

*Annual Meeting and Founders Day  
Brunch and Celebration*

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

*8:30-11:00 a.m.*

*Scottish Rite Event Center*

*1895 Camino Del Rio South*

*San Diego, CA 92108*

**President**

**Debbie Vincent**

The *California Teachers Association* and the *California State PTA* have joined forces to offer some tips for you that will give your children the best opportunity to succeed in school.

**Just Ask.** Ask your children what they studied in class today — what they liked and what they learned. Asking questions shows that school is important.

**Quiet Study.** Choose a place for home study and make sure the room is quiet during that time. Creating a quiet place goes a long way toward helping your children learn.

**Regular Schedule.** Set up a certain time of day that is dedicated to homework. Follow up with your children to be sure their homework is complete and turned in on time.

**Learn Together.** If you want your children to read their assignments, give yourself an assignment, too. When it's time for

them to do homework, take a break and spend a few minutes reading a book, magazine or newspaper.

**Learn Everywhere.** Increase your children's interest in homework by connecting school to everyday life. For instance, your children can learn fractions and measurements while you prepare favorite foods together.

**Meet Their Teachers.** Meet with your children's teachers to find out what they are learning and discuss their progress in school.

**Praise Helps.** Praise your children for successfully completing homework. Nothing encourages children more than praise from their parents.

This article is available on the California PTA website in ten additional languages if you need translations.

Source: California State PTA *The Communicator* October 2008

Applications for National  
PTA's

Parent Involvement  
Schools of Excellence  
Award

Due to National PTA  
December 31, 2008

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**Legislation****Lorene Joosten****VOTERS APPROVE SIX LOCAL SCHOOL BOND MEASURES**

Did you know that prior to 2001, local school facility bonds needed a 2/3s super-majority to pass and more than 40% failed statewide? In the face of California's growing school facilities crisis, PTA members rallied to pass Proposition 39 which lowered the threshold to 55%. Since then, more than 80% of school construction bonds have passed in California. Without Proposition 39, half of the school facility bond measures in San Diego County would have failed at the ballot last month. Instead, all six were approved by voters and as result, our children will benefit from safer, more modern school facilities.

**CALIFORNIA'S FISCAL PROBLEMS CONTINUE**

Thanks to our advocacy efforts, funding for education was increased slightly over the governor's January and May proposals. Unfortunately it is still woefully inadequate and a survey last month confirmed that local PTAs in California are being asked to raise millions of dollars to backfill programs and services in the face of massive budget cuts to schools. The likelihood of mid-year cuts to education funding will intensify the problem.

The 2008-09 budget filled gaps with accounting maneuvers and one-time funds and is dependent on unrealistic revenue predictions. It is contingent on a special election to deal with a major budget process change and changes to the lottery. Shortly after the budget was signed, the legislature was called into a special session to address revenue shortfalls.

Early next month the Governor will propose the 2009-2010 state budget. Most of the deficit problems from this year are being carried over to the next. Add to that the declining state of the national economy, job losses in the state, lower-than anticipated tax revenues, and ideological divides within the legislature's two parties and the prospects look even bleaker.

**EDUCATION REFORM – LET'S KEEP THE BALL ROLLING**

Despite California's budget woes, the possibility of education reform remains a bright spot on the horizon. In fact, funding shortfalls only intensify the need for an important part of education reform – a more effective and equitable education finance system.

While research concludes that additional funding is needed to close the achievement gap in California, key players believe that significant reform can be still be accomplished despite funding shortfalls. Important steps have already been taken. Both the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction appointed blue ribbon task forces and their reports have laid a solid foundation for reform. The reports can be found at the state PTA website ([www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)) and summaries are contained in special edition of *PTA in California* which is devoted entirely to education reform.

Experts believe the window for significant reform still exists but it won't remain open indefinitely. We must encourage our elected officials and education partners to continue their efforts despite California's fiscal crisis.

*“Parents and community members, working with educators and civic and business groups, are ultimately the ones who must drive the process to reform our education system...It takes everyone working together to understand the challenges, identify solutions and get behind and push for those changes that need to happen.”* Brenda Davis, immediate past president of the California State PTA and current chair of California State PTA's School Finance Partnership Task Force

**RECEIVE TIMELY PTA ADVOCACY INFORMATION****Ninth District PTA**

Receive Ninth District PTA Legislation Updates via email by sending an email with your name and PTA affiliation to [Ninth-D-PTA-Leg@san.rr.com](mailto:Ninth-D-PTA-Leg@san.rr.com)

**California State PTA**

Send your name and email address to [leginfo@capta.org](mailto:leginfo@capta.org) to receive time-sensitive legislation information. Enter the word "Subscribe" into the subject area or the body of the email and you will automatically be added.

The Sacramento Update newsletter is available on the state PTA website ([www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)). To receive it by email, send your name and email address to [Sac-update@capta.org](mailto:Sac-update@capta.org).

**National PTA**

For action alerts on federal issues, log onto <http://capwiz.com/npta2/mlm/signup/> to sign up for the National PTA's Member to Member Network.

### Script for Conducting Elections

Sue King

It can be nerve-wracking to stand in front of your membership and conduct elections. What do you say and how do you say it? Consider the following:

**PRESIDENT:** "We will now conduct our elections. Would the parliamentarian please read the sections of the bylaws pertaining to elections?"

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** The parliamentarian reads aloud the following sections of the unit bylaws: Article V, Sections 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3d, 3g, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 11.

**PRESIDENT:** "Will the chairman of the nominating committee please present the committee report?"

**CHAIRMAN:** The chairman reads the prepared report that states the slate of nominees, the nominating committee members and the date of the report. The chairman's part in the elections is concluded.

**PRESIDENT:** "Thank you." The president then rereads the report of the nominating committee and asks each nominee to stand.

"According to our bylaws, nominations from the floor are now in order. For president, \_\_\_\_\_ is nominated. Are there further nominations from the floor?" (Give a few moments for response.) "Seeing none, the nominations for president are closed.

"\_\_\_\_\_ has been nominated for executive vice president. Are there further nominations from the floor? (Give time for response.) Seeing none, the nominations for executive vice president are closed."

The president then goes through each elected position as specified in the bylaws asking for nominations from the floor. Should a nomination be received for an office that has no candidate, that election can be held by voice vote. Should a nomination be

received for an office with a candidate, a ballot election must then be held for that office or offices; a ballot election must also be held at the request of any member of the association.

**PRESIDENT:** The president then reads the candidates and offices. "As there are single candidates for each office (if there are), we will conduct the elections by voice vote. Is there any objection to this procedure?" If no one has called for a ballot vote, elections continue. "All those in favor of electing \_\_\_\_\_ as president, \_\_\_\_\_ as executive vice president.... (reads all the names) say 'Aye.' Those against, say 'No.' The ayes have it and you have elected the following officers."

The president then restates the names and offices of those elected. The "voice vote" election is concluded.

Source: California State PTA, *The Communicator*

~ "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." ~ Edward E. Hale

### Legislation— Save the Dates

Lorene Joosten

**Monthly Legislation Meetings:**

Find out how you can use PTA advocacy to benefit your children and your school by attending Ninth District PTA's monthly legislation meetings. Morning meetings are at the Carilyn Gilbert Education Center in Escondido. Evening meetings are at the San Diego County Office of Education in the Linda Vista area.

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 – noon

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 – noon

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

California State PTA Legislation Conference and Ninth District PTA Sacramento Safari

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Ed Source Forum in Irvine



*California State PTA*

## Ten Simple Ways Parents Can Get More Art in Their Kids Lives

Cathy Roth

Enjoy the arts together. Sing, play music, read a book, dance, or draw with your child at home.

Encourage your child to participate in the arts and celebrate their participation in or out of school.

Explore your community's library and read "the classics" together—from Mother Goose to Walt Whitman.

Read your local newspaper to find out about attending local arts events like museum exhibits, local plays, festivals, or outdoor concerts.

Tell your child's teacher, principal, and school leadership that the arts are vital to your child's success and an important part of a quality education. Find out if your school has sufficient resources for arts education, including qualified teachers and materials. If not, offer to help.

Contact your local arts organizations to inquire about the arts education programs they offer either during school hours or after school. Volunteer to donate time, supplies, or help with their advocacy efforts and connect these services to your child's school.

Attend a school board or PTA meeting and voice your support for the arts to show them you care and make sure the arts are adequately funded as part of the core curriculum in the school budget.

Explore your child's dream to sing, to dance, to draw, to act—and encourage them to become the best they can be through the arts.

Be an arts supporter! Contact your elected officials—lawmakers and school board members—to ask them for more arts education funding from

the local, state, and federal levels. Visit the [Online Resource Center](#).

Sign up to become an advocate on the Americans for the Arts website (or any other art organizations), just a click away! Through our e-activist list, you will get news updates and alerts about arts education. Website: [www.americansforthearts.org](http://www.americansforthearts.org) and click on Get Involved.

Source: California State PTA website: [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org); PTA in California—On the Web

And finally take the time to sign up for SMARTS an online newsletter: "SMARTS is California State PTA's program to encourage arts education." You can do this by visiting the California State PTA website: [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org) and click on SMARTS.

## E-Mail Etiquette

Judy Williams

*"There are four ways, and only four ways, in which we have contact with the world.*

*We are evaluated and classified by these four contacts: what we do, how we look, what we say, and how we say it."~ Dale Carnegie (1888-1955) American Educator*

Thoughts on e-communicating and e-manners:

1. **E-mail is forever.**
2. **Always assume your e-mail can be forwarded...to anyone, anywhere, indefinitely.**
3. Change the subject line title when the subject has changed. Also, reference a school name in the subject line. Many PTA volunteers are involved with two or more schools.
4. Avoid criticizing and "correcting" when 'replying to all'; direct your constructive criticism through a separate e-mail.
5. Use "Reply All" wisely and sparingly. Give careful thought to what you say to the larger audience and avoid overloading your friends' inboxes.
6. Don't use bad language. (Refer to 1 & 2.)
7. Don't gossip, defame, or otherwise badmouth people in e-mail. (Again, 1 & 2.)
8. *Do* share the good PTA news with your parent lists, such as accomplishments, awards, etc.
9. *Do* spread the word when your school has reached a significant goal or benchmark.
10. Use tools available to protect the privacy of your mail recipients, such as blind copying.
11. Assure that only those who need to read your mail are the ones who receive it.
12. Before clicking "send," take a breath and double-check details.
13. Resist the urge to fire off quick e-mails requesting information you could easily look up on your own. Have fundamental PTA resources like rosters at hand.
14. Think twice about casual forwarding of those oh-so-cute, whimsical e-mails, jokes, and "inspirations." They can really add up. Also, some PTA friends may not share your views about non-school topics.
15. **Do not** use your PTA e-mail lists to advertise business-related opportunities or to solicit business contacts. Not only is it bad manners and an invasion of privacy, it is out of compliance with PTA's non-commercial policy.
16. Avoid one-word or two-word answers. Be clear; be specific.

Source: California State PTA *The Communicator* October 2008

## Activities to Involve Fathers

Carmen Myers

Father involvement in school and PTA will vary with fathers' level of comfort, the other concerns and responsibilities competing for their attention, their interest in the activities and events, and the effort put into engaging them. Some fathers will be casual participants; others will volunteer for small roles; still others will be willing to take the lead on a project. Any level of involvement is valuable for children and the school. The important thing is that fathers get involved.

When you do seek to move fathers from participation to volunteering, though, there are a few things you can do to increase your chance of success:

1. Ask men what skills they would like to share with the school and PTA. Then utilize those skills in the roles you offer them. (To learn what skills men in your school community bring to the table, have them fill out the "Worker IDs" included with this guide [and available to download at [www.pta.org/dadsandschools](http://www.pta.org/dadsandschools)]. Do this at a PTA meeting, school sporting event, theater production, family night, or other function. Reach out to members and nonmembers alike. The Worker IDs could be another way to introduce men to the idea of joining PTA. Whenever a man joins your unit, make sure he fills out an ID.)
2. Give men specific jobs with specific time frames. Men tend to prefer short-term activities.
3. Clearly define volunteer roles and expectations. Tell men the what, when, where, why, and how of their assignments.
4. Reinforce for men the value of involvement. Give them a big-picture view of how their involvement contributes to children's academic success. Also tell them how their particular job contributes to the event's success.

Below are a few specific volunteer roles you may want to tap fathers to fill for your Take Your Family to School Week events. We've also put together some additional event ideas to use throughout the year to promote father involvement—perhaps as part of a dads club within your PTA. The event ideas are hands-on projects, family events, and activities that build relationships between father and child.

We are highlighting just a few volunteer and event ideas. Consider surveying fathers at your school to find out what types of opportunities they'd like to see. And be sure to invite dads and other father figures to participate—at whatever level—in all your family events, during Take Your Family to School Week and beyond. "Family" includes mothers and fathers—as well as a whole host of other concerned caregivers.

### Volunteer Opportunities for Take Your Family to School Week

#### Reading circles:

Invite fathers to share their love of reading through Take Your Family to School Week book discussions. Then, carry that involvement into the rest of the year. Ask fathers to help organize book fairs. Offer opportunities for them to read to classes. Create a program that encourages fathers to read with their children at home.

#### Career and job fair:

Recruit men to speak at your career fair, or in classes throughout the year. They can talk about their current professions and past jobs, the training and education needed for them, and career tracks in general. Also find opportunities for fathers to talk to children about hobbies.

#### Family fun festival:

Ask men to help with tickets, rides, games, and concessions at the festival. These clearly defined, short-term roles allow for problem-

solving and public interaction.

#### Student talent showcase:

Put out a casting call for fathers who can help with programs, staging, set building, lighting, ushering, and other preparations for the student talent showcase and other art, musical, and theatrical productions.

#### Family-student-faculty sports event:

Get sports enthusiasts involved in recruiting, organizing, coaching, and playing on teams for your Take Your Family to School Week sports event. Whether you're playing kickball, softball, volleyball, basketball, or touch football, you'll need some knowledgeable referees too.

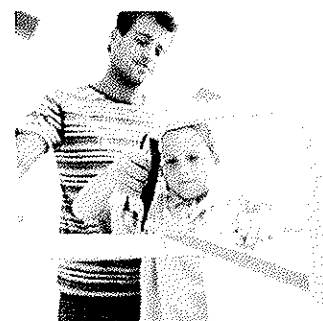
Asking people to join PTA is more successful when it's done face-to-face—particularly with men. One way to create opportunities for face-to-face asks is to set up a PTA membership table at PTA and school events. Draw people in by advertising a tie-in benefit for those who join PTA during the event.

For example, give individuals who join during a PTA carnival two free tickets for carnival games. At school sporting events, offer coupons for free food at the concession stand, or discounts for the next week's game.

More information on how to involve fathers is available at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

□ [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

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**The PTA Power of One...Making a Difference****Carolyn Epple****The PTA Power of One...Making a Difference!****2009 California State PTA Convention****April 29 – May 3, 2009**The following is pertinent information you need now: **Timeline**

<i>January 1</i>	Registration Book mailed
<i>February 2 – March 31</i>	Advance registration via online/mail – Badges/tickets mailed
<i>February 2 – March 25</i>	Hotel reservations open to all attendees*
<i>March 26</i>	Contact hotels directly for reservations
<i>April 1 – April 20</i>	Registration fees increase – Badges/tickets pick-up at registration
<i>April 1</i>	<i>Chronicle</i> mailed
<i>April 13</i>	Deadline for hotel reservation refund
<i>April 21</i>	District Orientation
<i>April 30 - May 3</i>	Onsite registration

\*Register through San Jose McEnery Convention Visitors Bureau. Information will be the Registration Book.

Registration will be online, USPS or onsite. There will be no fax registrations this year. Register between February 2 and March 31 and your badges and workshop tickets will be mailed to you. When you arrive at convention, you will merely need to stand in the "Tote Bags" line to receive your voting credentials, (if applicable) and the tote. If you arrive at convention just in time for a workshop, head straight to it – you already have your ticket!

**REGISTRATION FEES**

**If membership has not been pre-verified via online or mail, then a current PTA membership card MUST be presented upon arrival at convention registration or the non-PTA member registration fee will be required.**

<b>Registration Fees</b>	<b>Feb 2 - Mar 31</b>	<b>Apr 1 - Apr 20</b>	<b>Onsite</b>
Fulltime (voting/nonvoting)	\$140	\$180	\$200
Fulltime Student (voting/nonvoting)	\$70	\$70	\$70
One Day (nonvoting)	\$90	\$110	\$120
One Day Student (nonvoting)	\$40	\$40	\$40
Non PTA Member	\$400	\$400	\$400
Exhibit Hall Only (PTA member)	\$50	\$50	\$50
FREE on Thursday, Apr 30			
Exhibit Hall Only (Non PTA member)	\$100	\$100	\$100
FREE on Thurs, Apr 30			
Lost Badge replacement	N/A	N/A	\$35
Healthy Walk	\$20	\$25	\$25
PTA Event OR	\$40	\$40	\$40
PTA Event with IMAX Ticket	\$50	\$50	\$50

**Events**

April 30 Meet & Greet current State Board of Managers, State PTA Board Elect and Convention Sponsors in Exhibit Hall and Lobby

**Convention continued****Carolyn Epple****Council Events**

- May 1 **Ninth District Event** - to be determined. California State PTA will not be collecting money for this event. Payment will need to come directly to Ninth District PTA. You will be receiving a reservation form in January.
- May 2 **The PTA Power of One! Event** – San Jose Tech Museum of Innovations–[www.thetech.org](http://www.thetech.org)  
Event will be on all four floors with interactive “play” The museum will be open during the entire event, food service on each floor, and there will be music and dancing from 9:30 – 11!

**Hotel Reservations**

Ninth District PTA has reserved the presidential suite at the San Jose Hilton and Towers. There will be district fee to help offset this suite, the refreshments and continental breakfast that will be served each day of convention. We strongly recommend that you take advantage of our suite and the breakfast by registering at the San Joe Hilton and Towers. California State PTA will NOT be collecting district fees, so when you register, you will be receiving an email bill from Ninth District PTA for the district fee. You will not be allowed to enjoy the Ninth District PTA suite until you have paid the fee.

Here are the rates for each hotel:

Hotel	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons
Fairmont	\$146	\$146	\$171	\$196
San Jose Hilton and Towers	\$134	\$154	\$174	\$194
Ramada Limited	\$ 95	\$ 95	\$105	\$105
San Jose Marriott	\$134	\$134	\$144	\$144

**Speakers**

- April 30 Betsy Landers, National PTA Secretary-Treasurer  
Jack O’Connell, California Superintendent of Schools
- May 1 Presidents’s Report  
Jake Steinfeld, Chairman of the Governor’s Fitness Council and Health Awards
- May 2 Ray Culberson, Director of Youth Services - San Bernardino Unified  
Carol Channing, Actress and Co-Founder of Foundation for the Arts
- May 3 Paul Richman, California State PTA Executive Director  
Byron Garrett, National PTA CEO

**District Fee**

The district fee of \$20 per attendee is mandatory, whether you attend the district event or enjoy our hospitality and continental breakfast or not.

**Other**

The picture collage will be assembled again. Please bring pictures of why you joined PTA!

There will also be an art project in conjunction with the Reflections display. I do not have details, but it should be a fun way to show creativity by all the attendees!

**Attrition Clause**

California State PTA has an agreement with the San Jose Convention Bureau that they will reserve “X” number of rooms for this convention. If you choose to use another system to book your room – AARP, AAA, etc., -- please mention that you are attending the California State PTA Convention when booking and when you check in. By doing so, California State PTA does get hotel room credit for your booking, even though it is not through the convention center. Otherwise, California State PTA would be obligated to pay for not fulfilling their obligation.

If you have not budgeted for convention, please do so NOW to have it approved by your association. It is a wonderful learning, networking and motivational experience. See you in San Jose!

Ninth District  
 CA Congress of PTA, Inc.  
 National PTA  
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 San Diego, California 92111-7399

Debbie Vincent President  
 Judy Williams Editor

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# DECEMBER



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 Website.....www.pta.org

**IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND DUE DATES**

**Calendar of Meetings**

- January 14      Legislation Meeting, 10:30 am, EUSD's Carilyn Gilbert Education Center, Maple room
- January 20      District Board, 9:30 am, Tierrasanta Library 4985 LaCuenta Dr., SD, 92124
- February 11      Ninth District PTA Annual Meeting and Founders Day - Scottish Rite Event Center, Mission Valley

**Due Dates**

- December 1      Insurance, Workers' Compensation reports
- February 1      Graduating High School Scholarships, MYPYSA Awards due to California State PTA

**Save the Dates**

- February 22-24      California State PTA Legislation Conference, Sacramento
- April 30-May 3      California State PTA Convention, San Jose
- June 6              Ninth District PTA Summer Leadership Conference, University of San Diego
- June 26-29        National PTA Convention, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**Plan Ahead**

- February          Take Your Family to School Week (8-14)
- March              Arts in Education Month

December 2008

**Nominating Committee Checklist**

**Sue King**

Nominating Committee Checklist

- Elect the nominating committee at association meeting
  - Must be at least 60 days prior to annual election meeting
  - Check number of members and alternates as listed in bylaws
  - Verify eligibility of committee member nominees
  - Verify PTA membership
  - Check service on previous nominating committee
  
- Schedule first committee meeting
  - Parliamentarian arranges date
  - Principal included as advisor
  - Alternate(s) called if elected member unable to attend
  
- Committee meets
  - Parliamentarian gives instructions (stays only if an elected member)
  - Elect committee chairman
  - Review officer positions and duties (Bylaws and Standing Rules)
  - Prepare slate
  - Each nominee must be a PTA member (Membership list)
  - Each nominee must be enthusiastic and supportive of PTA
  - Each nominee should have knowledge of the organization and its role in the school and in the community
  - Each nominee should be willing to give PTA a satisfactory level of priority and commitment, including attendance at meetings
  - Each nominee should be able to work well with people
  
- Call potential nominees
  - Include clear indication of responsibilities of the position
  - Include any expected representation at council or district meetings
  - Do not try to persuade a reluctant individual
  - Do not try to fill the board just to have names in place
  - Schedule follow-up meeting if needed
  
- Remind committee members that discussions are confidential
  
- Committee members sign the slate
  
- Membership is notified of nominees at least 30 days prior to election meeting