

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
president@svpta.org

Happy Thanksgiving! We have so much to be thankful for this year. An event like last month's fire helps us to keep things in perspective. We are grateful that for most of us in the "Saddleback Family" we had some "inconveniences", but we were spared. Of course, some homes were destroyed by the Santiago fire – but we all know it could have been much worst.

Between the fire storm and Thanksgiving - I am truly reminded to make note of my many blessings. I encourage you to pause – yes, I said pause – and take inventory of your many blessings. I think if we reflect on the positives things around us, the negative things grow dim.

Well – what does any of that have to do with PTA? Well – nothing directly – but everything indirectly. When you are a leader, it always pays off to focus on the positive and count your many blessings. I know I have said it before, but your attitude will be the attitude of the whole organization. An "attitude of gratitude" is very contagious. When we focus on the accomplishments of our unit, whether the task is monumental or minute, our members rise to the occasion. One successful task leads to the next one. When members find they are praised and appreciated by PTA, they will flock to your group and your activities.

I have watched, over the years, friends comment on who they would love to work with ... and who they would prefer not to help. The one common denominator is the positive attitude of the former. Which leader are you?

Again, it certainly is a time to reflect on our blessings and the positive things around us. Take a look around you and let someone in your unit know how much they are appreciated. I appreciate each and every one of you. Your school units are lucky to have you. Our council is fortunate to have such a great group of leaders. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

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Upcoming Events:

November:

- 12th— Reflections Entries due to Ann Shimizu's house
- 13th— School Board Meeting—6:15 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
- 29th—Council Meeting—7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
President's Roundtable— 6:15PM@
District Board Room
Topic: Legislative Roundtable

January:

- 16th— Superintendent's Forum —9:30 AM @ SVUSD Board Room
- 24th—Council Meeting—7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
President's Roundtable— 6:15PM@
District Board Room

Items to bring to Nov. meeting:

- ✓ A copy of the Annual Financial Report for 2006-2007
- ✓ Membership dues remittance (**worth 1 incentive point if paying for 50th member**)
- ✓ 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 2007-2008 Budget or your Audit.
- ✓ Workman's Compensation Annual Payroll Report
- ✓ 2008 Insurance Premium check for \$190.00, payable to Saddleback Valley PTA Council
- ✓ One copy of Federal Tax Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, or Extension Form 8868 for the year ended 6/30/2007 (**worth 2 incentive points**)

Membership Update!

By Andrea Padian
SVPTA Membership Chair
svmembership@pta.org

OMDR should be one of your biggest priorities right now. All units using the program by our next council meeting (November 29th) will receive a bonus incentive point but, by December 1st, the National PTA will require all units to be using the program. Unfortunately, it isn't easy. At least I have yet to talk to anyone at any school where the process went by without some problem. So, don't wait. If you have problems, please call me and we can get started together. But, please, don't put it off any longer.

Also I want to remind everyone to keep paying their membership dues as they come in and to continue recruiting new members throughout the year. National PTA will be sending out information and posters to all units in January to help with this effort and is asking units to do another push for membership based on 2008 being a new year. So you might want to think about some new ideas or events you could plan that would help accomplish that and increase your membership.

I hope all of you took advantage of the generous offer made by National PTA President and past-Fourth District President, Jan Domene, to join all Fourth District PTA's that send her a letter asking her to join their local unit. It's impressive to have the National PTA President as one of your unit's members, so please, if you haven't written her yet, do it now. (see page 3 for a sample letter requesting her membership!)

I also want to remind everyone to make sure all your board members and officers are current PTA members! Sometimes with all there is to do in the fall, a simple thing like this can be overlooked. You **MUST** be a PTA member to sit on a PTA Board.

Last but not least, I know that many units have great ideas and events that they use in the fall and throughout the year to attract new PTA Members. Share those ideas and submit an application for the PTA/PTSA Creative Membership Award this year. Applications are due no later than January 15th – so don't let time get away from you! Get recognized for your outstanding and innovative membership ideas!

And with that said, have a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year!

Get the latest information on statewide education issues!

California State PTA Annual Legislation Conference

Jan. 27-29, 2008

Fourth District PTA's Sacramento Safari

April 1—2, 2008

Edsource Conference

April 17, 2008



everychild.onevoice.

September 21, 2007

Mrs. Jan Domene
National PTA President
1032 North Boden Drive
Anaheim, CA 92805

Dear Mrs. Domene:

Our PTA is dedicated to the education, health, safety, and well being of children and youth. One of our goals is to be a vital link in bringing the home, school, and community together in addressing child-related concerns.

We would like to invite you to become a member of our PTA. Your membership reflects your support of our PTA, as well as your support of the programs which we sponsor for the children at our school.

We look forward to welcoming you as a member and appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

(type in PTA Presidents' signature here)

PTA President

(type in name of your PTA here)

(type in school address here, including city and state)

2008 California State PTA Convention



ATTENTION ALL UNITS!

Please remember to set aside monies to send delegates from your school to convention. This is the best opportunity to train, energize, and promote future PTA leadership. If you want your PTA to continue or strive to be a healthy organization, you must invest in your leadership! Since this is a local convention, you can and should send daily delegates. Watch for more registration information to be coming out in early 2008.

Dolores Winchell, Convention Chairman
Svconvention@svpta.org

What You Can Do to Be a More Effective Advocate

By Celia Jaffe, Fourth District Vice President, Advocacy

As published in Orange Leaves, November 2007

Advocating for children requires us to be informed, actively involved citizens and to encourage other parents to do the same. Here are a few ways you can be a more effective PTA advocate:

Attend school board meetings.

Introduce yourself during public comments and mention your position as a PTA legislation representative. Report on major decisions to your unit or council. If your unit or council votes to take a position on an issue that is before the school board, present that position in a clear and concise manner during the public comments section of the meeting.

Register people to vote.

There is a presidential primary election in California on Feb 5, 2008 and a state primary on June 3, 2008. Both elections will also have propositions on the ballot. Voters must be registered 15 days before an election, longer if they wish to receive a sample ballot. Anyone who has moved, changed names, or changed party affiliation needs to register. Let voters know that they can register online at <http://www.ocvote.com>. Bring voter registration forms for them to fill out at a PTA meeting, back-to-school night, parent conference day, or other school event. Small numbers of registration forms are available at post offices and libraries. You can get stacks of forms, and a cardboard stand to hold them, from:

Orange County Registrar of Voters
1300 South Grand Avenue, Building C
Santa Ana, CA 92705
(At the corner of Grand Avenue and McFadden)

Join the National PTA “Member to Member Network”

To get emailed or faxed national legislation alerts and articles to use for your newsletter, visit the “Issues and Action” section of National PTA's web site (www.pta.org) and click on “Issues,” then the “Member to Member” link.

Prepare for Sacramento Safari, April 1-2

Set aside about \$500 per person in your PTA budget and schedule a vote to elect your representative(s) for this important trip. We need a large, informed group of parents to bring the PTA message directly to our legislators. Read over the new policies regarding Sacramento Safari in the article on page 7.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

By Dorelle Kmetz
Council Legislative Rep
svlegislative@svpta.org

Suzann Gastreich
Council Vice President
svvp@svpta.org

Presidents, please remind your PTA Unit Leg Reps, that we are having a Legislative Roundtable in the School Board Room on Thursday, November 29th @ 6:15 pm prior to the General Meeting. There will be an advocacy packet provided, along with an open discussion on how to better prepare ourselves for unit advocacy and an update on PTA supported legislative issues. Remember, if you do not have a Leg Rep yet assigned to your unit, feel free to send along another member.

2007—2008 SVPTA CALENDAR

November 2007

- 13th School Board Meeting 6:15 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
25th Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6PM in Facilities Conf Room)

January 2008

- 16th Superintendent's Forum 9:30 AM @ SVUSD Board Conf Room
24th Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6PM in Facilities Conf Room)

February 2008

- 21st Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6PM in Facilities Conf Room)

March 2008

- 13th Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6PM in Facilities Conf Room)
20th 4th District Administrators Dinner TBA

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 Meeting - 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