on the first date will be offered in the evening on the second date and vice versa. Each person only pays once!

Space is limited so please register for only those sessions you will be able to attend.

**DATES: Wednesday, May 14 and Tuesday, May 20**

**LOCATION: National University, 3390 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa**

**COST: Early Registration Fee: \$10 PER PERSON (no refunds)**

**Early Registration Deadline: THURSDAY, MAY 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Fourth District PTA must receive your registration form and payment on or before this date to be eligible for the early registration fee. Please allow time, if mailing.*

**All Late Registrations (after May 8) or at the door payments: \$20 per person**

*Walk-in registrations will be accepted only if there is space. Handouts are not guaranteed.*

## CLASSES

President/EVP

Secretary

Parliamentarian

Auditor

General Financial

Membership

Reflections

Historian

In Spanish – Presidents

In Spanish – Financial

In Spanish – Membership

Note: You may attend sessions in the morning and in the evening on one or both days for the same fee. There is no additional cost to attend a workshop on the second day.

## REGISTRATION OPTIONS

- A. Online (PREFERRED OPTION) at [www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org). *Payment must be made online through PayPal or directly with a credit card.*
- B. Registration Form: *Print and mail or deliver the completed form (one form per person) with your payment to:*

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

**Office Phone: 714-241-0495  
Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 to 2:00  
Email: [fourthdistrictpta@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fourthdistrictpta@sbcglobal.net)**

*Sweeten the World*



*One Drop at a Time*

# Registration Form: Spring 2014 PTA Workshops



Online registration at [www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org) is preferred, but if unable to register online, use this form and mail it in. Please complete one form for each person attending the workshops.

Print clearly to help us avoid errors!

Name:	
Email:	Phone:
PTA Unit/School:	PTA Council:

Payment per person (No refunds.): \$10 until 2 pm, May 8  
\$20 after May 8

Check made out to "Fourth District PTA" for \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

(Note: A single check can pay for multiple registrations, but use a separate form for each person.)

Please select all of the workshops that you plan to attend.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>

### MORNING SESSION

- 9:30 to 12:30 President/EVP
- 9:30 to 11:30 Secretary
- 9:30 to 11:30 Parliamentary
- 9:30 to 11:30 Auditor

In Spanish – Morning Only

- 9:30 to 11:30 Presidents
- 9:30 to 11:30 Financial
- 9:30 to 11:30 Membership

### EVENING SESSION

- 6:00 to 9:00 General Financial
- 6:00 to 8:00 Membership
- 6:00 to 8:00 Reflections
- 6:00 to 8:00 Historian

*The fee will increase to **\$20 per person** for all registrations received after 2 pm on May 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*No childcare will be provided.*

*Questions: Call 714-241-0495*

## TUESDAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

### MORNING SESSION

- 9:30 to 12:30 General Financial
- 9:30 to 11:30 Membership
- 9:30 to 11:30 Reflections
- 9:30 to 11:30 Historian

In Spanish – Morning Only

- 9:30 to 11:30 Presidents
- 9:30 to 11:30 Financial
- 9:30 to 11:30 Membership

### EVENING SESSION

- 6:00 to 9:00 President/EVP
- 6:00 to 8:00 Secretary
- 6:00 to 8:00 Parliamentary
- 6:00 to 8:00 Auditor

**Mail completed form and payment to:**

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

# Talleres de Capacitación Primavera 2014

¡Formato Nuevo!

**Cuarto Distrito**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*cadaniño.unavoz.*<sup>®</sup>

Los talleres en español son ofrecidos por la mañana en dos días distintos. Cada persona paga solamente una vez.

**El cupo es limitado** así que asegúrese de inscribirse en la sesión que podrá asistir.

**FECHAS: Miércoles 14 de Mayo y Martes 20 de Mayo**

**LUGAR: National University, 3390 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa**

**COSTO: Descuento de Inscripción antes del 8 de Mayo: \$10 POR PERSONA  
(No habrá reembolsos)**

**LOS TALLERES: Presidentes, Financiero, Membresía**

**La fecha límite para el descuento de inscripción anticipada: jueves 8 de mayo**

*La oficina del Cuarto Distrito de PTA deberá recibir su formulario de inscripción y pago en o antes de esta fecha para tener derecho al descuento de inscripción. Si se va a registrar por correo calcule la demora del correo postal.*

**Todas las inscripciones después (demoradas) del 8 de mayo o en la puerta será de: \$20 por persona**  
*Todas las personas que se presenten sin haberse inscrito con anticipación, serán aceptadas si hay espacio y no se les podrá garantizar materiales.*

Nota: No habrá servicio de guardería.

## OPCIONES DE INSCRIPCION

- A. Por internet al sitio [www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org). Todos los pagos por internet deben ser hechos con una tarjeta de crédito personal. Los pagos serán hechos a través de PayPal.**
- B. Imprima y envíe por correo postal o entregue en persona este formulario con su cheque a:**

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

714-241-0495  
Horas: Lunes - Jueves 9:30 am to 2:00 pm  
Email: [fourthdistrictpta@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fourthdistrictpta@sbcglobal.net)

*Sweeten the World*



*One Drop at a Time*

Sírvase a llenar un formulario por cada persona que asistirá a los talleres.

# Formulario de Inscripción Talleres de Capacitación Primavera 2014



¡Ayúdenos a evitar errores y escriba claramente!

Su Nombre y Apellido:	
Email:	Teléfono:
Unidad de PTA/Escuela:	Concilio de PTA:

El costo es por persona y no habrá reembolso.

Pago por Persona : \$10 Antes de las 2:00 de la tarde del 8 de Mayo

\$20 Después del 8 de Mayo

Adjunte su cheque pagadero de \$\_\_\_\_\_ a nombre de "Fourth District PTA

(Nota: Para múltiples inscripciones podrá ser usado un solo cheque. Pero asegúrese de usar formularios de inscripción por cada persona.)

Sírvase a indicar todos los talleres que va a asistir.

## Miércoles 14 de Mayo

Los talleres en español están disponibles únicamente en la mañana.

- 9:30 to 11:30 Presidentes
- 9:30 to 11:30 Financiero
- 9:30 to 11:30 Membresía

## Martes 20 de Mayo

Los talleres en español están disponibles únicamente en la mañana.

- 9:30 to 11:30 Presidentes
- 9:30 to 11:30 Financiero
- 9:30 to 11:30 Membresía

- *Este formulario de registro y su pago deberán llegar a la oficina del Cuarto Distrito de PTA antes de las 2:00PM del jueves 8 de mayo para ser elegible para el descuento de inscripción anticipada.*
- *A partir del 9 de mayo el costo de todas las inscripciones será de \$20.00 por persona.*

Preguntas: Llame al 714-241-0495

Envíe por correo su pago con este formulario con sus datos a:

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



# Cambiar para Bien

Por Maureen Christensen, Presidenta del Cuarto Distrito de PTA



El mes de Mayo es un tiempo de cambio y transición en el PTA. Estamos eligiendo a nuevos oficiales y miembros de la junta directiva. Tengo que admitir que ... No me gusta el cambio. Supongo que es la naturaleza humana. Pero con el paso de los años en PTA he llegado a no sólo aceptar el cambio, sino también a apreciarlo e incluso disfrutar de él.

La transición y el cambio de los funcionarios de la PTA es muy beneficioso para nuestra organización .... si se hace correctamente. He conocido a varios presidentes de la PTA y los miembros de la junta directiva me dicen que no pueden encontrar a gente para cubrir los puestos de la PTA. Y luego me hacen la pregunta histórica, "¿puedes quedarte un año más?"

Los funcionarios/oficiales de la PTA siempre deben buscar y entrenar a sus posibles sustitutos. Eso no significa que usted debe prometer puestos a la gente. Tampoco significa que nos movemos de forma automática de una posición a otra. Lo que esto significa es que siempre debe haber varias personas en su directiva que están aprendiendo los procedimientos de la PTA en todos los niveles y están preparados para asumir puestos de liderazgo. Esto no sucederá si Ud. no está dispuesto a traer nuevas personas e ideas a su PTA.

Cuando empecé en el PTA hace casi 20 años, no me di cuenta de que yo estaba siendo parte de un PTA que tenía la mentalidad de "pasar designaciones de la PTA entre los miembros de la actual junta directiva." Ellos simplemente parecían

cambiar de posición cada año. Cuando ingrese, yo era una persona nueva con ideas nuevas. Soy seguidora de reglas, así que pensé que deberíamos .... SEGUIR LAS REGLAS. Eso no me hizo especialmente popular cuando les pregunté sobre elegir a un comité de nominaciones. Me dijeron que un comité de nominación no era necesario. Ellos sabían quiénes conformarían el consejo al año siguiente. Tomó algún tiempo, pero finalmente en esta unidad se detuvo la rotación de posiciones y comenzaron a dejar que gente nueva ingresara.

Otra unidad viene a mi mente cuando pienso en el cambio. Miré alrededor en el consejo de mi escuela secundaria local y noté que la junta no reflejaba la estructura de la población escolar. Pensé: "Es hora de un cambio." Esto requiere mucho trabajo y paciencia. Primero tuvimos que ganar la confianza de los padres locales. Ellos pensaban que sus ideas y opiniones no eran necesarias o deseadas. (Probablemente porque no habíamos pedido o aceptado ninguna idea nueva en mucho tiempo.) Luego tuvimos que entrenarlos de una manera significativa y en un idioma que pudieran entender. Y luego tuvimos que demostrarles que realmente valoramos sus ideas. En lugar de hacer siempre lo que siempre hicimos, tuvimos que salir de nuestra zona de confort y CAMBIAR. Ahora que el consejo refleja la población local. Tengo que admitir, que ellos no hacen las cosas de la forma en que solíamos. Pero ese es el punto.

El cambio no es malo. Es simplemente diferente. Como llegamos a aceptar nuevas ideas y nuevas personas podemos llegar a ser PTAs más fuertes y una mejor organización.

## Feria de Servicios de Apoyo para Padres 2014 Viernes, 30 de Mayo de 2014

Orange Coast College  
2701 Fairview Road  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**La inscripción para los participantes se inicia el 1 de Abril de 2014**

**¿Conoce qué recursos están a la disposición de sus familias en su área?  
¿Quiénes deben atender?**

Enlaces Comunitarios/Trabajadora de la Comunidad

Coordinadores de Padres

Miembros de PTA

Administradores de las Escuelas

Miembros del Consejo Escolar

Maestros en Asignaciones Especiales

Coordinadores de Título I

Más de 65 Expositores

Recursos Comunitarios

Proveedores de Clases para Padres

Padres y Educadores/Publicaciones para la compra

Más información estará disponible en el

sitio web de la Red de Participación

Familiar: <http://www.ocde.us/FIN>

Del 7 al 10 de mayo en Los Ángeles

## Prepárese para la Convención de la PTA de California

Por Cheri Jones, IV Distrito de PTA, VP del Convenio

### Las cosas más importantes .....

Aún pueden inscribirse/registrarse en línea para la Convención del 30 de abril ( cuota de inscripción es de \$249). Toda la información y los materiales de inscripción están disponibles en la página web [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org) Puede registrar en persona desde mayo 6 - 10. Asegúrese de traer consigo su tarjeta de membresía de PTA.

El jueves 8 de mayo es la Sala de Exposiciones día libre, pero usted debe registrarse (en línea o en persona) para recibir su pulsera para poder ingresar.

LO NUEVO ESTE AÑO: Los candidatos del Foro, Delegado de Orientación, Desayuno de Artes, Reflexiones y premios nocturnos, exposición dedicada en el pasillo de exposición del tiempo

### Diversión .....

Cena de Convención del Cuarto Distrito de PTA

Tema: Noche de Estrellas

Jueves, 8 de mayo a las 7:15 pm

Lugar: Border Grill Downtown - LA  
\$ 45 por persona

Vístase como una "estrella" de Hollywood / LA o con una vestimenta dediversión en Hollywood / Downtown LA (gafas/lentes de sol, tiaras/diademas, joyas, boas de plumas, etc.) o simplemente como es usted, pero asegúrese de llevar zapatos cómodos para camina ya que es una caminata de 5 calles/cuadras. Vamos a caminar juntos en grupos.

¡Espero verlos en Los Ángeles!

[convention@fourthdistrictpta.org](mailto:convention@fourthdistrictpta.org)

Spanish translation by Omar Guillen, Coordinator,  
Services for English Learners, OCDE.

May 7 through May 10 in Los Angeles

# Get Ready for California State PTA Convention

By Fourth District PTA Vice President for Convention Cheri Jones

## The Important Stuff.....

- ◆ You can still register for Convention online through April 30 (registration fee is \$249). All registration information and materials are available at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)
- ◆ You can register onsite May 6-10. Be sure to bring your PTA Membership Card.
- ◆ Thurs. May 8 is Exhibit Hall FREE Day, but you must register (online or onsite) to receive your wristband for entry.
- ◆ **NEW THIS YEAR:** Candidates Forum, Delegate Orientation, Arts Advocacy Breakfast, Reflections & Awards Night, Dedicated Exhibit Hall Time



## The Fun Stuff.....

**4<sup>th</sup> District PTA Convention Dinner**  
**Theme: Starlit Night**  
Thursday, May 8 at 7:15 pm  
At the Border Grill restaurant in downtown Los Angeles.  
**\$45 per person**

Dress as a Hollywood/ LA "star" or throw on some fun Hollywood/ Downtown LA glamour attire (sunglasses, tiaras, jewels, boas, etc) or just come as you are, but be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes as it is a 5 block walk. We will be walking together in groups.  
*Looking forward to seeing you in Los Angeles!*

Questions? Contact me at [convention@fourthdistrictpta.org](mailto:convention@fourthdistrictpta.org)

## These PTAs from Fourth District will receive honors at California State PTA Convention:

- **Capistrano Unified Council PTSA**  
Spotlight Award  
for Leadership Development
- **Edison High PTSA**  
(Huntington Union Council)  
Spotlight Award  
for Parent Engagement
- **Niguel Hills Middle School PTSA**  
(Capistrano Unified Council)  
Spotlight Award  
for Student Involvement

May  
2014

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

**Fourth District**  
**PTA**