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### President's Message

Welcome Back to School and welcome back to PTA! My name is Anne Emfinger and I am honored to serve as your Ninth District PTA president for the 2025-2027 term. I hope you and your family found time to rest, recharge and enjoy the summer break.

With all the excitement of going back to school comes all the excitement of a new PTA term. The new year can be exciting and overwhelming all at the same time. You are not alone. Ninth District is here to support you! We have eagerly been meeting and planning during the summer, and I am excited to be one part of this phenomenal team of volunteers. Our motto for this term is "Growing Better Together."

Our goals this year include focusing on membership and training. If you haven't already done so, join your PTA. Other people aren't going to join if not asked so ask everyone, ask often and ask in different



Watch your home mail for the California State PTA "Leaders Welcome Packet" this will give you all kinds of information. Does PTA have your mailing address? Enter your contact information into PTEZ or email it to us at [office@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:office@ninthdistrictpta.org) and we will be sure you are in the system!

Visit the California State PTA Leaders Website: <https://leaders.capta.org>. Many of the resources you may be familiar with have been moved to this site. The unit number,

formats. If your PTA is not yet using our online membership platform, TOTEM, now is the time to enroll.

Whether you are brand new to all of PTA or a president returning to PTA, there are procedures to follow to get started for a great year!

Remember to be a good board member during this Back to PTA time. Appreciate the work of past PTA leadership and if you are the past PTA leadership, be open to new ideas. This document is written for the president, but it applies to ALL board positions. [Be a Good President from the Start - Document](#)

which is needed to register, is on your membership card and in the upper right hand corner of your bylaws. Don't have either of these, send us an email at [office@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:office@ninthdistrictpta.org)!

Finally, have fun and remember we are here for the kids! PTA can be a lot of work, but it can be a lot of fun, too. If no one is having fun, others won't join and it will be TOO much work for everyone.

-- by Anne Emfinger (President)  
[president@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:president@ninthdistrictpta.org)



At the June 2024 National PTA convention, delegates adopted a motion to increase the National PTA portion of the dues by \$1.00 for a total of \$3.25 per member. The increase was effective **July 1, 2025**.

Here are the ways to implement the increase.

**1. Absorb the difference.** Collect the same amount as before the increase but send up \$1.00 more per capita. Unit bylaws would be amended by writing in the increased national portion in Article IV, Section 4a in the current bylaws and updating the amount passed up through channels in Section 4e, but a unit would not need to send up bylaws through channels for approval.

**2. Pass the difference on to members.** The unit would add \$1.00 to whatever is now being collected from each member. For example, a unit that collects \$10.00 would now collect \$11.00 per member. The unit would write in the increased total collected at the beginning of Article IV Section 4, and would make the same changes as in 1 above, but again would not need to send up the bylaws through channels for approval.

**3. Increase the amount retained by the unit.** The unit would have to take the steps in 1 and 2 with an additional increase that the unit would keep, and the updated bylaws must be sent up through channels for approval. **The increased unit amount is not collected until the bylaws had been approved by the state parliamentarian and adopted by a two-thirds vote of the association.**

District and council bylaws also need to be updated to show the increased dues and pass-through amounts. As with the unit bylaws, these do not need to be sent through channels for approval unless the council or district wishes to increase its portion of the dues. For councils and districts, this would mean an amendment to Article IV Section 6 to reflect the increased National PTA dues and the increased total amount collected.

-- by Sue King (Parliamentarian) & Deborah Childers (Treasurer)



## The Reflections Art Program

The PTA Reflections Art Program is a fun and creative way for students to express themselves and explore the arts! Open to all grade levels (Pre-K–12), Reflections invites students to submit original works inspired by this year's theme, "I Belong" in one or more of six categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.

Whether your student loves painting, writing stories, snapping photos, or making videos, there's a place for them in Reflections! It's more than just an art contest—it's a celebration of student voice and creativity, with opportunities to be recognized at local, state, and even national levels.

Here's a few ideas of what you can do to promote the program:

Host a "Create Day" at lunch or after school where students can work on entries.

Set up a mini display of past entries in the school office to inspire others.

Partner with your art, music, or language arts teachers to help spread the word.



## Together We Grow: Why PTA Membership Still Matters

Growing stronger together, one member at a time! Ninth District PTA's 2025-26 membership theme reminds us that every member makes a difference. A thriving PTA takes teamwork—and by growing our membership, we build stronger schools, stronger communities, and brighter futures for all.

PTA membership isn't just about fundraising—it's about belonging. Whether a member joins to support events or just wants to stay informed, they're helping build something bigger. Show your members they're more than just a number—they're the heart of PTA!

As you may know, National PTA dues increased by \$1 this year to support even stronger national advocacy. If your unit or council hasn't yet shared this with your association, don't worry! California State PTA has provided clear steps on how to handle this change: <https://capta.org/pta-leaders/run-your-pta/dues-increase/>

Pro tip: Use TOTEM to make joining simple—TOTEM automatically sends dues up the channels and gives you tools to track and communicate with members easily!

Units interested in participating, please contact your Council for deadlines and more information. Councils and Out-of-Council units can reach out to Ninth District Reflections Chair Jemima Dutra at [reflections@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:reflections@ninthdistrictpta.org).

Let's help every student know they belong—through art!

Questions? Contact your council or Ninth District PTA Membership Director, Jemima Dutra, at [membership@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:membership@ninthdistrictpta.org)

Let's grow together!



As we begin the new school year, it is important that we always stay up-to-date on our health, the health of our children, and the health of families.

For a lot of schools in San Diego and Imperial County, August is back to school. Please remember that it is very important to do a well-child visit every year to ensure your children are healthy and ready to learn at school. A well-child visit is a physical examination, assessment of developmental milestones, review of immunizations, and sometimes a vision, and hearing screening. For more information please visit [Recommended Immunization Schedule](#) and [Live Well San Diego](#).

Tuberculosis Exposure has been reported at Southwest High School. The County's Tuberculosis Control Program, in collaboration with Sweetwater Union School District, is working to notify students and staff who may have been exposed to tuberculosis at Southwest High School from February 1, 2025 to May 22, 2025. The school district and county have notified individuals at the highest risk of infection. No cost TB screening is being arranged for students and staff who are at an increased risk of infection. [Learn More About Tuberculosis](#)

The county has closed 3 parks for the entire month of August to protect hikers from the heat. The parks that are closed are: El Capitan Preserve near Lakeside, Hellhole Canyon Preserve in Valley Center, and Mt. Gower Preserve in Ramona.

#### Monthly Health Awareness - August

- Children's Eye Health and Safety Month
- National Immunization Awareness Month
- National Health Center Week
- Lung Cancer Day

-- by Mary Patterson (Vice President, Director of Health)  
[health@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:health@ninthdistrictpta.org)



# Treasurer



August has arrived, and with it, many of the schools in our area are welcoming back students, while others have been in session for almost a month. Hopefully, you have had a chance to update the signers on your bank accounts and are ready to present or have presented the 2025-2026 Budget, the 2024-2025 End-of-Year Financial Report, and a treasurer report from the last association meeting to the end of the year, and your July Treasurer Report to your association. Yes, you have been busy!

One way to ensure that your meeting minutes reflect the required information is to send that information to your secretary before the meeting or provide them with a written copy at the meeting. Meeting minutes should include the beginning balances in all accounts, expenses during the month, the ending balances in all accounts, and the ratification of check numbers/debits. I always like to share income for the month as well. Remember, you are reporting income and expenses for the month, and your ending balance should include checks that the bank may not have processed. Your report should not be a restatement of the bank statement.

At each meeting, you should provide your financial reviewer or a board member who is not a signer on the account with the bank statement that shows you have reconciled the accounts. What does reconciled mean? It means that you have verified all deposits, that all the checks that the bank has processed are

accurate, and you have noted any checks that were written that have not been processed by the bank, aka outstanding checks. Your reconciled balance is the bank balance minus the outstanding checks. The non-signer should sign and date the bank statement and reconciliation to verify that the information presented in your treasurer's report reflects what is on the bank statement. This verification is a requirement by the insurance company, so we recommend completing it during the executive board meeting when the reports are being presented.

I have linked a treasurer's [survey](#) to help plan and implement some training for treasurers in the next few months. If you need assistance sooner, you can visit the Ninth District PTA [website](#), where you will find webinars on budgets, tax filing, and being a treasurer. If you need more assistance, contact your council or me at [treasurer@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:treasurer@ninthdistrictpta.org).

Remember to ask for help early...problems are easy to fix when they are new and small; the longer you wait, the harder it gets to fix them. Have a great start to the new school year.

-- by Deborah Childers (Treasurer)  
[treasurer@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:treasurer@ninthdistrictpta.org)



Financial Reviewers are unique in that our job is not finished on June 30th like other officers. We still need to finish that Year-End Financial Review, and of course it cannot be completed until the 2024-2025 financial books are closed on June 30th. Hopefully, your financial review committee was appointed earlier in the year and you have scheduled a day and time to review the books. If you completed a Mid-Year Financial Review you will be checking the financial documents usually from January 1 to June 30th. If you did not complete a mid-year review, you will need to review from July 1 to June 30th.

But what happens if your 2024-2025 Financial Reviewer is unable to complete the Year-End Review? Your new financial reviewer can complete the review as long as the committee has a majority of members who were not signers on the account.

If you do not have a financial review committee, don't despair! Contact your council (or if you are out-of-council you can contact Ninth District PTA) for assistance. There are resources on the Ninth District PTA [website](#), and even a [video](#) that will help you through the financial review process as well.

Remember, your Year-End Financial Review should be presented first to your Executive Board, with a motion to accept the Financial Review and move it to the Association for approval. It is best to aim to have your 2024-2025 Year-End Financial Review approved by the Association at your first (or at least second) Association meeting of 2025-2026.

If you have any questions, please contact David Rogers (Financial Reviewer) at [financial.reviewer@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:financial.reviewer@ninthdistrictpta.org).



Welcome to the new term! Please let me know if you have any training requests. We can arrange board trainings, a mini training during a council meeting, or a webinar. I will be mainly available via Zoom this fall, but we have a large leadership team who can help. Here are some links to get you started:

<https://capta.org/pta-leaders/leaders-website/> Create a login, then click this link:  
<https://leaders.capta.org/leadership/tips-for-leaders/leadership-qualities/>  
[Ninth District PTA - YouTube](#)

-- Denae Senise (Vice President, Leadership Services Director)

[leadership@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:leadership@ninthdistrictpta.org)

# Secretary

Welcome to a Great New School Year!

Hello and welcome to the start of an exciting new school year! I'm honored to introduce myself as the new Secretary for Ninth District PTA. I'm excited to support our schools, families, and dedicated volunteers in this role.

As we begin the year, I'm looking forward to working together to help strengthen our school communities. Whether you're a returning member or joining us for the first time, your involvement makes a difference.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, ideas, or ways I can support your PTA work. You can contact me anytime at [secretary@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:secretary@ninthdistrictpta.org).

Here's to a productive, positive, and inspiring school year ahead!

Christina Hicks

Secretary, Ninth District PTA

## PTA/PTSA in the Spotlight Unit/Council/Out-of-Council

### Would you like to Spotlight a PTA/PTSA Unit, Council or Out-of-Council?

Your Ninth District PTA Communications Team would love to spotlight your PTA/PTSA council or unit in our Newsletter next month. We will also add the article to the "[Spotlight](#)" [webpage](#). If you know a PTA/PTSA that has done something worth a "spotlight" during the month of July/August 2025, please fill out this Google Form: [Spotlight Form](#). Please include a detailed summary of why you would like them to be spotlighted, what spectacular work, event, function or something else they did. If you have pictures, please include those as well. The **deadline** to submit a nomination is **August 22, 2025**.

-- by Sonya Vargas (Vice President, Communications Director)  
[communications@ninthdistrictpta.org](mailto:communications@ninthdistrictpta.org)



*Have a wonderful PTA/PTSA year!*

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