

Message from the President

Happy Holidays! December means you've nearly made it through the Fall semester of the 2010-11 school year. I hope that you take the school break to enjoy your family and friends and to recharge for the new year. Ninth District PTA has a lot going on at the start of the year and we hope to see you for much of it. Here's a look at some of our upcoming events highlighted in this issue:

Officer training for your unit boards January 13, 2011, at the San Diego County Office of Education 6:00 – 8:30pm. We will offer at no charge a broad range of PTA training for new officers and a separate session for our more experienced officers who have questions or need a refresher. This is the perfect time for injecting some Spring energy into

your PTA.

California State PTA's Legislation Conference and Ninth District PTA's "Sacramento Safari" February 7-8, 2011 in Sacramento. Network with the group from Ninth District PTA as we learn from CAPTA officers to advocate for our children and learn which bills are going before our legislators all Monday and Tuesday morning. Then meet with our San Diego representatives in their Sacramento offices on Tuesday afternoon.

Annual Meeting and Founders Day Celebration February 9, 2011, at the Scottish Rite Event Center in Mission Valley. Each year, about 500 PTA officers and chairman, principals, superintendents, school board members and Teachers of the Year celebrate the success of PTA at our brunch meet-

ing. We will be electing the 2011-2013 officers for Ninth District PTA, announcing grant winners and much more.

We know that you are as busy as we are judging Reflections, planning holiday parties and school events as well as juggling mid-year budget revisions, electing your nominating committee at an association meeting, organizing your books for the mid-year audit, decorating the house, and entertaining guests.

My wish for you is a healthy balance of all. Stay safe and enjoy your family and our beautiful San Diego weather. Thank you for all that you do for children!

Karen Fleck
President

Ninth District PTA
Annual Meeting and Founders Day
February 9, 2011
8:30am—11 am
Reservation form p. 8

Basic and Beyond Basic
PTA Unit Officer Training
January 13, 2011
County Office of Education
6401 Linda Vista road
Rooms 401-402
6pm– 8:30pm
RSVP with the number
attending to the
Ninth District PTA office
858-268-8077 or
phoebe@sdcoe.net



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Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom from Hunger Drive

Ninth District PTA is proud to support the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom from Hunger Food Challenge again this year. The Food Drive runs from January 17, 2011 through January 28, 2011.

San Diego County for a second year is experiencing a 50-year high in the number of families living in poverty. This, along with a record number of unemployed and under-employed family members, has deeply impacted local support services such as the San Diego Food Bank.

The MLK Freedom from Hunger Food Drive is inviting all San Diego County High School Associated Student Body (ASB) organizations to participate in a focused challenge to collect the most food. All donations will benefit the San Diego Food Bank.

This year the San Diego Food Bank will distribute more than 15-million pounds of food to organizations that serve more than 350,000 people. The Food Drive not only provides this valuable service to the community but it also gives ASBs another opportunity to exercise leadership for a meaningful community project.

In addition the top 4 schools who collect the most food per capita will receive an award out of the \$4,000 prize money made available by the cash sponsors.

Food Drive Challenge runs from January 17 through January 28, 2011

- The drive will benefit the San Diego Food Bank as it struggles to meet record

need of families facing hunger in this current economy.

Nearly half of the meals will be for children 18 years old or younger who do not know if there will be food to feed their family or how they will get their next meal.

Local PTAs and Council PTAs are encouraged to participate in the following ways:

- Local PTAs - High school associations can share the opportunity with the high school Associated Student Body (ASB) leadership, both staff and students. Elementary and middle school associations that feed into participating high schools are encouraged to advertise the Food Drive Challenge to their school communities, utilizing collection and drop off information specific to your participating high schools. Consider conducting your own food drive in support of the Food Drive Challenge.
- Councils PTAs - Share the opportunity with your high school PTAs. Once a council is aware of which high school ASBs in their community are participating, please encourage your middle and elementary school PTAs to join in by collecting and donating the food collected from feeder schools to participating high school ASBs.

If a local PTA or PTA Council cannot find a local participating high school within your school district, check the Ninth District PTA website for postings of San Diego Food Bank drop off locations. Along with supporting the ASB Food Drive Challenge, the true goal is to

provide food assistance to those in need during these difficult economic times.

US Department of Education Guidance Targets Student Harassment:

The US Dept. of Education has issued guidance to support educators in combating bullying in schools. The guidance targeting harassment outlines local and federal responsibility and is also available in Spanish. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/guidance-targeting-harassment-outlines-local-and-federal-responsibility>

"Students cannot learn if they feel threatened or harassed," said Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Russlynn Ali. "We want to keep students safe and learning, and today's guidance will help us do that."

In 2009, the Department of Education joined the Departments of Defense, Justice, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, and the Interior to form the *Obama Administrations Inter-Agency Task Force on Bullying*. In August of this year they participated in a National Bullying Summit resulting in the launch of both the Stop Bullying Now Campaign and www.bullyinginfo.org, a national database of effective anti-bullying programs.

http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/topic_bullying.shtml?utm_source=BullyingInfo.org&utm_medium=Redirect&utm_campaign=BullyingSummitt

Rebecca Hernandez

Community Concerns Vice President

Welcome New PTA Units!

Bayside PTA, South Bay Council of PTAs, Ninth District PTA, organization date September 24, 2010.

Farb Middle School PTSA, San Diego Unified Council of PTAs, Ninth District PTA, organization date October 5, 2010.

Webster Academy of Science and Research, San Diego Unified Council of PTAs, Ninth District PTA, organization date November 4, 2010.

Cesar Chavez PTSA, Ninth District PTA, organization date November 16, 2010

College Prep. Middle School PTSA, Tierra Del Sol Council of PTAs, Ninth District PTA, organization date November 17, 2010

Tips for the Parliamentarian—When the Nominating Committee Meets

Once the committee is elected, the parliamentarian should call the first committee meeting and instruct the members regarding their task (see *Toolkit* and www.capta.org for helpful checklists).

An alternate may be called to serve in the event an elected member cannot attend the first committee meeting; however, an alternate would not join the committee once the deliberations have begun. The parliamentarian conducts the election of the chairman of the committee and then leaves the committee to fulfill its duties. The parliamentarian should be available by phone to answer any questions the committee members may have.

Potential officers should be willing to attend convention and other training and be prepared to give the time necessary to do the job. The committee should select a slate of nominees that is balanced with both new and experienced officers. The committee is not obligated to nominate

the president or any other current officer to serve a second term or to nominate automatically the first vice president for president.

The committee chairman has the responsibility of conducting the committee meetings and contacting potential nominees for office. All discussions within the committee must remain confidential, even after the committee is discharged. If a member of the committee is being considered for an office, the member should be excused from the meeting room during the discussion regarding that office, but may return for the vote, which shall be by ballot.

When contacting potential nominees, it is important that no commitment is made to the individual. The committee must know if the individual is willing to be considered for an office, and then nominate the best candidates according to their ability and commitment to serve the PTA.

When the committee has filled the slate of officers, a written report is prepared by the chairman and signed by the committee members. The report is presented to the membership 30 days prior to the annual election meeting. The committee should continue to work to fill any open positions until the date of the annual election meeting. The work of the committee is concluded at the time of elections. Filling vacant positions become the responsibility of the board-elect.

For further information, please refer to the *California State PTA Toolkit*.

Reprinted from *PTA in California*, January 2006.

Shawna Straw

Parliamentarian



Financial Information

Tax Filings: The deadline for filing tax returns has passed. However, it is still imperative that units and councils file the appropriate tax forms in order to avoid loss of tax-exempt status. If your unit or council is eligible to file Form 990-N (gross receipts under \$25,000), please do so immediately. For those units and councils that have filed an extension for Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, please note the extension date **and** meet that deadline. As a non-profit that is tax-exempt under IRS rules, a PTA unit or council must file the appropriate tax form. **Please protect the PTA's tax exempt status!**

Audits: Treasurers, prepare your books for your mid-year audit now! Depending on the fiscal year, some units and councils may have already closed the books for audit. However, a majority of units and councils are scheduled to have audits completed in January. This is a perfect time to get the books in order as there is little financial activity during the December break. Treasurers,

schedule a time to meet with the auditor or audit committee and review how the books are organized so that the audit is a smooth one. Once the audit is underway, be available to answer any questions that the auditor or audit committee may have. Good communication between the treasurer and the auditor/audit committee makes for a relatively pain-free audit.

Insurance: Units or councils that pay insurance after December 15 **must** include an additional \$25 late fee with the insurance premium. For units, that will be \$221, and for councils, that will be \$145. Be sure to include the Workers Compensation Annual Payroll Report when submitting the insurance premium.

Questions?

Contact **A-Quan Watso**, Treasurer, at thequeen@san.rr.com or **Mary Anne Tang**, Auditor, at m.a.tang@att.net

**For PTAs who have employees
Workers Compensation Additional
Premium is reduced from 5% to
3.5%. This decreased amount is
effective for the 2010 Workers'
Compensation Annual Report.**

A-Quan Watso, Treasurer

Mary Anne Tang, Auditor



For The Record -- Minutes of the Meeting

As PTA/PTSA secretary, your primary responsibility is meeting minutes. Minutes are the official legal record of your group and must be retained permanently in a bound, **not** loose leaf, secretary's book. The original copy of the minutes is also known as the master copy. A brief overview of responsibilities follows:

The Book

Hand write minutes in permanent ink directly into the bound secretary's book or paste typed or computer printed pages into the book.

Number pages in consecutive order.

Keep minutes from all meetings of the executive board and association in the same book.

Include completed audits as presented and approved.

The Minutes

Record minutes that are accurate, concise, and complete.

Record action taken by the group, in the order it took place.

Do not include personal opinion or discussion.

Record the details of the treasurer's report, including period covered, balance on hand, receipts, and disbursements or attach the report to the minutes.

Record all motions except those withdrawn; include name of member who introduced the motion and the results of the vote —adopted or failed.

Record minutes in paragraph form or by department/subject headings.

Prepare minutes as soon as possible following the meeting; send advance copy to the president.

Leave a wide margin in the book to allow space for corrections.

Sign the original/master copy of minutes in permanent ink for the Secretary's Book.

Karen Keene
Secretary

2011 CONVENTION UPDATE – APRIL 28 to MAY 1 in LONG BEACH, CA

A few tidbits about the 112th Annual California State PTA Convention:

- Convention Registration Book will be mailed to units/councils/districts during the first week of January. Watch for it in the mail.
- A link will be available on the California State PTA website, www.capta.org, that will allow registrants to make a reservation directly with one of the two official PTA convention hotels (The Westin or The Hyatt Regency Long Beach).
- Hotel reservations may not be made via fax this year. Reservations must be made online. A credit card will be needed to secure the reservation.
- Online reservations for the hotels will be open February 2, 2011, with the group reservation rate (see rates be-

low for each hotel) available online until April 6, 2011.

WESTIN: Single or Double Occupancy - \$179; Triple Occupancy - \$204; Quadruple Occupancy - \$229

HYATT REGENCY: Single Occupancy - \$179; Double/Triple/Quadruple Occupancy - \$189

- Both hotels have a 72-hour cancellation policy. You must cancel the reservation 72 hours prior to your arrival in order to receive any refund of a deposit or to prevent one night's room and tax from being charged to the credit card used to guarantee the reservation. *See the Convention Booklet for more information.*

Questions? Contact Mary Anne Tang, Convention Chairman, at 9dconvention-chair@cox.net

Mary Anne Tang
Convention Chairman



Getting to Know Your Multicultural Community

It is very important to know and understand the culture of the community you are serving, such as race, religion and country of origin. Ask the questions: What holidays are observed? What are the unique cultural traditions, celebrations? What concerns do families have? What do parents need?

We need to ask our parents these questions:

- How can the PTA assist you? What needs do you have?
- Do you understand what the PTA is asking of you?
- Do you understand how important your involvement can be?
- Do you understand how PTA can assist you with your needs?

A great way to begin to know your community is to set up a meeting at your school site or community center, invite everyone. Introduce the board and committees. Explain what the PTA is, what it stands for, and how it operates. Explain what is expected when you join PTA. Explain why you are inviting and encouraging participation.

Understand that many cultures appreciate a personal invitation and that massive phone calls and emails may be perceived as too cold and impersonal. Invite parents in person!

Explain to parents what the PTA does.

Many of our newly immigrated families do not understand what the PTA is. Many countries do not have PTA organizations. Many cultures do not expect parent in-

volvement at their schools. It is very important that our parents realize that the public school system in California is designed to involve parents. It is important parents realize the expectation is "participation."

It is also very important to convey that the PTA is a non-partisan organization. **The PTA is not concerned about the family's legal status.** The PTA does not share private information with any branches of the government. The PTA's role is to help all parents and to support them in the process of educating their children.

Explain how parents can benefit by joining and participating.

It is very hard to adapt; to be new to a country, a language, a culture. There has to be a value for the parents to want to join and help. Yes, their children benefit, their children may become more proficient in school and better members of the community, but what about the parents themselves? We as a PTA need to ask what we can do for our multicultural families, not only what we would like them to do.

PTA provides great training that can be applied to many paying jobs. PTA is a great source of networking for parents. Every PTA should be a source of community resources for ALL of our families.

How to become an inclusive PTA.

Make the effort to invite your ethnic and minority members to serve on the executive board and committees in your units, council, district to reflect the entire school's population. There are many steps to becoming inclusive. We recommend

setting realistic goals and developing a plan for implementation.

Example:

Goal: This year, our PTA would like to include more Spanish speaking families.

Plan: We plan to set up a meeting in Spanish. We plan to have all of our materials translated; we plan to recruit Spanish speakers to our board and committees.

Implementation: We'll ask our teachers to recommend parents. We'll approach parents at a coffee "meet and greet." We'll train parents. We'll find a position that best suits their interests and capabilities.

Just as there are many steps to becoming inclusive, there are many levels. It is good to develop a multiyear plan to provide continuity for the implemented programs and events.

Example: Last year we were able to increase our number of Spanish-speaking parents working on committees. This year, we plan to promote some of those parents to committee chairs.

Jennifer Zaheer

Education/Parent Involvement
Vice President

Source: <http://www.capta.org/sections/communication/downloads/communicator-2008-07/GettingtoKnowYourMulticulturalCommunity.pdf>

12th District PTA *Multicultural Guide*
written and edited by Sylvia Cates & Lilly Dollenmayer

Spreading the News!

Share great PTA newsletters, program books, and websites!

Ninth District PTA wants to celebrate every PTA's successful communications at our annual awards event.

The criteria for each award is online at ninthdistrictpta.org

Let's share every PTA's successes!

Legislation

The recent elections may cause great change to occur within our state legislature. The budget deficit continues to grow and our schools are continuing to feel the repercussions of this economy. Consider this your call to action. We have a mixed bag of talent. We need to properly utilize and mobilize our great talent. This year demands member involvement more than ever. We need to unite and leverage our strength to help children receive the best education possible.

I would like to thank you all for being members of this amazing state-wide association. In this economy or any, it is truly incredible to see individuals give their free time to helping others. I really appreciate the fact that you have signed up for your position, no matter how it happened.

What I wish and hope, is for legislation chairmen to find an aspect that he/she is excited about and run with it. You may find a piece of legislation that you feel you need to champion and advocate about. You may want to attend the California State PTA Legislation Conference in Sacramento in February to learn more. You may want to hold a public roundtable to educate your local community or parents about the pressing budget issues. You may want to start a unit campaign to get students more involved in civics. Follow your passion, do what inspires you. You do not have to encompass *every* piece of legislation to be a great advocate for children and PTA.

However you decide to advocate for children and families, remember I am a resource and I am available to you.

Did you set goals for advocacy this

year? If you haven't, or even if you have and you may want to re-evaluate those goals, I am submitting to you my goals as Ninth District PTA Legislation V.P. for you to think about incorporating into your plan of action:

I want to:

- Identify and educate, advocate and lobby for the necessary changes needed to make California produce a world class education system so that children are prepared to enter the world as productive, ethical humans equipped with the tools to live a meaningful and purposeful life.
- Coordinate and facilitate a public roundtable at the University of San Diego that discusses topics that community members want to learn more about regarding education systems. I have formed a committee and I am working on developing a survey to determine what parent's and community members would like to learn more about in California's public schools, budget, policy, governance and administration. Topics to discuss could be: charter school effectiveness, tax base for financing our system, funding formulas, governance, common core standards, revenues, teacher compensation and merit pay, unions, budget breakdown, internet based learning, healthy food programs, expanded civics in our curriculum and whatever you see worthy. I will be asking for all members to respond to a web based survey to identify the topics that should be discussed.
- Send a strong group of advocates to Sacramento with a common message

from our school districts and the Ninth District PTA. First, I need to recruit my army of advocates. We can all identify the key issues from our districts and county. We will hold a briefing before we go to Sacramento.

- Consistently deliver our message to legislators throughout the year via visits to local offices and through various methods of communication including mail, email and phone calls.
- Decide what methodology will help us coalesce and become more unified. Discuss what helps council and unit PTAs stay informed? Quarterly legislation meetings? Monthly meetings? *Observer*? Facebook?
- Find out how I can help you achieve your personal goals in your position.
- Organize an amazing Summer Leadership Legislation Workshop using your feedback, what topics do you want covered?
- Find and start training a protégé. Talk to me if you have an interest.
- Acquire an assistant for this position. Talk to me if you have questions.

The California State PTA Legislation Conference will be February 7-8, 2011, in Sacramento. Make plans to send someone from your PTA unit and council to learn more about PTA advocacy and to be the voice for all children from your PTA.

Go to www.capta.org for registration information.

Jon Nalbandian

Legislation Vice President



9 Million Reasons to Speak Up

California State
PTA
everychild.one voice.

2011 Legislation Conference

February 7-8, 2011

Embassy Suites Hotel

Sacramento, California

All PTA members, chairmen and officers are welcome

Conference registration is \$165
Hotel rates are \$169 per night

California needs you

Attend the California State PTA Legislation Conference and unleash your powers of advocacy for children



Are you concerned about the future of California?

Would you like to make California a better place for children and families?

Whether you are a seasoned advocate or a newcomer, the California State PTA's Legislation Conference is the place to learn what is really happening in the state that affects your children and your schools. Your children, your PTA and your state need your involvement, and the California State PTA Legislation Conference is the place to step up to the challenge.

While at the conference, you will hear directly from experts, including state legislators; learn about issues and priorities of the California State PTA; develop the skills to become an effective advocate for children in your community; network with others who share your concerns and goals; and visit your legislators to discuss the issues facing your community.

Source: www.capta.org

Annual Meeting and Founders Day Reservation Form



2011 Annual Meeting and Founders Day

Brunch and Celebration

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

8:30-11:00 a.m.

Check-in 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Scottish Rite Event Center

1895 Camino Del Rio South

San Diego, CA 92108

Reservations received by February 2, 2011:	\$25.00
Reservations received February 3-7, 2011:	\$35.00

Reservations will not be accepted after February 7, 2011

Mail completed form and check to:

Ninth District PTA

6401 Linda Vista Road, Annex A, San Diego, CA 92111

All PTA checks require 2 signatures

2011 Annual Meeting and Founders Day Reservation Form

Unit or Council Name _____

Number Attending _____

Your Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope to allow us to mail tickets to you.

Questions? Please contact the Ninth District PTA office at 858-268-8077

Honorary Service Award Nomination Form



everychild.one voice.

6401 Linda Vista Road, Annex A San Diego, CA 92111-7319 (858) 268-8077 Fax (858) 268-8017 phoebe@sdcoe.net www.ninthdistrictpta.org

Honorary Service Award Nomination Form 2010-2011

The Honorary Service Award Selection Committee is seeking nominations for the 2010-2011 PTA year. Nominated individuals may include those who have made significant contributions that positively impact the lives of children, youth or families within Ninth District PTA—San Diego and Imperial Counties. Current members, officers, teachers, administrators, as well as community leaders may be considered for this award. All nominations will be considered, but please keep in mind that we are looking for a district honoree. All units and councils are encouraged to honor their own with-in the units and councils.

Ninth District PTA honorees will be celebrated at Ninth District PTA's Annual Meeting and Founder's Day Celebration on Wednesday February 9, 2011. This year's event will be held at the Scottish Rite Event Center, San Diego, CA.

The Honorary Service Award program includes the Honorary Service Award, Continuing Service Award, Golden Oak Service Award (California State PTA's highest honor), Very Special Person Awards and donations in the names of individuals or organizations. Funds contributed to the Honorary Service Award program provide resources for the California State PTA Scholarship and Grant programs.

Specify award category:

- Honorary Service Award Very Special Person Award
 Continuing Service Award Donations
 Golden Oak Service Award

Name of individual nominated:

Title or position:

Reason for nomination:

Name of person submitting the nomination:

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please submit your nomination to Amy Everett, Honorary Service Award Committee Chair at: irislover@cox.net. Please direct all questions to Amy as well, by e-mail or phone: 619-200-9895. All nominations are due Friday January 14, 2011. All nominations will be considered and the Honorary Service Award Selection committee will select the recipient(s). Thank you!

Founders Day

Founders Day is a perfect time to renew the dedication to the Purposes of the PTA that were defined by PTAs Founders more than a century ago. Each year in February, PTA honors the three founders as well as past and present PTA leaders. Through special programs and events, PTA also attempts to increase the awareness of its members and the community by highlighting achievements, activities, projects and goals.

The Founders Day celebration was created in 1910 by Mrs. David O. Mears, a charter member of the National Congress of Mothers founded by Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst in Washington, DC, February 17, 1897. The Founders Day observance has continued through the change of organization names in 1925 to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the uniting in 1970 with the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, founded in 1926 by Selena Sloan Butler, to become the National PTA.

Issues concerning immigrants, homeless children and families, the unemployed and the uneducated, and numerous health and safety concerns still need attention. However, through PTA advocacy to enact and enforce laws, children's health is better protected and children are better fed, housed and educated, with parents more involved in their upbringing. The vision of PTAs founders has been realized in many ways, and now it is up to present PTA members to continue the vision.

Founders Day is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education. PTA's founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst

and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world.

They had a simple idea—to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive.

Today, PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth.

The Founders Day Freewill Offering

Donations collected during Founders Day observances benefit the entire organization: unit, council, district PTAs, State and National PTA. California State PTA returns one-fourth of its offering to the district PTA and retains one-fourth for its work throughout the state. Half of the offering is sent to National PTA.

Michele Henry

Member Services Vice President

Source: www.capta.org

PTA Membership Spotlight School

Lakeside Middle School from the Lakeside Council kicked off their campaign during our Summer Exploration. We had 100 members before school even started and 300 members by the end of the first week of school.

A welcome letter was sent out with each envelope. We have a membership table at all events. At the end of our first month, we are almost at 500 members, which already surpassed last year's numbers. Each member had their name put into a drawing for a gift card. We drew the winner at our first Unit Meeting. All student members received FREE admission to the Back to School Dance, they receive FREE popcorn a few times a month during lunch and they all received a chance to spin the wheel for a prize. We plan to keep our membership drive going throughout the year.'

Please share your membership success stories in our next Observer by submitting them to mhenry17@cox.net today!



Think up a Storm!

Every PTA that works together for a common goal eventually needs to jump-start ideas for programs, membership, activities, etc. The old is *really* old and you need ideas, something new and fresh to build some excitement – like brainstorming. But how can you tell if your participation in the process will bring electrifying new ideas, not just a lazy, messy drizzle?

Write everything down! You think you'll remember the great idea you had, but most of us forget it. Ideas that come to you in your sleep are part of the brain working overtime to come up with ideas or solutions. Jot them down first thing in the morning.

This works the same way in a group setting. Get some chart paper and a few colored marking pens. Appoint a recorder. Then try the following:

Lightning Rounds. Time yourselves. Write down as many ideas as you can come up with at lightning speed for three minutes. Forcing your mind to work within a time limit keeps that censor in your brain from interrupting. Things you think that may not work could turn out to be the seed of a fabulous idea – yours or someone else's.

No Thunder Down Under. No *black cloud comments* are allowed during brainstorming sessions. Believe it or not, positive comments can also put the brakes on a session. Someone says, *That's a great idea!* and everyone in the room subconsciously compares it to one of their ideas, either spoken or not-yet spoken and they decide not to say their own idea aloud. Everyone offers ideas with no verbal censoring – praising or ridiculing of any kind.

After the Storms. After each lightning round, organize all ideas into clusters that fit together. Rewrite the clusters on new sheets of paper and you're ready to do it again!

Brainstorming is a proven way to quickly generate ideas for your group, turning foggy old same-old, same-olds into fresh new ways to improve your group's focus and power.

Adapted from California State PTA *The Communicator*, October 2010



Ninth District PTA Executive Committee

President

Karen Fleck

Executive Vice President

Leadership Vice President

Carol Green

Communication Vice President

Mindy Thomason

Community Concerns

Vice President

Rebecca Hernandez

Education/Parent Involvement

Vice President

Jenifer Zaheer

Health Vice President

Debra Fraser

Legislation Vice President

Jon Nalbandian

Member Services Vice President

Michele Henry

Secretary

Karen Keene

Treasurer

A-Quan Watso

Auditor

Mary Anne Tang

Parliamentarian

Shawna Straw

Historian

Elizabeth Bacting

Chairman of Council Presidents

Christina Hicks

Important Numbers

Ninth District PTA

Phone.....858-268-8077

Fax.....858-268-8017

Email.....phoebe@sdcoe.net

Website www.ninthdistrictpta.org

Facebook. Ninth District PTA

Twitter. NinthDPTA

California State PTA

Phone.....916-440-1985

Fax.....916-440-1986

Email.....info@capta.org

Website.....www.capta.org

National PTA

Phone.....703-518-1200

Email.....info@pta.org

Website.....www.pta.org

Ninth District PTA
California Congress of PTA,
Inc.
National PTA
6401 Linda Vista Road,
Annex A
San Diego,
California 92111-7399

NON-PROFIT ORG
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SAN DIEGO,
CALIF
PERMIT 420

Return Services Requested

President Karen Fleck
Comm. VP Mindy Thomason
Editor Judy Williams

The Purposes of the PTA

- ◇ To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- ◇ To raise the standards of home life.
- ◇ To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- ◇ To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- ◇ To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

The Ninth District PTA does not control and cannot guarantee the relevance, timeliness, or accuracy of the material provided by other agencies or organizations, nor does the Ninth District PTA endorse other agencies or organizations, their views, products or services.

Calendar

Meetings

January 18 Ninth District PTA Board Meeting, 9:30 am, COE room 301
Council president meeting immediately following
February 22 Ninth District PTA Board Meeting, 9:30 am, COE room 401
Council president meeting immediately following

Save the Dates

January 13 Unit officers training, evening 6-8:30pm at COE room 401-402
February 9 Ninth District PTA Annual Meeting and Founders Day

Plan Ahead

April 28-May 1 California State PTA 2011 Convention, Long Beach, CA
June 4 Ninth District PTA Summer Leadership Conference, USD

Past Due

Rosters List of 2010-2011 unit and council PTA officers and chairman are due immediately
Tax Filing Copies of the tax filings for 2009-2010 are due to councils and Ninth District PTA

**Plan now for California State PTA Convention
Long Beach
April 28 - May 1, 2011**

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