



Council Connection

San Diego Council of PTAs

Spring Issue
March 2011

Council Office Hours

- Mondays 3 pm to 5 pm
- Wednesdays 10 am to 1 pm

We are all volunteers. Please call the office before coming to make sure someone is there.

Call (619) 297-7821. The answering machine is always on.

Presidents, make sure your association adopts your mid-year audit and then send a copy to Council.

Mid-year is a good time to review your budget and revise if necessary. The Association must adopt the revised budget and send a copy of the new budget to Council.

Welcome to our newest PTA!

Burbank Elementary PTA in Logan Heights.

San Diego Unified Council



everychild.one voice.

PRESIDENT'S PATH

Good Things!

“Can we end the meeting with some good news? That was the plea at our last Ninth District PTA district board meeting, after some dreary budget discussions.

It got me thinking about all the good things happening in our PTA Council and in our schools. Here's a few.

Four of our PTAs applied for and won State PTA Grants this year. This is phenomenal! Grant winners include La Jolla High PTSA which received a \$500 Healthy Lifestyles Grant, Language Academy PTSA which received a \$2,311 outreach grant; and Alcott Elementary PTA which received a \$500 Volunteer Scholarship. I know this money will be put to good use by our PTAs.

In February, 15 delegates from San Diego flew to our State Capitol to attend the State PTA Legislative Conference. For the second year in a row, San Diego had the largest delegation in the State. It shows we have leaders in our Council willing to take action and learn how to be advocates for kids. This is the only way our State government will reflect our priorities. This grass-roots advocacy sets PTA apart from other parent groups.

There's more good news. San Diego was voted one of the best communities for music education in America! I experienced this first-hand when I attended the High School Instrumental Honor Concert at Copley Symphony Hall. The name doesn't do it justice. It should be called "The Concert that'll Knock your Socks Off when you Hear the Best Student Musicians in San Diego Unified Perform!"

We often hear about the downsides of a large urban school district. This honor concert is definitely one of the upsides. When you gather the top high school musicians together on one stage with an exceptional guest conductor, they reach new heights. The students tackled difficult pieces traditionally off-limits to high school orchestras and bands. As I was sitting in the balcony of our gorgeous Copley Symphony Hall listening to 70 orchestral students perform Dvorak's Symphony No 9, Movement IV, I forgot they were students. I was completely transported by the music. When the music ended, the "Bravos" erupted and we were all on our feet.

My final piece of good news is how fortunate we are to have PTA leaders like you – people passionate about helping children. A month ago I asked you to let me know how your schools were handling the budget cuts. I heard back from many of you about the positive things your PTAs are doing during this crisis.

I learned Marshall Middle PTSA was organizing a community school supply drive. Benchley Weinberger PTA mobilized parents to speak at school board meetings.

(Continued on page 3)

Be a Part of the California State PTA Convention April 28 to May 1 in Long Beach

Associations have received their convention booklet and early reservation is until March 31st. At convention you can attend workshops on all aspects of running your PTA plus hear fantastic speakers and vote on important issues to direct PTA advocacy efforts.



Ninth District PTA is hosting a Bunch Beach Bash on the first night of convention for the San Diego delegates to meet and mingle.

Splish Splash!
Come to the
Ninth District PTA
Bunco Beach Bash!
Wear a bright shirt, a grass skirt or lei.
We're going to celebrate
the tropical way!
We just wanna have fun
but we can't play if you don't come.

Lets hang out with Good friends,
food and
bunco fun!

PTA to the Rescue *School Supply Drive*

In these times of budget cuts, schools start running out of supplies around this time of the year.

While we are lobbying hard in Sacramento for more funding, we know schools need our help now.

It's a good time to sponsor a school supply drive for our PTA schools. Families can contribute and also businesses that have supplies they may not need. If you know of a company going out of business, they often want to donate left over supplies to non-profit organizations.

If you have further questions, contact Ruth Johnson at 858-352-6640 or Mercedes Pacheco 619-234-0417.



Pens

Pencils

Markers

Crayons

Colored Pencils

Erasers

Construction Paper

Printer paper

Dry erase markers

Paper clips

Scissors

**Spiral bound note-
books**

**Composition
books**

Lined paper

Paper towels

Kleenex

Clorox wipes

Hand sanitizer

Cleaning products

Trash bags

San Diego Unified Emergency School Supplies Fund

San Diego Unified now has an emergency school supply fund that helps all our schools. Donors can contribute with a check to the *San Diego Unified Emergency School Supplies Fund* and should be sent directly to: San Diego Foundation, 2508 Historic Dacatur Rd. Suite 200, San Diego CA 92106. Donations may also be made online on the District website.



Presidents Path continued from page 1

Hage PTA increased their volunteers on campus for lunch and traffic monitors. Green Elementary PTA is using the budget crisis as a life-learning opportunity to help kids understand change is inevitable in life. The way we deal with it – our character – is what counts! This is the Peace Pledge Green Elementary students recite every morning:

I am a peace builder
I pledge to praise people
To give up put downs
To seek wise people
To notice and speak up
About hurts I have caused
And to right wrongs
I will build peace at home,
At school,
And in my community
Each day.

We have 86 PTAs in San Diego Unified, each with a volunteer board, doing so many good things at our schools that it's hard for me to keep track.

Yes – there are many good things going on in our District – PTA and otherwise.

Laura

LAURA SCHUMACHER, PRESIDENT

Reflections Winners Announced

The following students have been recognized for their artistic expression of “*Together We Can*”, this year’s Reflections theme. Thank you to all the Reflections Chairs for bringing this National PTA art program to your schools.



California State PTA Award of Merit

- Sydney Parisa, Clairemont High School, Literature
Sydney’s work will be displayed at the California State PTA Convention in Long Beach!

Ninth District PTA Awards of Excellence

- Sydney Parisa, Clairemont High School, Literature
- Nicole A. Mitchell, Language Academy, Visual Arts

Ninth District PTA Awards of Merit

- Benjamin D. Attias, Benchley Weinberger Elementary, Literature
- Hans Oropallo, Challenger Middle, Film Production
- Isabelle T. McCarthy, Sandburg Elementary, Literature
- Allen Richard Gopez, Challenger Middle, Literature
- Maria Omelchenko, Wangenheim Middle, Literature
- Jamie L. Gray, Clairemont High School, Literature
- Taylor A. Lofts, Benchley Weinberger Elementary, Photography
- Rayph D. Cosford, Stanley Middle, Visual Arts

FROM THE HISTORY CORNER**Preparing the Unit Annual Report**

It is the responsibility of every PTA unit to prepare a Unit Annual Report. The historian or president, as designated in the bylaws, is responsible for completing this report.

One of the most important parts of this report is the Volunteer Hours. Collect and tally members' volunteer hours from the beginning of the PTA year. Advise members to project their volunteer hours for the last few months of the term according to planned PTA activities.

Publicize the hours PTA volunteers have provided to the community. An example would be to show the total volunteer hours in your newsletter or you can multiply these hours by an hourly "wage", then prepare a "mock" check and display this in your newsletter.

The Council deadline for sending in the Unit Annual Report to Ninth District is May 15, 2011. Now is a good time to start gathering those hours and start working on your report. Before sending your completed report to the Council, be sure to keep a copy for your records.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Gina Vasquez, Historian

***Report of the
Nominating Committee******2011-2013******Slate of Officers***

President	Barbara Flannery
Executive VP	Bey-Ling Sha
VP, Leadership	Odalinda Aguirre
VP, Programs	Open
VP, Communications	Laura Schumacher
VP, Legislation	Gabriel Adona
Secretary	Derby Pattengill
Treasurer	Cathy Lackmann
Financial Secretary	Janine Morrow
Auditor	Bill Quackenbush
Historian	Jose Gonzales

Elections at March 28 General Meeting!!!

All PTAs must file for a Charitable Trust Number

All California PTAs must file for a Charitable Trust Number. This is a new requirement for non-profits by California's Attorney General. To make it easy for you, we have planned several CT Filing Parties. We'll help you file and take care of mailing the completed application.

- Tuesday, March 22 10 am to 11:30 am
- Saturday, April 16 9 am to 10:30 am
- Wednesday, May 11 6:30 pm to 8 pm

All "parties" will be at the PTA Council Office in Bungalow 7 at the Ballard Parent Center, 2375 Congress Street., San Diego CA 92110.



**San Diego Unified
PTA Council
General Meeting
and Biennial Election**

Monday, March 28

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**The Harold J. Ballard Center Auditorium
2375 Congress Street in Old Town**

***Guest Speakers to address
online learning in San Diego Unified***

Refreshments will be served.

Guest Speaker



Patricia McIntyre
Principal, iHigh Virtual Academy

Find out how online learning is changing education and giving students more options. Learn about the various online learning models we have today in our School District and what's in store for the future.

PTA Presidents, this is a mandatory meeting. If you cannot attend, send a representative in your place. Invite your entire board — however only one delegate from each PTA can vote.



San Diego Unified Council



PTA[®]

everychild. one voice.

Legislative Update

by Margie Fish, VP Legislation

California's education system is in a state of economic crisis. As a PTA, we need to send a message to our legislators that the State must invest in our children's education and well-being!

I recommend that every unit elect/appoint a Legislation Chairman. This person's duty would be to report to PTA members on issues affecting the school and community, as well as the legislative activities at all levels of government. He or she would be the point person to consult with council and district PTA legislation chairmen to coordinate efforts with other PTAs in the area.

In the coming months, I foresee the need for PTA members to take action through letter-writing and phone call campaigns. A legislative chair will be invaluable to help coordinate these efforts. For more information about the duties of Legislation Chair, go to www.capta.org and click on "Advocacy."

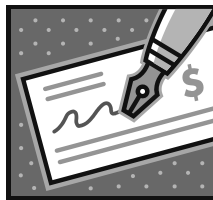
The Council PTA and the Ninth District PTA are setting up meetings with San Diego lawmakers in their local offices. These meetings, either with lawmakers or their staff members, usually take place on Friday afternoons. Regular meetings will be set up to facilitate on-going dialogue between PTA and our elected leaders. To participate in these local meetings, have your Legislation Chairman contact Barbara Flannery at baflannery@yahoo.com.

Audits due March 15

By Bill Quackenbush, Auditor

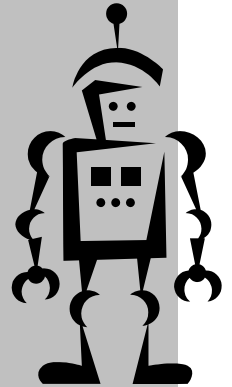
Just a friendly reminder that your PTA's mid-year audit should already be completed! Then your Association members vote to adopt the audit. The adopted mid-year audit is due to Council this month. If you have any questions about this process or about audits in general, please contact me at bill@qbns.com.

I know that in the PTA we are all dedicated volunteers trying to do good for our children and our schools. Thanks for your support. It's a TEAM effort for sure!



Excite your mind at the San Diego Science Festival March 19-26

The San Diego Science Festival offers a rich, interactive learning experiences for students, demonstrating that careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are accessible and a pathway to a better future.



Saturday, March 26th is Expo Day at Petco Park

"Expo Day at Petco Park brings together over 135 hands-on science activities and 12 stage performances for kids of all ages. The event will take place from 10am until 5 pm.

Kids will learn about DNA by making bracelets, create some science art, explore underwater robots, learn how to protect our ocean, and even meet some amazing animals.

The Festival is organized by the University of California, San Diego.

For a complete schedule of activities, go to www.sdsiencefestival.com.

FREE TO THE PUBLIC!



SAN DIEGO UNIFIED COUNCIL OF PTAs PRESENTS



ANNUAL FOUNDERS DAY DINNER!

San Diego State University
Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center
MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011
6:00 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.

Membership and legacy awards
to be presented to units.

RSVP CARD

PTA Name or Organization _____

Number Attending _____ x \$26.00 = \$_____ Amount Enclosed _____ Check Number _____

List names of those attending on back.

Contact Person _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Reservations received by May 9: \$26 per person Reservations received after May 9: \$35 per person

Make check payable to San Diego Unified Council of PTAs

Mail to: San Diego Unified Council of PTAs 2375 Congress St. San Diego CA 92110-2318

**Council Executive Board
2009-2011**

Laura Schumacher, President

Cindy McIntyre, Leadership V.P.

Kathi Sheldon, Program V.P.

Margie Fish, Legislation V.P.

Barbara Flannery, Secretary

Janine Morrow, Treasurer

Cathy Lackmann, Financial Secretary

Bill Quackenbush, Auditor

Gina Vasquez, Historian

Open, Parliamentarian

Michelle Huffaker, Community Concerns

Barbara Peluso, Membership Chair

Leadership Team

Cindy McIntyre

Barbara Peluso

Ruth Johnson

Mercedes Pacheco

Odalinda Aguirre

Liaisons

Bernie Rhinerson, SDUSD

Diane Capitelli, SDEA

San Diego Unified Council of PTAs

The Harold J. Ballard Parent Center
in Old Town

2375 Congress Street, Bungalow 7
San Diego CA 92110-2318

Phone: (619) 297-7821

Fax: (619) 297-2152

sducpta@yahoo.com

www.sdcouncilpta.org

Save the Date!

**Train your New Board at the
Ninth District PTA
Summer Leadership Conference**



Saturday, June 4, 2011

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

University of San Diego

**\$50 pre-registration includes
continental breakfast, lunch
and all workshops**