

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 Editors: Tina Dunn and Ann Shaver

President's Message

By Julie Schwarz,
SVPTA President
svpresident@svpta.org

First of all, I want to thank everyone that I have had the privilege of working with. It has been such an honor to serve as your President these past two years. I have worked side by side with such awesome leaders. I have learned so much from everyone who has surrounded me. It has been a joy to work with you – as we have worked to be one voice for every child!

It is hard to believe that the school year will be over soon. All of our units should have elected their executive boards for next year. If you have not had your elections yet, please let me know. Remind all your current officers and chairman to help with a smooth transition by:

- Remembering to finish their term by completing any final responsibilities. Meet with the current board to evaluate the year and make recommendations for the next year;
- Meet with the new officers/chairmen to review expectations and review the Procedure Books (hopefully they have kept one);
- Invite new officers to a current board meeting (if not already a member) and to a PTA Council meeting;
- Provide all officers and chairmen with dates and times of all training opportunities (District and Council training)
- Send officers' and chairmen's names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses to PTA Council/District if you have not already done so;
- Turn over all PTA materials they will need. Give them positive support to do their job

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Upcoming Events:

May:

- 21st Council Meeting - Workshops
6:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
- 28th Fourth District Training

Elementary School Open House
Time TBD by individual school

June:

- 4th SVPTA Council Dinner

Items to bring to May meeting:

- ✓ A copy of the adopted Audit for the period ended 12/31/08
- ✓ Board-elect listing, particularly with the name and contact information for the incoming President
 - ✓ Orders for next year's membership envelopes
 - ✓ 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

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If you are an outgoing President, remember to support and encourage the new President – but remember there is *more than one way to do the job*. Each individual has his or her own uniqueness which brings a new dimension to the organization.

Although the school year is quickly coming to an end there are still a few very important things we need to be doing. First of all, it is imperative that you have your incoming officers and committee chairpersons attend our Annual Training on Thursday, May 21. We begin at 6 p.m. with dinner, a short meeting and then we will have workshops that are specific to each position. I am planning for 100% attendance. I well trained Executive Board lends itself to a smooth transition and smooth subsequent year. If you have leaders that are unable to attend, please have them attend the training offered by Fourth District PTA (see www.fourthdistrictpta.org)

Additionally, please remember that the state budget situation is still very fluid. The May elections will impact the budget – and the school board is expecting they will have to revise the school district budget. I highly recommend that you continue to attend the School Board meetings to keep abreast of the changes. You may also get current information from the district website at www.svusd.org. (For more information on CA State PTA positions on the May ballot measures please refer to the CA State PTA website at www.capta.org)

It is also important for us to keep pressure on our local legislators to keep additional state budget cuts away from education. The education community has already taken budget cuts that reflect a greater percentage share than what other sectors experienced. Please encourage your parents to follow this situation – even during the summer. We do not want education to be out of the minds of our local legislators.

We hope that you are planning to join us for the annual June Dinner and Officer Installation on June 4th. We had such a nice time last year and I hope that you will bring your incoming President – if you are retiring... and if you are returning, please bring another officer from your board.

Again, many thanks for the wonderful experience I have had serving as your president. Wishing you a wonderful June and summer vacation...

A very special Congratulations to

Lucas Fellows

From DePortola Elementary School
Our Saddleback Valley PTA Council
2008-09 "Award of Excellence" (1st place) winner
Primary (K-2), Literature category.

Lucas has been recognized as the "Award of Excellence" winner for the state of California *as well as* at the national PTA level. He will be receiving from the national PTA a silver medallion and a \$200.00 check.

Lucas will also be recognized by the members of our Saddleback Valley Board of Education at the beginning of the June 9th meeting for his outstanding accomplishment.

Congratulations again to you Lucas!

Don't forget...the theme for 2009-10 is "Beauty is". Rules packets are available on the SVPTA.org website under "Reflections". This a terrific summer project for our kids, so encourage them to get started early!

Have a wonderful summer!

Colleen Logomasini
SVPTA Council Reflections Chairperson

The PTA Power of One...Making a Difference

The 110th California State PTA Convention was held in San Jose April 30-May 3, 2009. Our council had 29 delegates from nine units, and I was lucky to be a SVPTA Council delegate. All delegates went to a wide range of training workshops, saw exhibits for fundraisers and programs, and were entertained by all of the Reflections winners including our own Lucas Fellows from De Portola.

It was four action packed days with fabulous speakers at the General Meetings. Jack O'Connell, California's Superintendent of Public Instruction said PTA is vital to education and said he does not sit down at the table in Sacramento without PTA. Jake Steinfield, Chairman of the Governor's Fitness Council handed out checks to schools who participated in the program; Teacher of the Year Alex Kajitani rapped with us (www.mathraps.com); Carol Channing sang for us and announced a partnership between PTA and her "Foundation for the Arts." We were all inspired by excellent speeches by Pam Brady, the State PTA President and by Byron Garrett, the National PTA CEO. Both of these speeches will be on YouTube – be inspired yourself! You can also check out press releases on www.capta.org

The resolutions all passed, three were amended before adoption by a voice vote. More excitingly, 4th District's Resolution C – Lowering the Vote Requirement in the California State Budget Process - required a closed door, standing vote count delegate by delegate. The resolution was adopted as written by a count of 441 support; 375 oppose. It was very close, just as California's voters are.

Next year's convention will be in Sacramento, from April 29-May 2, 2010. Please budget to send delegates from your unit! The following two years the convention returns to Southern California. As Pam Brady would say, from my heart to yours, thank you to all of Saddleback Valley's delegates for making it such a fun trip!

Molly O'Grady
SVPTA Council Delegate

California State PTA – Special Election Alert

REMEMBER TO VOTE!!

Tuesday, May 19, 2009



Critical measures that will impact funding for schools and children's services will be put to California voters in a Special Election.

California State PTA takes the following positions:

PROPOSITION 1A – California State PTA **SUPPORTS**

Restores education funding, temporarily increases state revenues, and establishes a "rainy day" stabilization fund. California State PTA has been urging lawmakers to support education funding and increase revenues as part of a balanced approach to weathering the state's current budget crisis.

PROPOSITION 1B – California State PTA **SUPPORTS**

Education funding repayment plan to help restore \$9.3 billion in budget cuts to schools. Adequate funding must be provided for public education so that every student can receive a quality education. Budget cuts to education threaten an entire generation of children – and that seriously threatens California's economic future.

PROPOSITION 1C – California State PTA **SUPPORTS**

State Lottery. Proposition 1C generates additional revenues to help mitigate the state's current budget deficit. In addition, it would permanently disconnect school funding from reliance on unpredictable lottery winnings, and instead dedicate an amount from the state's General Fund for schools that would be comparable to previous lottery allocations.

PROPOSITION 1D – California State PTA **OPPOSES**

Children's Services Funding. Proposition 1D redirects funding for five years from key children's services (established through passage of Proposition 10 in 1998), and makes other programmatic changes to California Children and Families Commission ("First 5") programs.

PROPOSITION 1E – California State PTA **SUPPORTS**

Mental health services funding. Proposition 1E redirects funding for two years from mental health services (established through passage of Proposition 63 in 2004) to help mitigate the state's current budget deficit. California State PTA strongly supported Proposition 63, and we continue to advocate for adequate mental health services for children, youth and families; however, we support 1E because it is strictly limited to two years.

For more information on California State PTA's positions, please visit www.capta.org

California State
PTA
everychild.one voice.®

Special Education Committee
 Caroline Paltin, Ph.D.
svspealed@svpta.org

The Special Education Committee has made some initial steps in its goals to support an accepting and inclusive experience for all children in our schools, regardless of their abilities. We look forward to continued work, with great expansion of our efforts and positive effects in the school community. Mark your calendars for the Fall, as we support **Mon-
 tevideo** co-chair-persons **Dawn Ellen Ferry and Debbie Solom** as they kick off the 2009-2010 school year with **Ability Awareness Activities** planned for **October 5-9, 2009**. Also watch for a training in the Fall for Special Education Committees to gain ideas for activities at your school.

As we continue on it's important to emphasize that *all* children are different. *All* children have varying levels of abilities, and most importantly, *all* children deserve to be treated as people first. Kathy Snow developed the concept of People First Language, which has been widely adopted in schools and businesses throughout the world. Take the time to share this with parents, teachers, staff and children, and raise awareness of the importance of not limiting ourselves or others by labels.

People First Language

Examples to Use and to Share

by Kathy Snow (Printed With Permission)

Examples of People First Language

Say:

He has a cognitive disability
 She has autism (or an autism label).
 He has a diagnosis of Down syndrome.
 She has a learning disability (label).
 He has a physical disability (label).
 She's of short stature/she's a little person.
 He has a mental health diagnosis (or label).
 She uses a wheelchair/mobility chair.
 He receives special ed services.
 She has a developmental delay.
 Typical kids or kids without disability labels
 Communicates with her eyes/device/etc.
 Congenital disability label.
 Brain injury.
 Accessible parking, hotel room, etc.
 She needs. . . or she uses. . .

Avoiding Saying:

He's handicapped, disabled or retarded
 She's autistic
 He's mentally retarded
 She's learning disabled.
 He's a quadriplegic/crippled.
 She's a dwarf/midget.
 He's emotionally disturbed/mentally ill.
 She's wheelchair bound/ in a / confined to a wheelchair.
 He's in special ed.
 She's developmentally delayed.
 Normal or healthy kids
 Is non-verbal. recipient ,etc.
 Birth defect.
 Brain damaged
 Handicapped parking, hotel room, etc.
 She has a problem with. . ./She has special needs



FINAL BYLAWS DEADLINE MAY 18, 2009

Attention All Units: Monday, May 18, 2009 is the deadline for submission of Bylaws revisions to Saddleback Council. The California State PTA will not accept any new submissions after that date until July 2009.

As your council parliamentarian, I will accept bylaws through May 18, 2009 and *after* July 1, 2009. Please be certain that your executive board approves any revisions, in a meeting, prior to submittal.

Thank you.
Dolores Winchell
SV Council Parliamentarian
svparliamentarian@svpta.org

MEMBERSHIP

By Andrea Padian
Membership Chairperson
svmembership@svpta.org

Well, the membership numbers are in and I'm happy to say that half of our schools were able to increase their PTA memberships this year. And, of those schools, most were able to increase their numbers by 5% or more! Unfortunately overall, our SVUSD numbers were down by 7%, but the membership growth at schools with an increase was very impressive – especially in light of our declining enrollment. Please share your bag of tricks and strategies with other schools. Membership is the key to a great PTA. I'm very much looking forward to handing out lots of awards at our next council meeting. Great job!

I'm also hoping all our units will have their membership chairs at the training session this month. I'll be handing out lots of information that I believe will help you very much, so that hopefully, you'll be able to keep increasing those membership numbers during the upcoming school year. This is also a great time for schools that were able to increase their membership numbers to share their ideas. In addition, you'll be able to meet the new SVPTA membership chair, Vanessa Braaksma. I know you'll all enjoy working with her.

And, there is more good news! OMDR will not be required next year and according to the State PTA, we will probably never have to participate in the program. For those schools that use the program to print membership cards or to send emails, it will be available to use, but otherwise you can toss all the OMDR training material.

You should all be working on your membership theme for next year. It is never too early to get that started. We'll have lots of different ideas to discuss at training, but if you can't attend, that information will be available online. Information is available on the Council website, the State PTA and National PTA website, and of course in the toolkit.

It has been wonderful working with all of you. Have a great summer and most of all, enjoy your kids. They sure grow up fast!

Year-End Thoughts

By Ann Shaver

Council Secretary

svsecretary@svpta.org

In a very short time, your year as Secretary will be complete. Whether you are leaving your position or have been elected to serve another year, this is a good time to look through your records and do a little spring cleaning.

Have you taken the time to keep your minute book up to date? You should try to stay current throughout the year, but we know that “life happens” and you may be a little behind. Now is the time to ensure that all of your minutes, treasurer reports and other important documents are properly affixed in your minute book.

This is also a great time to make sure your procedure book is current. Do you have the most recent copy of your unit’s bylaws? Have you documented your normal procedures or noted any changes to existing procedures? Do you have the current job description from the PTA Toolkit? These are all valuable resources to be kept in your procedure book.

If you are leaving your position, please make it a point to have your records clean, tidy and up to date for the person who will follow. It would also be helpful for you to meet with your successor, to familiarize her/him with the documents and basic procedures and processes. Please encourage your successor to attend the Council workshops on May 21st for more detailed information about this important role.

If you are returning as Secretary, Stacey Haslett will look forward to meeting you at the training workshops on May 21st and working to support you in the coming year. If you are finished in this role, I would like to thank you for your service and wish you well as you move on.



*Thursday, June 4, 2009
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.*

*Claim Jumper Restaurant
27845 Santa Margarita Pkwy.
Mission Viejo, CA 92692*

*\$28.00 per person
Meal selections and details on rsvp form*

**2009
Year-End Dinner
&
Installation of Officers**



SVPTA
Year-End Dinner & Installation of Officers
Thursday, June 4th
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Meal Choices (\$28.00 each)
(All meals include a non-alcoholic beverage & dessert):

Rotisserie Chicken
Black Tie Pasta with Blackened Chicken
Vegetarian Black Tie Pasta
Roasted Tri-Tip
Crab Wedge Salad
Barbecued Chicken Salad

This is a legitimate PTA expense.
Outgoing Presidents are requested to bring their Incoming Presidents.
Returning Presidents are welcome to bring another valued board member.

Please make reservation by Friday, May 22nd
Questions? Contact Suzann Gastreich @ 949-455-0522

School: _____

Name	Meal Choice	Amount Paid

Total Enclosed (payable to SVPTA): \$ _____

Forms can be mailed to:

Dennis Walsh
21001 Calle Caminata
Lake Forest, CA 92630

2008—2009 SVPTA CALENDAR

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

4th SVPTA Council Dinner 6:00 PM Claim Jumper on
Rancho Santa Margarita Pkwy in Mission Viejo