

Council News

Saddleback Valley Council PTA * Fourth District PTA * CCPTS
25631 Peter Hartman Way * Mission Viejo, CA 92691 * www.svpta.org
President: Julie Schwarz * Newsletter Editor: Ann Shaver

President's Message

By Julie Schwarz,
SVPTA President
svpresident@svpta.org

Happy Spring! I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful spring break. It is always great to have some family time. Now, it is time for us to get back to business...

First, in regards to your unit, please make sure you are working with your team and the new Board to ensure a smooth transition. Even though I provided a whole checklist last month, I wanted to remind you to make sure that all of your current officers and chair persons pass on a *complete and updated* procedure book. This one item alone will make a huge difference. Additionally, the other item that will separate the successful units from the struggling ones is training attendance. Next month, on May 22, we will have our annual training session at the SVUSD offices. (Additional details to follow). Please bring your whole board. We are planning on 100% attendance!

Now that we are in the last trimester and things are starting to wind down... it is not time to wind down our legislative efforts. In fact, it is time to notch things up. The advocacy article in "PTA in California" (newsletter of the California State PTA), summarized three key points and I am going to repeat them here in case you did not see that article:

– keep it clear – keep it local – keep it going

Keep it clear. Do not worry about knowing all the technical jargon and acronyms. The basic question is whether our legislators are going to invest in education ... or not... whether they are going to take money away from students ... or not. We already get about \$2000 less per student compared with other states.

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Upcoming Events:

April:

- 1-2 Sacramento Safari
- 10th—Council Meeting—7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
President's Roundtable—
Fun...Fun...Fun...(President's Mixer)— 6:15PM@
District Board Room
- 16th—Superintendent's Forum—9:30 AM @ SVUSD Board Conf Room

May:

- 1-4 CA PTA State Convention
- 22nd—Council Meeting—6:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
Council Workshops

Items to bring to March meeting:

- ✓ Orders for next year's membership envelopes, along with payment and a Unit Remittance Form
- ✓ Check and Unit Remittance Form for your Council Convention fee of \$5 per delegate, maximum of \$10 per unit
- ✓ A copy of the minutes from your most recent Association meeting
- ✓ A copy of your most recent Treasurer's Report
- ✓ Any items past due from prior meetings, such as copies of your Unit Annual Report.

(President's Message continued from Page 1)

Keep it local. When you write or speak with your legislators, let them know what is happening in your school. Include a copy of the SVUSD Proposed Cut List. It is important that they see what \$19.3 million of cuts really looks like to a school district.

Keep it going. You may have responded in January when word first came out about the Governor's Budget Crisis – and that was a great start. It is now time to contact your legislators **again**. It is important that we do not fade into the background. We need to keep getting our message out – over and over again. We need to be consistent and persistent. We need to convince our legislators to “flunk this budget, and invest more, not less, in children.”

I appreciate each and every one of you. I know that you are dedicating countless hours for our students and schools. Many thanks!

Keep Your Eyes Open!!!

A supplemental page will be sent before our April 10 Council meeting with a Sacramento Safari update.

Look for it!!!

Special Education Committee – Raising Awareness

Caroline Paltin, Ph.D.
SVPTA Special Education Chair
svspecaled@svpta.org

One of the primary goals of the PTAs Special Education Committee is to raise awareness of who makes up the community of students known as those with “special needs.” This is no easy task, given the enormous diversity encompassed by that label, which refers to anything from learning problems such as dyslexia and ADHD to challenges such as physical disabilities and health impairments. Because there is no single word that adequately describes these issues, it is important to help parents, teachers, administrators and staff gain awareness of just what these children with differences are capable of, and also what struggles they face on a daily basis along side their peers.

Where do you start? Here are some newly available awareness raising resources! I am happy to announce that through the great efforts of the CAC, SELPA and the South Orange County Family Resource Center, we have a variety of books and other resources, now available for “check out” and use at our schools. A small refundable deposit is required. Family Resource Center's phone number is (949)364-0500, and is located at Marguerite Pkwy, Suite 17 in Mission Viejo. Check it out and see if there are resources you useful to your school.

In addition, on April 18th, O'Neill Elementary will host its first annual Ability Awareness Day Celebrating Differences, Learning Together! The day will provide the O'Neill community and invited guests with a unique opportunity to explore, experience and understand what makes us different and what makes us the same. Students will engage in hands on simulations of the types of challenges faced by their abilities-challenged peers, and gain knowledge and sensitivity about what a school day is like for someone with special needs. Come explore and get ideas for hosting your own abilities awareness activities. For more information, or if you are interested in attending or volunteering to help at the event, please contact me at svspecaled@svpta.org.

Membership

By Andrea Padian

SVPTA Membership

svmembership@svpta.org

Just a quick reminder, that your 2008-09 Membership Chair, the President, or another board member or volunteer working on your membership program next year should be attending **convention** this May. Courses available to them will be **OMDR training** as well as membership idea exchanges that can be very valuable in building your membership. As you know, with the budget challenges all schools and PTAs will be facing year, a large, united and energetic PTA will be crucial and you need to start to plan for that this year. First, OMDR is required and while it isn't that difficult to set up, it is intimidating for those that haven't been trained. There is still a 45 minute online course available, but at convention, they will be offering real hands on opportunities to learn. If everything is done correctly, it's a snap to do. I'll be attending the class on Saturday and hope that many of you will join me to learn the program or refresh yourself on it. I won't be able to address the how to part much at our SVUSD training, so this is the best time for you to get great instruction and ask any questions you may have.

Please remember that **ALL attendees must have a current PTA membership card** in order to attend convention and get the PTA registration rate. So, if anyone attending this year does not have a card, or is not a current member, you need to get in touch with me right away. I still have a limited amount of cards available, so don't wait to ask for them if you need them.

And lastly, I want to remind everyone that if you are planning to order **membership envelopes** for next year, you need to do so now. Please give me the order for your school, along with a check for the number of boxes you are ordering. There are 500 envelopes per box at a cost of \$10.00 each. Please make your check out to council (SVPTA) and get them to me as soon as possible, no later than April 11th. I've already received two orders but need to have a check from your unit to finish processing those. Envelopes will arrive in June, as well as membership cards, so you could pick them both up at the same time then. If you have any questions e-mail me at svmembership@svpta.org. Either bring your order and check to the next council meeting (April 10th) or mail your order with a check to:

Andrea Padian
14 Crucillo,
Rnch. Sta. Marg., CA. 92688

President's Roundtable/Mixer

Thursday, April 10th @ 6:15pm

Please join us for an evening of food, drinks & tips/ideas regarding future planning.

This a great opportunity to invite your incoming President or Vice President to join you at a Council roundtable. Everyone will get to know each other & pick up some great ideas for next year.

Can't wait to see you there-
Suzann



TAKE THE PLUNGE TREASURE IS A WAITIN'!

The 2008 California State PTA Convention is coming.....**May 1, 2, 3, and 4** in Long Beach and on-line registration closes on April 17th! After that, all registrations must be done on-site. So here are the important dates and latest information:

1. **Resolutions** – They are available on the CAPTA website, so if you have not already downloaded them to review and present to your unit, do this ASAP. You must get your unit's vote on your position, so you can properly represent them when you vote.
2. **Speakers** - YES! Students can attend the Craig Scott and teachers/administrators and staff (not parents) can attend the Erin Gruwell speech for Free! Right now, online, registration for this is available one way - have teachers just sign up as students on the CAPTA web site. They are in process of getting to do that the other way around - students signing up for Erin's presentation.
3. **Delegate Open House** - Thursday April 24, at the Fourth District Office. All delegates are invited to meet the Fourth District Convention Committee and Delegates, go through convention learning stations, and pick up packets and Tropical Shirts.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Dolores Winchell
Convention Chairman
svconvention@svpta.org

Managing Your Budget

By Molly O'Grady
svtreasurer@svpta.org



As the school year winds down, it is important to look over your current Treasurer's Report and your budget. Are you on track with the budget plan? If there is a large current balance on the Treasurer's Report, look at the reasons for the large balance. Have all vendors been paid for past events and fundraisers? If not, make sure that the chairman gets an invoice to your treasurer! If you have budget line items that will still be paid this spring, do you have enough money to pay them? Have plans changed and a line item will not be done? Look over each budget line item and make sure that you are up to date. The end of the year will be here before you know it. The financial books close on June 30th and there can be no more checks written after that date for the current year.

At the end of this year, you should have some carry-over funds to begin operations next fall, prior to the first fundraiser. However, the goal as in any year is to use the funds that have been raised this year for the programs and operations for this year. As always, please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Resolution Reminders:

Here is a recap of the resolutions as they were emailed to everyone earlier in March.

You and/or your Convention delegate(s) should review them and place them on your April agenda for discussion and a vote at your general session as to the position your unit wants its delegates to take when voting at convention. Remember: the delegates your unit sends to convention are representing your unit and therefore must vote accordingly. Below is a brief summary of each resolution which begins with, "That California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to:"

Resolution A - HIV/STD Prevention Education in Our Schools Support current medically accurate comprehensive sexual health and HIV/STD prevention education in the schools taught by instructors trained in the appropriate courses, and to offer current medically accurate educational programs and materials to parents on the same topic.

Resolution B - Promoting the Inclusion of Nonpublic Schools on California's Megan's Law Registered Sex Offender Database Advocate that the internet accessible Megan's Law Registered Sex Offender Database maintained by Department of Justice, Office of Attorney General, be updated to include every nonpublic school serving students with exceptional needs, therefore supporting equal access to information that will allow these children and their families to protect themselves from convicted sex offenders.

Resolution C - Local Parcel Tax Measure Threshold Reduction Actively support and/or partner with coalitions to support legislation and ballot measures to lower the requirement of a 2/3 threshold presently required to pass local school parcel tax measures to a 55% supermajority.

Resolution D - Longitudinal, Integrated Statewide Data System Advocate that the state develop a longitudinal, integrated statewide data system designed to: * Provide formative assessments that provide data that can guide instructional practices at the classroom level, * Make key data regarding school resources allocation and student performances available and understandable to parents and community members and* Meet the requirements for reporting a growth model to the federal government.

Resolution E - Safe Routes to School for All Children Urge legislators and local government agencies to support the funding and implementation of engineering improvements around schools, such as traffic calming measures, improved street crossings, sidewalks, bike lanes and walkways to create safer routes to school; and to Advocate for stronger enforcement of existing traffic laws (including speed limits, yielding to pedestrians, etc) and advocate for new laws to enhance the safety of children walking and bicycling to schools; and to Partner with school districts to create policies supporting Safe Routes to School activities including bicycle and pedestrian safety education programs; and to Encourage school districts to preserve established neighborhood schools wherever possible and locate new schools near where students live so they can double as community centers.

Now, Go do the right thing!

Thanks,
Dolores Winchell
SVPTA Council Convention Chairman

2007—2008 SVPTA CALENDAR

April 2008

- 1-2 Sacramento Safari
- 10th Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6PM in Facilities Conf Room)
- 16th Superintendent's Forum 9:30 AM @ SVUSD Board Conf Room
- 17th High School Open House Time TBD by individual school
- 24th Intermediate School Open House Time TBD by individual school

May 2008

- 1—4 CA PTA Convention
- 22nd Council Training - Workshops 6:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
- 29 Elementary School Open House Time TBD by individual school

June 2008

- 5th SVPTA Council Dinner Time/Date TBD