

CRESCENT COURIER



Official Publication of Thirty-Third District PTA
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Thirty-Third District PTA
 cordially invites the public
 to our
Recognition and Reception Tea
 honoring the

**Thirty-Third District PTA Reflections
 Awards of Excellence, Merit and Recognition Recipients**

Come and enjoy the work of our talented students.



**Sunday, February 27, 2011
 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Hawthorne Memorial Center
 3901 W. El Segundo
 Hawthorne, CA 90250**



Please join us as we honor our talented students!



Message From Our President

Mid-Year Check Up

It may only be December but we are rounding the corner to the first half of this year's term. Now is a good time to do a mid-year check up to see how you are doing. It will give you a chance to congratulate your team on your current successes and encourage your team to complete what is left to do.

- ✓ Membership - How are we doing about getting more members?
 - Are we letting our members know we appreciate them?
 - Do our members know what our goals are for the year?
- ✓ Does everybody on team know their job responsibilities?
 - Is everybody doing their part?
- ✓ Are the committees meeting to plan their activities?
 - Are they including the whole team?
- ✓ Budget - How are we doing compared to our projections?
 - Do we need to re-evaluate and update our budget? (Mid-year is the time to do this.)
- ✓ Finances - Are we following proper financial procedures?
 - Have we turned in our audit from last year?
 - Are we ready to start our first audit for this year?
- ✓ Leadership - Are our team members trained to do their jobs?
 - Are we attracting and retaining new potential leaders?
 - Are you on the lookout for new people to join your team?
 - Are we participating in council, district and state events?
 - Are we planning to attend the State PTA convention in April?
- ✓ Communication - Are we keeping our members informed?
 - Are we regularly publishing our newsletters?
 - Are we keeping our email lists up to date?
- ✓ Bylaws - Are they up to date?
 - Have we reviewed them this year?
 - Have you checked to see when you need to elect your nominating committee?

This is just a simple list to consider. Be sure to involve your entire team as you evaluate your PTA. Remember this is a good time to do your check-up, as you still have opportunities to make positive changes for this term as you move into a new calendar year.

Be sure to enjoy and celebrate your successes but never be satisfied to rest on your laurels. Always move forward. The eventual success of your PTA team is yet to be evaluated. Work towards creating a continuing legacy of service to your school.

(Continued on Page 3)

Message From Our President . . . (continued from Page 2)

Leadership

Many of us believe that good leaders are born. We see people who seem to be natural born leaders. Most of us are sure that we aren't one of them. Don't be surprised that there is likely a leader inside of most of us just waiting to get out.

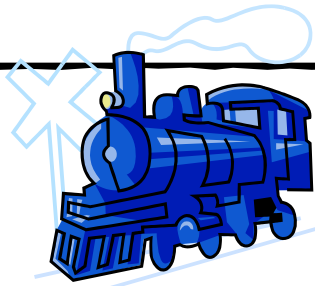
Don't be fooled as well by the notion that a leader means someone who knows all the answers and knows how to put everything together and mostly by themselves. Being a leader is someone who sets the pace and helps establish the tone for the entire team. Being a leader is not synonymous with being in charge.

Everyone on the PTA team is a leader. All of us have varied responsibilities and how we approach and handle those responsibilities is a measurement of our individual leadership skills. We all need to encourage each other to be our best and to do our best. Expect the best, give your best, and you'll get the best.

Take the time to develop your leadership abilities. Take the time to read a book on leadership; take the time to attend a workshop on developing the leader within. Take the time to learn your job. Someone who knows how to do a job automatically looks more like a leader.

Remember, too, that being a good leader is being a good team player. Value each of the team members even if you are not in charge. Courtesy and respect are contagious and go a long way when working through issues as they come up. As these challenges come forward, work through them; it is often through this process that greater leadership is developed. And never forget that the best way to demonstrate leadership has always been by example.

Tom Horn, President



SPANISH TRANSLATION

Thirty-Third District PTA provides programs, presentations and training throughout the year. We receive numerous requests for Spanish translation. Therefore, we are looking into obtaining our own translation equipment as well as locating people who are qualified and willing to assist with the translation.

Please contact Tom Horn or Robin Funk (email: GRFunk95@aol.com) if you are able to help us with upcoming events.

Tips for De-Stressing the Morning Routine

- ▶ Do everything you are able to do the night before - do only last-minute things in the morning.
- ▶ Have clothes decided upon, laid out and ready.
- ▶ Put homework/notes and special projects in the backpack and place the backpack where you exit the house.
- ▶ Have the breakfast planned and the table set.
- ▶ Have breakfast items located so children can assist - with cereal/bowls on lower shelves, etc.
- ▶ Use charts to remind children of tasks to complete in the morning.
- ▶ Give a morning hug or special greeting to get connected.
- ▶ Have everyone get dressed the first thing in the morning after washing!
- ▶ Play music and use it to encourage keeping to the routine.
- ▶ Maybe get up earlier if you find you are always running late.
- ▶ Reward appropriate actions.
- ▶ Be a good role model for timely morning readiness.
- ▶ Eat a balanced breakfast.
- ▶ Be calm!
- ▶ Stay Calm!

These come from Parenting.com. See this site for additional parenting ideas.

What does Advocacy have to do with it (PTA)?

PTA is all about advocacy. California State PTA has several advocates who *volunteer* their time tirelessly on behalf of kids. They also have a federal advocate to address federal legislation that would affect kids in California. The state Legislative team publishes information regarding various bills affecting children coming up in the state Senate and Assembly and whether or not PTA takes a position on the bills. They can “support,” “watch,” etc.

For example, in May 2009, the California State PTA Legislation Action Report posted a *support* position on AB 1025. AB 1025 requires all non-certificated personnel to obtain an Activity Supervisor Clearance Certificate before supervising, directing, or coaching pupil activities sponsored by, or affiliated with a school district. A support position by the PTA indicates that legislation is considered to be of great importance and beneficial to the welfare of children and youth and PTA will work actively to seek passage of these bills. This bill passed, was enacted on January 1, 2010, and becomes mandatory on July 1, 2010. Currently, additional legislation (AB346, Conway) is in committee, and, if passed, would delay the mandate until July 1, 2011.

The legislations program of the California Congress of Parents, Teachers, and Students, Inc. is derived from the work of the PTA in home, school and community. PTA efforts “to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth” are based upon recognition of the home as the foundation of our society, the responsibility of the PTA for parent education, the appreciation of our national heritage, the observance and understanding of the rights and obligations of responsible citizenship, and the realization that maintaining a free and public education system is the cornerstone of democracy. AB 1025 supports the areas of: school safety, school finance, and sex offender education. The Authority for this support comes from the Legislative General Principle 2: “High standards for those who work in all areas concerned with children and youth.”

Have a legislative chairman or advocate on your unit and council boards. He or she can log on the capta.org website and get all the information needed to further the good efforts of PTA (unit/council/district/state) at every level. There is much to be done to further our efforts. YOU can truly make a difference.

Reprinted from June 2010 issue of 23rd District PTA’s newsletter

Parent Education Sites for PTA Members

- http://pta.org/member_benefit_providers.asp Lists many offers on products at discounted prices. See the one for parenting which offers PTA members a discounted subscription rate to *Parenting School Years*. *Parenting School Years* is the NEW edition of *Parenting* for moms with children in school, everyday insights, and help for parenting. Special bonus - \$1 of your subscription price will be given to the PTA.
- <http://pta.org/ParentSubscribe.html> Subscribe online to *PTA Parent*.
- http://pta.org/topic_parent_involvement.asp Link to several parent involvement topics.
- <http://pta.org/3476.htm> Great ideas for parenting. . . building self-esteem, getting enough rest, friendships and cliques, money management for children, etc.
- <http://pta.org/4305.htm> Parent resource links to agencies such as legislators, the White House, US Dept. of Education.
- <http://pta.org/3047.asp> Back-to-school central: ideas on nutrition, homework issues, study skills, parent involvement and communication, fostering positive relationships with teachers, and so on.

Parenting Tip: The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommends reading to children every day, from birth and on because “reading stimulates the development of the brain, language and a closer emotional relationship with a child.” Infants react positively to the voice of the reader. . . being together is what matters, not the material being read. As your child progresses in years, continue to read each day, varying the books, letting the child decide on the book. Find time each day to read. . . right after school, before bedtime, at the doctor’s office, reading the cookbook as you prepare dinner!

Mary Ross, Director of Education



Friendly Reminder From Communications . . .

When submitting articles for the Crescent Courier, please ensure that articles are in the form of Microsoft Word documents. Please attach the document to an email. This will expedite processing through Publications. All articles are welcome in the proper format. Thank you for your continued assistance in this matter.

Deb Salazar, Director of Communications

From the Recording Secretary “A Challenging Question to all”

What is wrong with this section of the minutes?

Treasurer’s Report - George Washington

George presented his report. Suzy moved to accept his report, Sally seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

Answer: A lot!! If you read this report the next month, would you know how much money was in the PTA checking account? Would you know how much was spent? Were the bills paid during the month ratified? You wouldn’t know anything. The minutes are a brief record of what happened at a meeting - they are the only thing that people who missed a meeting see later on. One of the most important things members need to know concerns financial information. Even though the secretary pastes in the treasurer’s report after the minutes are prepared or approved, the minutes themselves must contain the critical information from the report.

The recording secretary has to include what the treasurer should have read out loud; i.e., the balance on hand at the start of the reporting period, the total dollar amount of the deposits, the total dollar amount of the expenditures, and the balance on hand at the end of the reporting period.

No motion to approve the report itself is needed. However, a motion is needed to ratify the bills paid since the last report. The treasurer can make this motion and should use the wording given below. The motion needs a second but the name of the person who seconds the motion is not needed. If there are checks to be written, the treasurer should explain what the expenses are, and a motion is needed to approve the writing of those checks (the treasurer can make the motion).

So here is what the minutes should have looked like.

Treasurer’s Report - George Washington

George presented his report. The balance on hand as of 10/23/09 was \$3,234.03; total deposits were \$1,256.70; total disbursements were \$456.09; the balance on hand as of 11/22/09 was \$4,046.64.

MOTION: GEORGE WASHINGTON MOVED TO RATIFY BILLS PAID BY CHECKS #760-764 FOR A TOTAL OF \$456.09. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND ADOPTED.

George discussed four bills which needed paying: (details should be included).

MOTION: GEORGE WASHINGTON MOVED TO APPROVE PAYMENT FOR EXPENSES PAID BY CHECKS #765-768 FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,233.90. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND ADOPTED.

If no checks were written, the treasurer should say so and the minutes should make a note of that fact; that way, no one would wonder if ratification was just forgotten!

Susannah Baxendale, Recording Secretary

Notes from the Financial Team

TAXES

- Every council and unit should have filed a 2009 tax return. Under \$25,000 gross, file the 990N e-postcard **IMMEDIATELY**.
- Over \$25,000 gross and did not apply or was not accepted for a second extension by the IRS, consult a tax professional with nonprofit 501(c) (3) experience **IMMEDIATELY** for assistance.
- Remember – hiring a tax professional is a legitimate PTA expense.
- Nonprofit organizations may not have to pay taxes, but they **DO HAVE TO PAY FINES** for not following the rules and regulations.
- **DO NOT IGNORE letters from the IRS.**
- All councils should have already sent a copy of their tax returns and all of their unit tax returns or 2nd extension applications to the district treasurer, Terry Shore. Those that have not, please send as soon as possible. State PTA has asked all districts to keep track of all council and units Federal Income Tax filings. Action will be taken for those units that have not filed.

PTA INSURANCE PREMIUM ALERT

- California State PTA moved the due date for insurance premiums covering January 5, 2011 to January 4, 2012 up one month earlier this year.
- **Premiums must be turned into the district office** (attn: financial secretary Linda Haines) **no later than December 13th** to insure receipt in the State PTA office on or before their due date.
- Premiums turned in after the district due date must also include a \$25.00 late fee.
- Do not send premiums directly to California State PTA. Payments must be submitted through proper channels. Unit to council, council to district and out of council units directly to district.
- NOTE: Child Care Programs are not covered under the California State PTA General Liability Insurance Policy. If your PTA is sponsoring such a program, you will need additional insurance.
- Thank you to all councils and out of council units who have already submitted council and unit insurance premiums.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ANNUAL PAYROLL REPORT

- For the period covering January 5, 2010 through January 4, 2011, a completed Workers' Compensation Report Form for every unit and council is due to the district treasurer, Terry Shore on or before **January 24, 2011**.
- The form **must** be filled out even if no one was paid. Instructions can be found on the California State PTA web site (www.capta.org) or in the November financial mailing from State PTA.
- Additional premium surcharge for units/councils paying more than \$1,000 to employees has been decreased to 3.5 percent and must be turned in by the same due date.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Membership per capita is to be turned in monthly: units to council; council to district.
- **UNITS:** *The unit portion is the only portion that belongs to the unit.* Units need to remit all but their unit portion to their councils when memberships are received or at least once a month.
- **COUNCILS:** Councils must remit the portion of membership money due to the district, state, and national PTAs to the district every month, along with 4 remittance forms, attn: financial secretary, Linda Haines.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

- **UNITS:** Units should be turning in a copy of the treasurer's report to their council treasurer monthly along with a copy of the minutes from the meeting during which the report was presented and filed for audit.
- **COUNCILS:** Council treasurers should give a copy of their monthly treasurer's report along with a copy of the minutes from the meeting during which the report was presented and filed for audit to your president to be turned in to the district treasurer, Terry Shore, monthly. This can be turned in at the district presidents meeting or at the district Executive Board meeting.

AUDITS

- It's almost time for the mid year audit. Start getting financial records in order and ready for audit covering the period from July 1st through December 31st or the period specifically described in your bylaws.
- Be sure to turn over all records to the auditor so the audit can be completed.
- Go to the California State PTA website (www.capta.org) search and type in "PTA audit" for audit checklist, how to conduct an audit, and sample audit.
- All units and councils within Thirty-Third District PTA **must** have three audits conducted each fiscal year.
- An additional audit **must** also be conducted upon resignation of the treasurer, financial secretary, any check signer, or at any time deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
- Council and unit copies of completed adopted mid year audits are due to the district auditor, Diana Wright, on or before February 28, 2011.
- NOTE: Auditors should always be impartial and not related by blood or marriage nor reside in the same household as the president or other financial officers or any chairmen handling funds. (*Toolkit* financial section 5.4.2)

BUDGETS

- **COUNCILS:** If you have not turned in a copy of your 2010/2011 budget adopted by your association, send a copy **immediately** to the district office (attn: budget & finance, Kathy Corzine).
- **UNITS and COUNCILS:** An updated budget should be presented to your association monthly. Budgets should be followed closely in all financial transactions.
- Adoption of the budget does not authorize the expenditure of the funds. Bills must be presented for payment authorization and all released funds must be recorded in the minutes. Spending funds on unbudgeted items between meetings of the association is limited by an amount specified in the bylaws and must be ratified at the next association meeting.
- Remember – the budget is just a guideline and **can** be amended by the association during the school year.

Terry Shore – Treasurer (dt.shorefam@verizon.net)

Linda Haines – Financial Secretary (craigandlinda2@hotmail.com)

Diana Wright – Auditor (disline@aol.com)

Kathy Corzine – Budget & Finance (diaewot@yahoo.com)

PRINCIPAL - ADVISOR TO PTA

One of the PTA's greatest assets and a member of your PTA board doesn't even need to be elected or appointed! This board member spends many hours on campus and is already a trusted advisor to your organization. Many associations mistakenly elect or appoint this person to an officer position - when they don't have to. Who is this? Your site administrator.

The *Bylaws for Local PTA/PTSA Units* states in Article VIII, Section 1, that

The executive board shall consist of officers of the association, the chairmen of standing committees, the teacher representative and the principal of the school, or a representative appointed by the principal, all of whom shall be members of this association. The principal of the school or designated representative and the teacher representative, although not elected officers, serve in an advisory capacity with full voting privileges.

Your principal is already an official member of the executive board simply because *he or she is the principal*. He does not need an appointed or elected position to be a fully involved and working member of the board. All elected and appointed officers are subject to term limits. If a unit elects the principal to office, the PTA forfeits his important role as an ongoing advisor. Because the role of principal as advisor is a legitimate and essential part of a successful PTA, the California State PTA strongly discourages the practice of electing or appointing the principal as an officer of the PTA.

California State PTA, Bylaws Committee, Reprinted from PTA in California Vol. 69 #4

When Do New Bylaws Take Effect?

It's tempting to start acting as though the newly amended bylaws are in effect as soon as they've left your hands to go through channels for approval. But the amended bylaws are not official until three things happen:

1. The State Parliamentarian approves and signs the bylaws and returns them to the PTA through channels.
2. Members receive thirty days' advance notice of adoption of the proposed bylaws amendments.
3. Members, at an association meeting, adopt the amended bylaws by a two-thirds majority.

So remember: hang onto - and follow - the "old" bylaws until the "new" bylaws have completed the above three steps!

*California State PTA, Bylaws Committee
Reprinted from PTA in California Vol. 69 #5*

Sacramento Safari

The deadline for getting your Sacramento Safari registration to the Thirty-Third District PTA office is Wednesday, January 12th. Don't delay - turn in your forms today!

This event will begin on Sunday, March 20th, leaving Los Angeles Airport at 10:55 a.m. (please arrive at airport by 9:00 a.m.) and conclude on Tuesday, March 22nd, arriving Los Angeles Airport at 4:40 p.m. The total cost is \$550.00 (delegates may arrange their own airfare).

The cost includes registration, 2 hotel nights (no need to share a bed), 6 meals, and transportation in Sacramento to and from the hotel. Meet with your legislators and others, tour the Capitol, attend general sessions of the Senate and Assembly and meet with PTA advocates.

Who can attend? Parents, students, PTA leaders -- all are invited to participate. Need a form? Please contact your council presidents and/or the Thirty-Third District PTA office.

Jenny Davies, Chairperson

Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse

It never occurred to me to sit down with my kids and talk about prescription drug abuse. It occurs so often now that 1 in 3 teens report having a close friend who abuses prescription (Rx) drugs. 1 in 4 teens report having a close friend who abuses cough medicine. 1 in 10 teens take cough medicine to get high. What type of abused drugs are we talking about? Here are a few: opioids/pain relievers, tranquilizers, Valium, Xanax, stimulants, Ritalin, Adderall, Concerta, cough medicine containing dextromethorphan, sleep aids such as Tylenol PM, and motion sickness pills such as Dramamine.

According to a *USA Today* poll on drug use, we as parents, grandparents, and friends influence our teens more than other recognizable figures. Over-the-counter drugs can kill and are just as dangerous as street drugs. Parents need to safeguard their medicines and need to be aware of their own personal use and/or abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Your children are watching you!

Here are some suggestions for what a parent can do:

1. Instruct your child to always speak to you before using any medication.
2. Read the "Drug Facts" panel on the label - all of it - and follow the directions.
3. Check the ingredients to see if you are using two medicines with the same ingredients.
4. Choose a medicine that treats only the problem you have.
5. Report to your doctor if you do not feel better or felt worse after taking the medicine.
6. Always keep track of all medicines you are using; keep a list with you when leaving home. If you are in an accident, this is important information for emergency personnel.
7. If you have questions about the drug you are taking, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.
8. Keep all the medicines in the bottle, box, or tube they came in.
9. Keep all medicines in a safe, dry place.
10. Learn the side effects of the drugs you are taking.
11. Discard all unnecessary medicines immediately.
12. Don't use other people's prescription medications.
13. Don't share your medicine with someone else.
14. Don't use expired medicines.
15. Don't crush or break pills unless it states it is ok.

Here is one story that stayed with me for a long time. A young 19-year old mother of an infant decided no one cared about her and took a whole bottle of Tylenol with alcohol. She became unresponsive, and the paramedics were called. She was hospitalized and was told that her liver was severely damaged. A life has been changed and she didn't know how dangerous Tylenol was until that day. Her decision and medical condition will always be her reminder. I hope we can prevent it from being someone else's.

Resources:

National institute of Drug Abuse - www.nida.gov
DARE America - www.dare.com
The Partnership for a Drug-Free America - www.drugfree.org
FDA drug information - druginfo@fda.hhs.gov

BJ Thompson, Health Committee



Los Angeles County Youth Camps Need Your Help



Thirty-Third District PTA's ongoing community project is assistance of four Los Angeles County Youth Camps. Youth Camps are juvenile detention centers for incarcerated young men and women. Four male Youth Camps, which fall within the geographic area of Thirty-Third District PTA, rely heavily on our organization's support.

Money donated by units and councils for the youth camps is used for "Operation Graduation" (caps and gowns for those who can't afford them), classroom sets of required reading books, standardized test incentives, stamps for letters to home, culinary class supplies, equipment for the machine/woodworking class and enrichment programs.

Thirty-Third District PTA has also provided backpacks full of much-needed school supplies that are given to the young men as they transition from the Youth Camps to their home schools. This year, El Marino Language School in Culver City sponsored a school supply drive and Los Compadres, a community service club involving the Palos Verdes high schools, donated 35 backpacks full of supplies. A Culver City Boy Scout, for his Eagle Scout project, conducted an extremely successful drive of school supplies as well as books for the library and paper products for the culinary classes.

The Youth Camps are well stocked with both culinary products and school supplies for the time being. However, art and photography supplies are still needed. You may donate items and/or make a monetary donation and we will purchase the requested supplies. You may bring your check or items to any Council Presidents' meeting, Thirty-Third District PTA Executive Board meeting, or to the Thirty-Third District PTA office. These supplies may be *new or gently used*. Here are some suggested items:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Pastels | Water based markers |
| Charcoals | Art or "how to draw" books |
| Colored pencils | Photography books |
| Drawing pencils | Drawing paper or sketch pads, any size |
| Paint brushes | Inexpensive photo or brochure paper |
| Canvas board | Digital cameras with needed cords and/or memory cards |
| | Watercolor paints |

We are also still collecting:

Footballs and basketballs

New or gently used books for the camp libraries, soft sided only

Childrens books for the "LA Dads," which is a group of Youth Camp students that are parents.

These books may be hard-sided or have hard cardboard pages.

Thank you to all the wonderful individuals, community organizations, and PTAs that support this worthwhile project with their donations of goods, services and dollars. With your help, we will continue to enrich the educational experience for these at-risk youth. If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact the Juvenile Protection and Justice/Youth Camp chairperson, Mary Ellen Osborne, at mem_osborne@yahoo.com or 310-328-2036.

2011 California State PTA Convention Long Beach April 28 – May 1, 2011

The 112th California State PTA Convention will be held in Long Beach from April 28 to May 1, 2011. All convention activities and events will take place at the Long Beach Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Registration Books will be mailed beginning January 5, 2011. The Registration Books and Housing Forms will also be available online beginning January 5, 2011. .

NEW FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE PTA FOR 2011 CONVENTION

- **Discounts for multiple full-time attendees from the same unit:** A progressive discount has been created for multiple attendees. For each successive registration up to a total of five attendees, registration will be reduced by \$10. The first person pays the full registration fees. The second person receives \$10 off. The third person gets \$20 off, the fourth person takes \$30 off, and the fifth attendee will receive a discount of \$40 off registration fees. That's a potential savings of \$100 per unit!
- **Big Beach Ball:** Due to popular demand, the State Event has returned! Party at the Big Beach Ball and relax after a full day of workshops and meetings. The event is on Friday, April 29th, from 7:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Tickets are limited and can be purchased at \$45 per person during the registration process.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Because convention is in our backyard this year, volunteer opportunities are available which will help defray the cost of attending. More information will be made available regarding these opportunities in the near future. Council presidents will receive the registration information by email as soon as it becomes available.



CALIFORNIA STATE PTA CONVENTION ENCORES FROM 2010

- Registration will be expedited when proof of membership is provided online or sent with mailed registrations.
- Name badges and workshop tickets will be mailed directly to the address provided if the registration was received by March 31st. This is the address which is provided to exhibitors during the registration process.
- Name badges and workshop tickets will be available for pickup at the Registration Booths at convention if you did not provide proof of membership during registration or if you registered between April 1st through April 16th.
- **State PTA Convention Shirts and Pins:** Convention shirts and pins will be available through the registration process. Please check the Registration Books which will be mailed beginning January 5th for information on pricing and sizing.
- **Special Ribbon Pack:** For a \$20 donation to the California State PTA, you will receive a pack of five specially designed ribbons to adorn your badge holder. These are in addition to the usual delegate ribbons that are so coveted by all who attend convention.
- Exhibit Hall entrance will be FREE to everyone on Thursday, April 28th.
- Student entertainment performances will occur during the general meetings so that children will have the full attention of the delegates when performing.

THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT CONVENTION INFORMATION

- ✓ CONVENTION ORIENTATION will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2011, at Hawthorne Memorial Center in the morning at 9:30 a.m. AND at Apollo Park in Downey in the evening at 7:00 p.m. Sessions are identical and are being offered twice to accommodate busy schedules.
- ✓ Our HOSPITALITY DESSERT RECEPTION will be held in the Shoreline Banquet Room at the Hyatt Regency. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 28th, from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- ✓ To reduce costs, we will not have a District Hospitality Suite. Instead, the Convention Committee will be providing delicious morning snacks during the morning General Meetings. Grab your coffee and get to the meetings early to enjoy a yummy treat!
- ✓ We will be assigning CONVENTION MENTORS to all delegates and councils. Letters will be mailed to all delegates introducing their respective mentors.
- ✓ We will have a DISTRICT DINNER at the Seaview Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency on Saturday, April 30th. The cost is \$45 per person and this year's theme is "Tropical Island". A registration flyer will be available in January.
- ✓ District camp shirts and pins will be available for purchase. We will be wearing the same shirt that was sold for 2010. The order form is available on our website, www.33rdpta.org. Our Thirty-Third District PTA Crescent Moon pins are also available for purchase at \$3 each.
- ✓ The convention committee will be providing giveaways during the General Meeting sessions. Arrive early to get yours!!!

CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIPS

Convention Scholarships will be awarded by Thirty-Third District PTA to councils and/or units to help defer the cost of attending this year's convention. Applications will be available on our website, www.33rdpta.org, on January 5, 2011. All applications must be received in the district office by Monday, February 28, 2011.

TITLE 1, PARENT INVOLVEMENT FUNDS

These are federal funds provided to Title 1 schools aimed at encouraging parents to become more involved in their schools. Units may talk to their school principals regarding the viability of using these funds.

All units and councils should be represented at our California State PTA Convention. It is your best opportunity to obtain the best possible training and information to successfully run your PTA. It is also our State PTA's Annual Meeting! Remember... It is not IF you are attending convention, but WHO!

Check the California State PTA's website at www.capta.org and our Thirty-Third District PTA's website at <http://www.33rdpta.org> for more convention information during the next few months.

Vera Johnson

First Vice President & Convention Chairman





Anita Avrick, 33rd District PTA Director of Leadership
& Sue King, California PTA Parliamentarian

Mary Ross, 33rd District PTA Director of Education
& Cindy Ellenberg, President, Manhattan Beach Council



Presidents and Principals Conference November 2010



Delia Prieto, President, La Mirada High School
& Nichole Golightly, President, Norwalk La Mirada
Council

Beth Gendreaux, Legislation Conference &
Vera Johnson, 33rd District PTA First Vice President



Let's Hear From Our Councils . . .

WHITTIER – PICO RIVERA COUNCIL PTA

Whittier Council PTA was founded in 1916. Throughout the years we have had any number of units. At one point we were at 63 units, even though we currently serve only 35 units. What makes this more unique is that we also service 5 school districts. Although we don't actually service Santa Fe High, they are still part of our council due to their past participation in our Costume shop. Now consider this: 5 school districts, 5 Superintendents and 5 school boards - lots of fun. Therefore, we have 4 Area Advisors who serve as mentors to all their units.

In the 1987 Whittier Earthquake, the Costume shop which had been run by our council and the high schools had to be sold. The building was determined unsafe and we sold our costumes for \$110,000.

We meet with our schools the first Tuesday of each month. In the past year our attendance has improved to representation by 28 to 35 units each month. We hold two events each year when the Superintendents, School Boards and Principals are invited to our meetings. In December we hold our Annual December Dessert. This has been a very successful program, raising money to award 2 scholarships to each of our 4 high schools and one scholarship to our continuation high school. We honor our units that attend every meeting, and turn in all paperwork on time with an Award of Excellence. Our units that attend all but 2 meetings and have only one item in late get an Award of Merit and if a unit tries at all they receive the Award of Participation. We generally award 2 Honorary Service Awards at these meetings. During the Awards Banquet, we hold a raffle to raise extra funds for the Scholarship fund. In April of this year we held an E-Waste Drive. It proved very successful, as we raised just over \$4,000. We will be holding our second drive March 5th and 6th, 2011 if anyone has some old computers, TVs or other electronic products to dispose of.

We are very lucky because our Whittier Union High School District has provided us with an office space for a very long time. Having this space allows us to hold workshops and conduct our board meetings in our own little space.

Ginny Hosking, Council President

Montebello Council PTA

On October 7, the Montebello Council PTA kicked off our 2nd annual "War on Hunger" campaign at La Merced Intermediate School. This year our campaign grew to include not only the Montebello Council PTA, the Montebello Unified School District, the Camino Federal Credit Union, and the Help the Children Organization, but also the City of Montebello and the office of Senator Ron Calderon that came on board to join us in this endeavor. We again had a very successful campaign that started out as a one week event last year which this year was extended into a 4 week event. The entire Montebello community came together in an effort to help our families in need. The War on Hunger Food Drive collected approximately 30,000 pounds of food last year and we are sure to exceed this amount this year. I would like to thank all of our units that participated in this event as this will truly help our families during the holiday season.

On November 20th, our council was able to get 20 volunteers from Bell Gardens High School Leos Club and students from La Merced intermediate School to volunteer their time at "Help the Children" to pack food boxes. Members of our Board of Directors as well as volunteers from the Montebello Unified School District office and PTA parents were also in attendance. As of now, we have boxed enough food for 400 families. Another volunteer day was held on Saturday, December 11.

In closing, the Montebello Council PTA would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season filled with family and friends. Let's gear up for 2011!

Linda Camacho, Council President

The oak tree is a symbol of strength, endurance, and sturdiness with its broad canopy of protective branches which spread upward & outward – far reaching, yet intricate in its growth, unique in its ability to nourish the smallest of leaves at the tip of its furthestmost twig.

Bellflower Council is "Returning to our Roots"

A return to the basic purposes of the PTA

- Measure budgets against mission Statement of the California State PTA

Foster Growth

- Personal - Training of all unit presidents, officers, and chairmen
- Membership - Allowing us to increase our unit and council recruitment pool
- Be Inclusive & Diverse / Emerging minority leaders

Increase awareness of PTA programs, awards, grants

My personal hope is that all units (the very necessary and important roots of our tree) will feel supported by not only Bellflower Council, but by Thirty-Third District PTA and the California State PTA.

Our units are trying new programs, applying for grants and scholarships, extending the invitation to others to join the PTA, and learning about the importance of advocacy. Together we are all learning and growing through **leadership, advocacy, and communication!**

Dawn Lewis, Council President

More Council News . . .

Greetings from Downey Council PTA,

This year our council is focusing on our 2010-2011 Program Directory theme, "Character Counts in My World," a concept created by Michael Josephson and adopted by the Downey School District and the community several years ago.

There are six pillars in Character Counts and at Downey Council PTA we embrace each one as it relates to being advocates for children. Here are the six pillars of color:

1. Blue stands for Trustworthiness
2. Orange stands for Fairness
3. Purple stands for Citizenship
4. Green stands for Responsibility
5. Yellow stands for Respect
6. Red stands for Caring

Each one of our 19 schools puts Character Counts into practice every day, with their PTAs supporting this outstanding program. I can't begin to express the positive ways this has impacted our children, schools, teachers, parents, and the community.

One example of school and community coming together is our Thanksgiving and Holiday Dinner Handouts (Downey Council PTA H.E.L.P.S. Food Pantry). At Thanksgiving we gave over 200 needy families dinners that included a \$15.00 Stater Brothers gift card. During the holiday season, we will provide gifts and meals to more than 300 families. This would not be possible without the help from each PTA, Downey High School ASB, community leaders, small businesses, AYSO, and many more who gave so generously.

Happy New Year!

Karin Kirkpatrick, Council President

ABC Council PTA

Currently ABC Council PTA consists of 3,926 members. We hope to surpass last year's total of 5,000 members soon. ABC Council PTA is working closer than ever with ABC Unified School District. Our PTA was recognized in the Strategic Plan for the District and our goal is to work together to promote healthy lifestyles and parent involvement in an effort to increase student academic achievement. Dr. Gary Smuts, ABC School District Superintendent, was the guest speaker at our annual Principals and Presidents Dinner and strongly encouraged schools and PTA to work together bridging schools and the community.

Niemes PTA has partnered with ABC Champions for Change Network, a Healthy California, Niemes School Gardens and Botanical Society, YMCA, and the community to provide a health and wellness campaign that includes a jog-a-thon, family-oriented workshops dealing with nutrition and physical activity, a family fitness night, and a family cooking series focusing on healthier options. Stowers PTA collaborated with the Cerritos Sheriff Department, Fire Department, and Colgate Company to promote safety awareness and dental hygiene. They are also in the process of developing a diabetes awareness campaign. Carver PTA recently funded a bullying assembly for all students presented by author Karen Burnett based on her book *Simon's Hook*, a story about teasing and put-downs. Nixon PTA hosted a trick or treat event that involved the whole community providing a safe environment where kids collected healthy treats. They have begun their first ever Dads Club which currently consists of 24 fathers who meet every Thursday to discuss the role they play in their child's education. Nixon PTA also had a parent workshop titled "Effective Parent Teacher Conferences" to help parents get the most out of their conference, utilizing information and handouts from the California State PTA website. Burbank PTA recently assisted with a healthy families event where parents and students learned about carbs and vegetables, healthy breakfast choices, the digestive system, and how to read labels. Those are just some of the issues our units are actively addressing. I hope to share more with you next time on ABC PTA's role in Parent Education specifically targeting the parent/guardian/community role in education and a student's academic performance.

Cynthia Corrales, Council President

Thirty-Third District



Mid-Winter Conference

When: Thursday, February 3, 2011
8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Program

Where: Rio Hondo Event Center
10627 Old River School Road
Downey, California 90241

Cost: \$20.00 per person - Breakfast buffet included

“Cyber Bullying”

Presented by

Professor Elizabeth Brewer
Loyola Marymount University

Mid-Winter Conference is one of our two district association meetings and your attendance is very important. The program will also include a Founder's Day presentation, Convention report and the Nominating Committee's report. Every council and unit should be represented.

Council Due Date: _____ **District Due Date: January 21, 2011**
(units must register through their council)

After January 21, 2011 the cost will be \$30.00 per person

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2011

Units: send reservations to your council by the council due date
Cost – \$20.00 (\$30.00 after January 21, 2011)—checks payable to your council

Name _____ **Phone** _____

PTA Unit _____ **PTA Council** _____

Council treasurer: make your check payable to Thirty-Third District PTA and mail to:
PO Box 1235, Lakewood, CA 90714

Thirty-Third District



Diversity & Inclusion Conference 2011

“HOW TO ATTRACT, INVOLVE & RETAIN FUTURE PTA LEADERS”

- When: Saturday, January 22, 2011
8:30 a.m. - Registration & Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Conference
PLEASE PLAN ON STAYING THE ENTIRE TIME
- Where: Hawthorne Memorial Center, Sun Room
- Address: 3901 West El Segundo Boulevard, Hawthorne, CA. 90250
(Map on reverse)
- Cost: \$15.00 per person by January 12, 2011
(A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.)

National, state and local experts will present valuable information on how to create an environment that values and appreciates diversity which serves as a channel to attract, include and retain new and underrepresented leadership that better reflects the communities which we serve.

Council Due Date: _____ District Due Date: **January 12, 2011**
(Units must register through their council.)

Registrations after January 12, 2011 will be \$25.00 per person.

Diversity & Inclusion Conference

“HOW TO ATTRACT, INVOLVE & RETAIN FUTURE PTA LEADERS” January 22, 2011

Units: send reservations to your council by the council due date

Cost – \$15.00 (\$25.00 after 01-12-11). Units, please make your checks payable to your council.

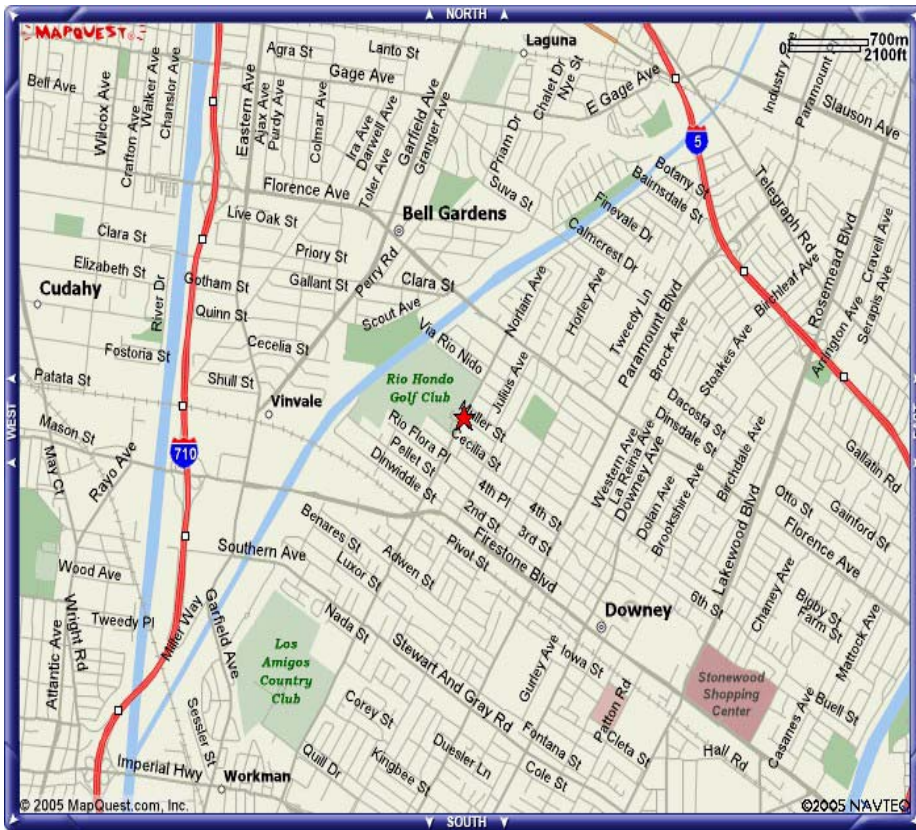
Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

PTA Unit _____ PTA Council _____

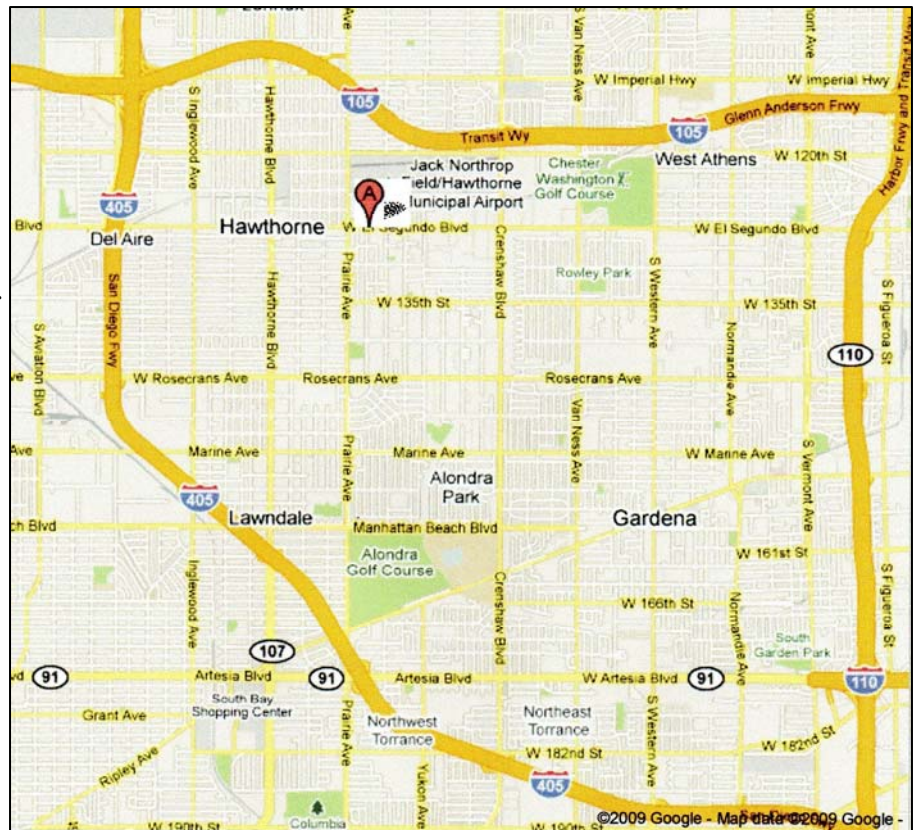
Council treasurers: Make your check payable to Thirty-Third District PTA and mail it with the registration forms to: PO Box 1235, Lakewood, CA 90714



Rio Hondo Event Center
 10627 Old River School Road
 Downey, CA 90241
 562-806-5020

Hawthorne Memorial Center
 3901 West El Segundo Boulevard
 Hawthorne, CA. 90250

Parking is in the front on El Segundo Boulevard or in the back of the building off Prairie Avenue (first turn in).



Need a hard copy of *Crescent Courier*?

PTA Presidents, Officers,
 Chairmen, Treasurers,
 and Principals

Contact Thirty-Third District PTA
 at 562-804-4519