



June 25, 2010

PTA Leaders for Local Units
Area 3 Gwinnett County

Dear PTA Leaders:

I would like to introduce your Area III Gwinnett Council of PTAs Executive Committee and Board of Directors:

- President, Danielle “Dani” Matzick
- Co-Vice President, Shirley Johnson
- Co-Vice President, Angel Rodriguez
- Secretary, Chanda Cardwell
- Treasurer, Sue Taddei
- Parliamentarian, Angela Riche’ Monetta
- Legislative & Advocacy, co-Chairs, Rebecca Branstetter & Andrea Long
- Health & Wellness, co-Chairs (to be confirmed at next Executive Committee Meeting), Bridget Dandaraw & Troye Stradler
- Membership Chair, *we are currently seeking candidates*

We are all very honored and excited to be serving on your Area III Council this 2010-2011 school year and look forward with great anticipation to the possibilities of this New Year!

We are here for you; to support you in whatever way you need be it one-on-one training, resources, workshops, mediation, etc. Your Executive Committee and Board of Directors includes leaders with years of experience and deep knowledge of PTA, along with fresh eyes and skills ready to be tapped.

I had the great opportunity to attend our National PTA Convention in Memphis, TN earlier this month and was truly inspired by the speakers and workshops offered, as well as reminded and in awe of what PTA means to our children. I learned that the PTA was founded 114 years ago and established to advocate for child safety and well-being; that 40 years ago the GCCPT (Georgia’s Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers) in Atlanta, GA was seamlessly forged with the NPTA (National PTA) to form an alliance for ALL our children; that even today, in 2010 we are graduating students with a 2nd grade reading level. A quote I took from our National PTA President, Chuck Saylor, “Education has moved passed challenging (years ago) and is now into crises mode.” I don’t think anyone could have said it better. When 48% of our high school freshmen aren’t graduating from high school, that is a statistic which is not only affecting those children who don’t graduate, but also affecting their neighborhoods with an increase in drug sales and crime, the reduction of available skilled workforce, and ultimately you directly when there are more adults in this country who don’t have a high school education than do! Now is the time that our children need you – their PTA leaders – their voices.

As we all know, the economy is continuing to hit all families in one way or another and is definitely hitting some of our children more than we know. We, your Executive Committee, would like to propose a program this year for you to consider – Adopt-A-School. If you are a school that has great success in raising money, but don’t always know what to spend it on, or maybe you don’t want to do the same ‘ole luncheon or celebration this year, consider Adopt-A-School and use some of your funds to provide library books to a struggling school; or bring one of your schools’ successful programs to a school who’s



not had an opportunity to experience science the same way because they don't have microscopes, or provide a donation for an in-school field trip. There are many ways we can help our neighbors and in the end, the help does nothing but benefit our children in the long run. We will send additional information out about this program soon.

everychild. onevoice.

Area III will be offering training throughout the year for you, but please never hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions, concerns, or inspirations to share. Your Executive Committee and Board of Directors are here to serve you and by no means think we know it all so if you have suggestions, recommendations or comments please do not hesitate to share them with us. Two heads are better than one, and many passionate leaders with great ideas are even better!

We will be communicating to you all often via email and you will be able to find all sorts of resources on our website as well so visit often – www.GwinnettPTA.org/Area_3.

Attached is a contact sheet as well as the yellow calendar with important dates for your reference. Some I'd like to bring to your immediate attention include:

Upcoming Dates to Note:

1. August 24th at Gwinnett Heritage & Environmental Center - 9:30am and 6:30pm (choose 1; however if voting, official vote will be done in the evening session) - General Training, budget vote and Reflections focus
2. Monday, Sept 27th @ 6:30 or Tuesday Sept 28th @ 9:30am - District 12 Training @ ISC Bldg
3. Tuesday, October 5th – 9:30am and 6:30pm (choose 1; however if voting, official vote will be done in the evening session) – Location TBD - General Training and Reflections
4. Monday, October 25th - Reflections entry drop off @ Gwinnett Heritage @ 10am-12:00pm
5. Tues, Wed and Thurs, Nov 9-11 - Reflections AWARDS nights @ Gwinnett Heritage
6. Tuesday, January 11th - 9:30am and 6:30pm (choose 1; however if voting, official vote will be done in the evening session) – Location TBD - General Training
7. Tuesday, March 15th - 9:30am and 6:30pm (choose 1; however if voting, official vote will be done in the evening session) – Location TBD - General Training
8. Monday, April 11th - District 12 Training @ ISC Bldg - 5:30-7:00pm Vendors; 7:00-9:30pm Meeting
9. Annual Awards Dinner - week of May 9th - final date TBD once venue chosen
10. Tuesday, May 17th - 9:30am and 6:30pm (choose 1; however if voting, official vote will be done in the evening session) – Location TBD

We look forward to serving our children this 2010-2011 school year.

Warmest regards,

Dani Matzick

Danielle "Dani" Matzick, President
Area III Gwinnett Council of PTAs
on behalf of your Executive Committee