

Saddleback Valley PTA 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: Tina Dunn

President's Message

By Julie Schwarz,
SVPTA President
svpresident@svpta.org

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a restful vacation... and that you are getting geared up for the second half of your term. Many important things are still left to be accomplished.

Nominating Committee: This is *your most important committee*. Most, if not all, of the issues that Council helps units work through could have been avoided if the Nominating Committee took their responsibility more seriously. The attitude of "we just need to fill this spot" usually does not end in good results. The decisions of this committee should not be taken lightly. If you need assistance on how this committee should operate, please contact Dolores Winchell (svparliamentarian@svpta.org), our Council Parliamentarian, for guidance.

Superintendent's Forum: Wednesday, January 14, is the date of our second Superintendent's Forum. I strongly recommend that you attend (or send a representative). Dr. Fish will share valuable information with our group regarding several topics – including the district budget.

School District Budget: This is the first year that I can remember that our district has been faced with mid-year budget reductions. This is an especially difficult process since a large percentage of the district budget consists of items that are contractual – and can only be changed with further negotiations. I highly recommend that you (or a representative) attend not only our Council meetings, but also the District Board Meetings. It is so important that you have current, accurate information during these interesting times. I have also found that those who attend the meetings on a regular basis are better informed and are more likely able to understand the intricacies of the budget and the budget process – instead of just attending one meeting and trying to piece together the information.

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UPCOMING LEGISLATION ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| ⇒ 4th District Advocacy Roundtable (9:30am)
Newport-Mesa USD Education Center | February 3 |
| ⇒ CA State PTA Legislative Conference
Sacramento | February 22-24 |
| ⇒ Sacramento Safari
Sacramento | March 30-31 |

Upcoming Events:

January:

- 22nd—Council Meeting—7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room (No President's Roundtable)

February:

- 3rd-4th District Roundtable-9:30AM @Newport-Mesa USD Education Ctr.
- 10th— School Board Meeting—6:15 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
- 26th—Council Meeting—7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
President's Roundtable– 6:15PM@ District Board Room
Topic: Outreach

Items to bring to the January meeting:

- ✓ A copy of Federal Tax Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, or Extension Form 8868 for the year ended 6/30/2008
- ✓ A copy of a December/January newsletter (**worth 1 incentive point**)
- ✓ Membership dues remittance (don't forget the Unit Remittance Form)
- ✓ 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 your 2008-2009 Budget or your Audit.

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California State Budget: At this time, our state legislators are faced with a huge state deficit – and they are attempting to work with the Governor to resolve this “budget crisis” Given that public education represents about 40% of the state budget, it is likely – if not obvious that education will take a hit mid-year. Please continue to contact your local legislators to encourage them to support public education. Please encourage your units to rally around this cause. Additionally, we will be facing discussion about next year's budget. More information can be obtained from our Council Advocacy Chairperson, Molly O'Grady (svlegislative@svpta.org).

Sacramento Safari: On that note, I would like to *strongly encourage* every unit to send at least one representative to our annual Sacramento Safari. Fourth District organizes this event for us to not only meet with our local legislators to discuss their support (or lack of) for public education, but we also have several speakers who share their expert insight with us on various aspects of public education. Saddleback Council sends several representatives and we would love to have you join us. I consider this PTA funds well spent. Please consider attending this event. More information can be obtained from Molly O'Grady.

Goals, Budgets and Mid-Year Audits: January is a great time to review those goals you wrote down last September. It is not too late to work towards accomplishing them! Also, I suggest that you work with your Executive Board to review your annual budget to make sure you are on track to a sound fiscal year. Additionally, your mid-year audit should be completed ... or at least started by now.

On a positive note: Despite the sometimes grim and frustrating realities that we, as adults and leaders, must face and deal with, I encourage you to look around your school and take inventory of the positive things that are taking place. Despite, the lack of resources (like paper...) our teachers are continuing to provide a quality education for our students. I know that when I walk around the school, I am always impressed with what I see – and the things our students are accomplishing.

As always, please let me know how Council can better serve your unit. Our main purpose is to support your group.

Mid-Year Minutes Check

By Ann Shaver
SVPTA Secretary
svsecretary@svpta.org



The secretary's work is never done! Your unit's Auditor will be knocking on your door any day now, looking for the Minute Book so the audit can be prepared for the period ending December 31, 2008. If you've been keeping your Minute Book up to date throughout the year, then you are ready to hand it over and smile.

If you are like me, you might need a little 'me' time to get all those pages posted in your book before the knock comes. You must make it a priority to update the book right away. There are strict deadlines about when the audit must be completed, and you don't want your Minute Book to be holding back the completion of the audit.

The audit is only one of the reasons to keep your records organized and up to date. As the official record of the actions and decisions of your unit, the minutes are a vital reference tool. You should always have your Minute Book with you at meetings, in case a question arises. Make an extra copy of your minutes for your records each month and stash them in a special place so you have these to refer to when your Auditor has the official book.

Remember – you have a very important job in your unit! You have made it to the halfway mark in the year and I am confident that you will continue to be a valuable resource to your PTA and your school. Feel free to get in touch with me if you need help in any way.

Membership

By Andrea Padian
SVPTA Membership Chair
svmembership@svpta.org

I hope everyone had a great holiday break and is ready to get back to work.

Did any units apply for the Creative Membership award this year? The due date for those entries is January 15th, so if you're on the fence, time is almost up and you'll need to get busy. If you didn't apply for the award but still have a fun and effective membership story to tell, please share it with other units in our council – everyone benefits from new ideas.

Our SVUSD membership numbers are down rather significantly this year (beyond any decreases in enrollment) and I am asking all units to please initiate another membership drive this January to try and get those numbers back up. Several schools have actually increased their PTA membership, but some other units just are not where they should be. If you are one of those units and you need help or ideas, please ask – there are many resources available. The State PTA Website has several places to look for membership building ideas and more. With a new year, a new drive to get more PTA members should be on your list of things to do. With mid-year cuts coming and a lot of decisions to be made that will affect our kids, we have to have a strong, unified voice. This is your opportunity to get parents on the same page and advocate for our children *together*. Joining PTA is a great way to start that process.

Some units also have not paid for all their members-to-date yet. Please mail a check to Dennis Walsh, our Council Treasurer, or bring a check to the next meeting to cover those dues as soon as possible so we can see what our actual membership numbers are at this time.

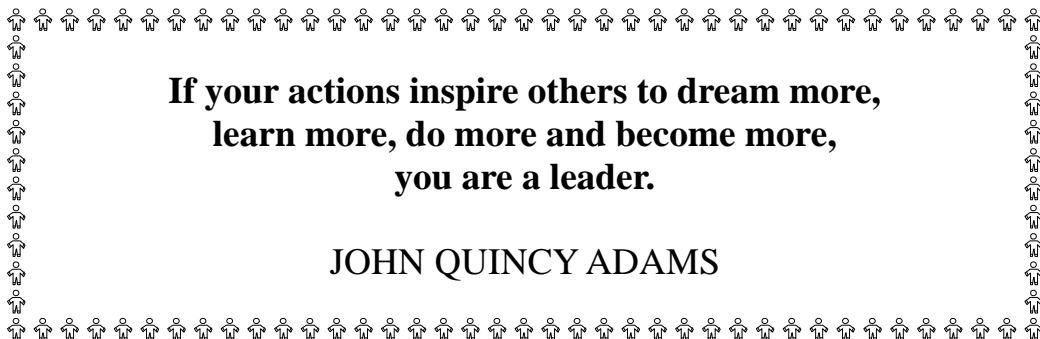
And just as a reminder, please be aware that all PTA memberships for the school year 2008-09 need to be paid in full no later than March 10, 2009. If you have people that will need to be members this year (upcoming board members and nominees for next year), those fees will need to be turned in by the March 10th date, too. Any members on your board or those that may attend the convention in May also need to be PTA members. Please make sure nothing has been overlooked in the next couple months.

When I handed out membership cards this year, all units were given a 10% increase over what they received the previous year. Unfortunately, I am completely out of membership cards and a couple of units lost their cards or need more to cover their increased membership. If you have extra cards and don't anticipate much of an increase in your membership at this time, I would greatly appreciate it if you could bring in some of your extra cards to the next meeting. If you are able to help, thank you so much. If you can't – congratulations – it means your numbers are up and that is a wonderful thing!

I wish you all the best of luck in the New Year. We definitely are facing some real challenges that will need some "outside-the-box" thinking as well as a new look at your budgets and goals.

**If your actions inspire others to dream more,
learn more, do more and become more,
you are a leader.**

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS



Legislation Notes

By Molly O'Grady
SVPTA Advocacy Chairman
svlegislative@svpta.org



Last spring was my first trip to Sacramento Safari. I wondered, after being a unit president and a council officer, would I really learn anything at Sacramento Safari? With all the information on advocacy and politics in Sacramento, I did in fact learn a lot. Two speakers in particular stood out for me; Jean Ross of the California Budget Project and Rachel Elhers, Sr. Fiscal & Policy Analyst at the Legislative Analyst's Office. They explained the complex state budget, in regards to education, in a logical manner and told of options that could help to relieve this crisis. It was great to meet the other members of the Saddleback Valley delegation. Everyone did a good job relating our district's crisis to our legislators. We opened their eyes to what the impact is for our children.

The budget crisis continues to be worse than it was last spring. It is more important than ever to advocate for our children and let Sacramento see our faces. Please plan on sending a delegate from your unit! Register for the trip online at: <http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/legislation/sac-safari.html> by Friday, January 23.

Finally, the Orange County Fourth District PTA Advocacy Roundtable will be on *Tuesday, February 3* at 9:30AM at the Newport-Mesa USD Education Center. Legislation Chairmen, Presidents, and other interested parents are invited. Mark your calendar. Please contact me if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 110th Annual PTA Convention will be held in San Jose from April 30 – May 3, 2009. Please remember to set aside approximately \$800 per person for your convention delegates. This is a great opportunity for your PTA to get valuable training and learn new ways to make your PTA better. I will be attending the Convention Orientation meeting at Fourth District on January 13th, so I will have more information to share during our next SVPTA Council meeting on January 22, 2009.

Brenda Tetterer, SVPTA Convention Chairman



Message from the Parliamentarian

By Dolores Winchell
SVPTA Parliamentarian
svparliamentarian@svpta.org

It is **TIME TO ELECT YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE.**

Yes, check your bylaws but most units in our council elect their nominating committee at their association meeting this month (if it wasn't done last month). All the names must be stated in the motion and recorded in your minutes. (This is especially important as it documents in the record names so that the same folks aren't elected to serve consecutive years.) Please read your bylaws as it tells you how many members serve, how many alternates and states exactly which PTA positions must be on the slate. Remember, the parliamentarian is not automatically a member of this committee. That individual must also be elected, and like other members of your PTA, cannot serve on this committee for two consecutive years. **This is the most important committee in your PTA, as they will present a slate of members who will most likely be elected to serve as your unit's PTA leaders for next year.** Please make sure your parliamentarian reads the PTA toolkit and bylaws to manage this task properly. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regarding **BYLAWS:**

Reading the fine print, and not crossing out any required verbiage and following the instructions regarding submittal of bylaws is extremely important. All units submitting bylaws must:

1. Submit the original and 5 copies to me (as I need to retain a copy). Then, the original and 4 copies will be forwarded to the 4th district parliamentarian.
2. Please be advised that CA State PTA is requiring all PTAs to adhere to the 14 days between executive board and association meeting dates, so you are advised to submit bylaws with meeting times that adhere to this rule.

Thanks to all the units who attended the Nominating Committee Workshop in December. With the training they received, they can expect to have a well managed nominating committee process.

I am always available for questions or concerns.

Saddleback Valley PTA Council REFLECTION RESULTS

By Colleen Logomasini
Council Reflections Chairperson
svreflections@svpta.org



The judges were very impressed with the entries that our schools gave them to judge at the Council level. There are obviously many talented kids in our District! I am a big fan of this program because it offers our children an outlet to express their creativity and showcase their artistic abilities. I think we all agree that unlocking children's creative spirit helps serve an important role in their education.

Below are the Award of Excellence, Merit and Honorable Mention winners at the Council level. The following students will be recognized at the...

Reflections Recognition Ceremony
on Monday, March 2, 2009

6:00PM –Gallery/Refreshments
6:30 PM – Award Ceremony

SVUSD District Office

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

Primary	Literature	Lucas	Fellows	De Portola Elementary
Intermediate	Literature	Clara	Nguyen	Cielo Vista Elementary
Middle/Junior	Literature	Sweena	Mangal	La Madera Elementary
Primary	Music	Rishi	Desai	Foothill Ranch Elementary
Intermediate	Music	Vineet	Desai	Foothill Ranch Elementary
Primary	Photography	Katie	Wallace	Robinson Elementary
Intermediate	Photography	Trevor	Davis	Robinson Elementary
Middle/Junior	Photography	Julia	Mihaylov	Cielo Vista Elementary
Primary	Visual Arts	Carissa	Corrigan	Melinda Heights Elementary
Intermediate	Visual Arts	Komal	Gill	Foothill Ranch Elementary
Middle/Junior	Visual Arts	Stephanie	Sixsmith	Rancho Canada Elementary
Intermediate	Dance	Marissa	Orzame	Robinson Elementary
Primary	Film	Ari	Paltin	Del Lago Elementary
Intermediate	Film	Emilie	Liu	Foothill Ranch Elementary
Middle/Junior	Film	Aidan	Jones	La Tierra Elementary

Saddleback Valley PTA Council REFLECTION RESULTS

(Continued)

Award of Merit and Honorable Mention Winners

Award of Merit	Primary	Literature	Aidan	Powell	Valencia Elementary
Honorable Mention	Primary	Literature	Tara	Char	Trabuco Mesa Elementary
Award of Merit	Intermediate	Literature	Cory	Redhead	Montevideo Elementary
Honorable Mention	Intermediate	Literature	Vincent	Nicandro	Cielo Vista Elementary
Award of Merit	Intermediate	Music	Jackson	Machesky	La Madera Elementary
Award of Merit	Primary	Photography	Krista	Tiffin	Portola Hills Elementary
Honorable Mention	Primary	Photography	Lela	Kimball	Foothill Ranch Elementary
Award of Merit	Intermediate	Photography	Vittoria	Anderson	La Madera Elementary
Award of Merit	Intermediate	Photography	Hannah	Morris	Lomarena Elementary
Award of Merit	Primary	Visual Arts	Kiana	Arabian	dePortola Elementary
Honorable Mention	Primary	Visual Arts	Benjamin	Nellmapius	Portola Hills Elementary
Award of Merit	Intermediate	Visual Arts	Joseph	Sheridan	O'Neil Elementary
Honorable Mention	Intermediate	Visual Arts	Cassie	Brinkis	Valencia Elementary
Award of Merit	Middle/Junior	Visual Arts	Rikki	Liu	Trabuco Mesa Elementary
Honorable Mention	Middle/Junior	Visual Arts	Julia	Lee	Trabuco Mesa Elementary

Please remember to congratulate these talented students!



2009 SVPTA CALENDAR

January 2009

14th Superintendent's Forum 9:30 AM @ SVUSD Board Conf Room
22nd Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)

February 2009

3rd Fourth District Roundtable 9:30 AM @ Newport-Mesa USD Education Ctr.
26th Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)

March 2009

19th Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)
26th Fourth District Administrators Dinner TBA
Mar 30th-
Mar 31st Sacramento Safari

April 2009

15th Superintendent's Forum 9:30 AM @ SVUSD Board Conf Room
16th High School Open House Time TBD by individual school
23rd Council Meeting 7:30 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6:30 PM)
23rd Intermediate School Open House Time TBD by individual school
24th Fourth District Roundtable 9:30 AM @ OCDE Room D1001
Apr 30-
May 3 CA PTA Convention San Jose, CA

May 2009

21st Council Meeting - Workshops 6:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
28th Fourth District Training
Elementary School Open House Time TBD by individual school

June 2009

11th SVPTA Council Dinner Time/Date TBD