

**President**

**Debbie Vincent**

I want to share a “thank-you” that I received from the California State PTA President, Pam Brady. The things that Ninth District PTA accomplishes for all children is the result of all members, units and councils working together, *everychild.onevoice.*

*Debbie:*  
*Your district is awesome, it is so wonderful to read how many of your district representatives are participating on county committees. Ninth District PTA is walking the walk in getting involved and collaborating with the community*

*on issues that directly improve conditions for children!*

*Please thank them for what they continue to do! Ninth District PTA is a shining star and making a real difference!*

**Ninth District PTA Program Grants**

**Carol Green**

Ninth District PTA awarded \$5000 in grants to PTA units throughout the district.

The following grants were awarded:

La Mesa Dale Elementary PTA- \$800 (Math Connections: Drumming)

Live Oak Elementary PTA- \$775 (Live Oak... The Three “Ours”—Our Children, Our School, Our Community)

Montgomery Middle PTSA- \$800 (Rachael’s Challenge – “Friends of Rachael”)

Mt. Woodson Elementary PTA- \$350 (Mt. Woodson Lions Running Club)

Santana High PTSA- \$800 (Take Our Family to School)

Shadow Hills Elementary PTA- \$225 (Shadow Hills Art Docent Program)

Sunset Hills Elementary PTA- \$150 (Shoebox Science Program)

Tierra Bonita Elementary PTA- \$700 (Multi-Cultural Night)

Willow Grove Elementary PTA- \$400 (Celebrate Diversity Week)

Congratulations to these PTAs



**The Power of ONE... Making a Difference Carolyn (Epple) Johnson\***

The 2009 California State PTA Convention Registration books have been mailed, and you should have received yours. It is chock full of information -- speakers, hotel reservations, registration information, student activities, special activities, and 84 fabulous workshops from which to choose! If you have not read the comprehensive article in the December issue of *The Observer*, I urge you to do so. It has much of the information you need concerning the planning for convention and what Ninth District PTA will be doing. Registrations are being accepted online and by mail starting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Housing reservations open on February 2<sup>nd</sup> also.

Please remember that there is a \$20 district fee, payable to Ninth District PTA, for each registrant. This will help offset the continental breakfast in our suite each morning, snacks and water in our suite

each day and the district event. Each registrant will receive an invoice from Ninth District PTA for the \$20 district fee. Please pay promptly and understand that this is a legitimate PTA expense for your unit or council.

Our Convention Orientation will be on Tuesday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the San Diego County Office of Education, rooms 401-402. Please plan on attending -- much information is shared about resolutions, delegate responsibilities, the district event, suite hours, what to wear, and more! See you then!

\*My last name, Epple, has changed. My new address is 14469 Janal Way, San Diego, CA 92129-1625, and the home phone is still 858-484-0867 and cell is still 858-395-8384.

**Ninth District PTA  
 Annual Meeting  
 And Founders Day  
 February 11, 2009  
 Reservation Form  
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**Sacramento Safari****Lorene Joosten****School Finance Quiz**

1. Revenue from California's State Lottery accounts for 15 percent of the average school's revenue. True or False?
2. Staffing expenses account for about 60 percent of a district's annual costs. True or False?
3. The per-student dollars allocated for 90 percent of California districts fall between:
  - A) \$4,527 - \$9,548
  - B) \$6,678 - \$11,011
  - C) \$7,117 - \$12,154
4. California spends more per child than other large states. True or False?
5. California has a lower student to teacher ratio than other comparable states. True or False?
6. School districts are free to spend their money as they choose, without any external accountability. True or False?
7. Categorical aid is:
  - A) Special credentials for teachers
  - B) The state's adopted math program
  - C) State or federal funding that is restricted for narrowly-defined purposes

**Answers**

1. **False** Lottery funds contribute, on the average, less than 2 percent of a school's income, generating about \$125 per student. A small portion of these funds is earmarked specifically for instructional materials.
2. **False** Personnel costs dominate district expenditures, averaging 85 percent of the district budget.
3. **B)** \$6,678 - \$11,011
4. **False** When adjusted for cost of living differences, Texas spends 12 percent more, Florida spends 18 percent more, New York spends 75 percent more and the rest of the country spends 30 percent more than California.
5. **False** California averages 21.4 students per teacher; New York 13.8; Texas 14.9; Florida 18; all other states 15.6.
6. **False** In addition to the legally required independent audits of district finances, County Offices of Education (COE) review and approve school budgets three times a year, and can impose sanctions and/or intervene to ensure fiscal responsibility.
7. **C)** State or federal funding that is restricted for narrowly-defined purposes

Reprinted from: *PTA in California*, Special Edition, Fall 2008. Want to know more? The Fall 2008 Special Edition of *PTA in California* is devoted to education finance and reform. It can be accessed on the California State PTA website at: <http://www.capta.org/sections/communication/pta-california-archives.cfm>

Ninth District PTA has awarded Advocacy Grants in the amount of \$400 each to:

Gabriel Adona from DePortola Middle School PTSA

Beckee Handrich from Foothills Council PTA

Shelley Porter from Sunset Hills Elementary PTA

Jay Steiger from Murdock Elementary PTA

Congratulations!

**Save the Dates**

February 11 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.      March 18 from 10:30 – noon

April 15 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.      May - August, no meetings

Morning meetings are at Escondido Unified School District's Carilyn Gilbert Education Center in the Maple Room. Evening meetings are at the San Diego County Office of Education, Room 508 (boardroom)

**April 17, 2009: EdSource Forum:**

Each spring EdSource hosts a forum on California education policy. Geared toward administrators and educators, the forums typically feature presentations and panel discussions by the nation's top education officials and researchers. EdSource's 2009 Forum will be a statewide event at the Hyatt in Irvine on Friday, April 17. In the past, the forums have started at 8 am and ended mid-afternoon, and the fee has been less than \$60 including a continental breakfast and buffet lunch. For more information, log onto [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org)

## Report of the Nominating Committee 2009-2011 Carol Green

The Ninth District PTA nominating committee presents the following slate of officers to the members for consideration:

President:

Carolyn (Epple) Johnson

Executive Vice President:

Karen Fleck

VP-Leadership:

Carol Green

VP-Communications:

Mindy Thomason

VP-Community Concerns:

Rebecca Hernandez

VP-Education/Parent Involvement:

Jennifer Zaheer

VP-Health:

Debra Brown-Fraser

VP-Legislation

Jon Nalbandian

VP-Member Services:

Carmen Myers

Secretary:

Karen Keene

Treasurer:

A-Quan Watso

Auditor:

Mary Anne Tang

Historian:

Javier Montijo

Nominating Committee:

Carol Green – Chairman

Brian Bonner

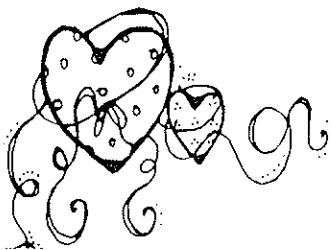
Chris Day

Karen Fleck

Carolyn (Epple) Johnson

Shandell Maio

Carmen Myers



## PTA Programs – new and improved

Karen Fleck

Sometimes PTAs get caught up in the requests of the principal or the immediate financial needs of the school or even “what has always been done” and lose sight of the programs that make PTAs great. A great program is the driving force that will inspire your PTA community. We have noticed that some schools are unclear what a program really is, thinking that giving a gift to the school is a program, or that paying for an assembly is a program. These things are good to do, but they don't replace an amazing program. Although there are exceptions, every school should have programs during the year that:

- Involve many, most, or all of your students, both attending and helping
- Invite many volunteers to help put the program together
- Invite many parents and families to attend with their students
- Have the support, input and hopefully assistance from the school staff

Examples of programs are:

Multi-Cultural Fairs

Book Bingo -win used and new books

Career Fair -great for elementary, middle and high schools

Garden Growing -perhaps with a tasting event at harvest time

Reading, Science or Math Nights

Arts and Crafts Night

Family Game Night

Eat lunch with your child day - with play activities as well

Red Ribbon Week activities

The list of programs is endless. But, it's what you do with that event that makes all the difference. The effort and creativity that you put in to invite as many families as you can and in-

spire as many kids as you can, makes a difference. How about turning a fundraiser into a program: For your jog-a-thon, did you have the students collect money and then jog? Or did you have a before school jogging club to warm up to it? Did you invite local firefighters to run with them? Did you invite parents to jog with their students? Was there a pancake breakfast beforehand and were healthy lifestyle posters up and maybe a healthy assembly two weeks before? These extras make your events special. Is your Spring Fling program too expensive for some families to attend? If your PTA has extra money in your budget this spring, consider making a program less expensive than originally planned and advertise it: Thanks to a successful wrapping paper sale, we are adding a clown for face painting/balloons and a DJ. If this changes your budget, your association must approve it – but what a fabulous thing to request of your parents.

Not creative you say? The Green Light section of your PTA insurance guide lists many great program ideas. Many PTA officers say they get their best ideas from convention. Whether it be San Jose for state convention on April 30<sup>th</sup> or the Summer Leadership Convention in San Diego at USD on June 6<sup>th</sup> – borrowing ideas from successful units can be the quickest way to go. Ask someone to email you the flier they used and the work is nearly done.

Still can't think of a program? PTA has the “The Great Idea Bank” online for you.

Go to the California State website: [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)

Click on Parent Involvement in the lower left

Click on Best Practices and you will see THE GREAT IDEA BANK

Be sure to add your own ideas to the bank, because the more ideas we have the better the bank.

## Exploring SMARTS

Cathy Roth

The California State PTA has a long history of supporting the arts. According to their Position Statement: Arts in Education 4.5a: The California State PTA believes visual and performing arts should be a basic and integral part of a balanced curriculum for all students.

In August of 2001 the California State PTA launched an online newsletter: SMARTS: BRING BACK THE ARTS. SMARTS is California State PTAs program to encourage arts education. The California State PTA wants to create advocates for quality arts education at every school in California. You can learn more by going to the California State PTA website; [capta.org](http://capta.org) and clicking on:

- Programs: Special Projects: SMARTS
- Communications: SMARTS Newsletter or you can sign up to receive the newsletter by email

Here is an example of what you'll find:

### Are the Arts being cut at Your School?

A recent survey by the California State PTA indicates local PTAs are being asked to raise millions of dollars to backfill programs and services in the face of massive budget cuts to schools.

According to the survey, to which nearly 500 local PTA presidents responded, local PTAs have been asked to provide additional funds for the following:

- \* Classroom or school supplies such as copy paper, pencils, etc. (73%)
- \* Library books (60%)
- \* Technology, both computer software and hardware (55%)
- \* Visual and performing arts supplies (46%)
- \* Playground equipment (46%)

- \* Sports equipment and supplies (46%)
- \* Math or science supplies (38%)
- \* Visual and performing arts teachers and programs (32%)
- \* Food and water (25%)
- \* Textbooks and other instructional materials (24%)
- \* Physical education consultants and/or programs (23%)

Find out more

### Check Out These Web Museums For Kids!

National Gallery of Arts

Museum Kids

Smithsonian Education: Everything Art

Adapted from California State PTA website.

## 10 Truths About Parent Involvement

Carmen Myers

Research shows that regardless of income or background, when parents are involved, students are more likely to earn higher grades, enroll in higher-level programs, attend school regularly, have better social skills, graduate, and go on to post-secondary education. Here are some truths about parent involvement that you can use to gauge your involvement level and the relationship you have with your child's school. After reviewing these truths, check out PTA's resources for parent involvement for ways to get more involved. ([http://www.pta.org/topic\\_overcoming\\_obstacles\\_to\\_parent\\_involvement.asp](http://www.pta.org/topic_overcoming_obstacles_to_parent_involvement.asp))

1. All parents have hopes and goals for their children.
2. Parents differ in their abilities and/or resources to help their children reach those goals.
3. The parent is the central con-

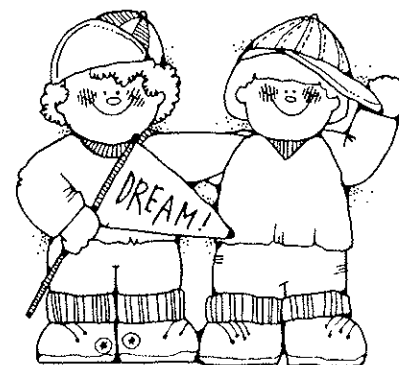
tributor to a child's education.

4. Parent involvement must be seen as a legitimate element of education and deserves equal emphasis with elements such as school improvement and evaluation.
5. Parent involvement is an ongoing process, not a series of events.
6. Parent involvement requires a shared vision, policy, and framework for planning programs and practices that are connected to student learning.
7. Many barriers to parent involvement are found within school practices, attitudes, and assumptions.
8. Successful parent involvement programs help families guide their children's learning from preschool through high school.
9. Families from diverse backgrounds have their own sets of norms and experiences that often influence

their relationship with schools.

10. Parents are more likely to become involved when they understand that they should be involved, they feel capable of making a contribution, and they feel invited by the school and their children.

Re-printed from PTA Parent Newsletter, December 16<sup>th</sup> 2008



# *Last Call*

## *2009 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*

Reservations received by February 2, 2009: \$20.00

Reservations received *after* February 2, 2009: \$30.00

**Reservations will not be accepted after February 9, 2009**

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

### *2009 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!**

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**Is Your PTA an ATM for Your School?****Betsy Landers and Jeanice Aikens**

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Have you ever felt that your PTA was an ATM for your school principal and teachers? Have you ever felt like your principal thought your PTA budget was his or her discretionary spending fund? Do you get requests from teachers and school staff to fund certain projects and items that really ought to be part of the school budget?

You're not alone. PTAs frequently turn over their funds to school administration for such basics as books, equipment and maintenance, not to mention extras, such as playground equipment and vending machines. The customs that have developed between PTAs and schools have blurred the line about what PTAs are; what vision, mission and purposes we follow; and how our funds should be used.

**Vision, mission and purposes**

PTA's vision is making every child's potential a reality. PTA's mission is to be:

- A powerful voice for all children
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

PTA's purposes or historical goals are as follows:

- To promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, 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.

**How PTAs work**

The national PTA organization is a separate legal entity having both a Federal tax number (FEIN) and IRS 501 (c) 3 exempt status.

Each local PTA unit elects a separate board and officers, and only the elected officers can contractually bind that unit and only for their term of office.

PTA budgets can only be ratified and approved by PTA members.

PTA funds raised by PTA members belong exclusively to PTA and can only be used for purposes approved by its members through the budgetary and amending process. Approved uses of funds should be in line with the mission and objectives of the PTA body as a whole.

**What PTAs are not**

PTAs are not a supporting organization for the schools where they hold meetings. Supporting organizations often contract directly with school districts to act on behalf of the schools and are subject to school oversight and approvals for items as their budgets.

PTAs are not an additional funding resource for goods, services, and payroll for public schools. School funds should be supplied by governmental entities. PTAs advocate for the adequate funding of schools from governmental sources. They do not replace funds not supplied by governments. Therefore, supplies purchased using PTA funds should be given directly to children, not to teachers.

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## Is Your PTA an ATM for Your School? (continued)

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PTAs are not to pay bills handed over by the principal of the school. If the school ordered it, the school pays for it.

### Remember who we are

If your school board, principal or teachers assume control of your PTA's budget as though it were their own, just say "No." Remember that PTA doesn't work for the school – it works on behalf of children and families.

[Betsy Landers is the treasurer of the national PTA organization. Jeanice Aikens is the controller of the national PTA organization.]

Adapted from *Our Children*, December 2008/January 2009

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## Holiday Project

Carol Green, Carmen Myers, Rebecca Hernandez

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Thank you to everyone who helped Ninth District PTA collect more than 300 "Bedtime Bundles." The blankets, pj's, slippers, and stuffed toys were given to children in local group homes. Donations came in from all over the district. PTAs had drives, classrooms bundles goodies and many wonderful individuals shared their holiday spirit to make our holiday service project a huge success. We heard from the staff at the group homes' office that the children are wearing their new pj's and hugging their stuffed animals. This was our way of making sure all of our children have sweet dreams- thanks for your help.

*Thank You!*



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

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Debbie Vincent President  
 Judy Williams Editor

Serving San Diego and  
 Imperial Counties

**Ninth District**  
**PTA**

*everychild.one voice.*

“Celebrating 91 Years of Service”

Spanish Observer Offer:  
 For a **FREE** subscription to our Spanish  
*Observer* (one per PTA) call the Ninth  
 District office: 858.268.8077

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**Important Numbers**

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 Email.....phoebe@sdcoc.net  
 Website . . . . . [www.ninthdistrictpta.org](http://www.ninthdistrictpta.org)

**California State PTA**  
 Phone.....916-440-1985  
 Fax.....916-440-1986  
 Email.....info@capta.org  
 Website.....www.capta.org

**National PTA**  
 Phone.....312-670-6782  
 Fax.....312-670-6783  
 Email.....info@pta.org  
 Website.....www.pta.org



**Calendar of Meetings**

- February 11 Ninth District PTA Annual Meeting and Founders Day -  
 Scottish Rite Event Center, Mission Valley
- February 11 Legislative Meeting, 7 pm, SDCOE, rm 508
- February 17 District Board, 9:30 am, Tierrasanta Library  
 4985 LaCuenta Dr., SD, 92124

**Due Dates**

- February 1 Graduating High School Scholarships, MY PTSA Awards  
 due to California State PTA—PLAN AHEAD

**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
- April Alcohol Awareness Month, Volunteer Appreciation Week
- May National Physical Fitness Month, Teacher Appreciation Week