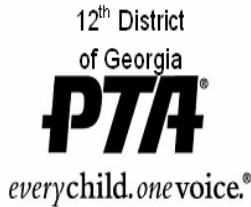


Georgia PTA District 12 Fall Newsletter

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District 12 Fall Update

By now, most of you are wrapping up your fundraising activities for the fall. It is time to take a long deep breath and assess how things have gone so far for your PTA/PTSA. As we are all aware, the reality right now is that many of our families are facing difficult economic times. This is an excellent time to refocus your resources on your membership recruitment efforts. While it may be an easy choice to forego wrapping paper, candy or trinkets, parents/families that are shown the value of a PTA membership are more inclined to join. Joining PTA is an easy way to show support for National, Georgia and your local PTA and doesn't involve nearly as much work as a traditional fundraising activity. You just need to ask.

Promote the membership benefits from Georgia and National PTA. You may want to even go out and find your own within your community. Also, show members the value of their PTA membership card by asking to see it at your meeting or events and offering discounts to those that have one.

Please let me know how you are doing with your male memberships. There are new awards this year and new programs designed to help get men involved in PTA. If you are holding any such program, I'd love to share it in the next newsletter.

Thank you for all you do and continued success.

Carol Ranft
District 12 Director

Healthy Habits Grant Recipients

Georgia PTA, with the support of the Georgia Department of Education, has created a funding opportunity to encourage local units and councils to implement programs focusing on the promotion of healthy eating habits and increasing physical activity.

Congratulations to the following units from District 12 that were awarded the 2008-2009 Promoting Healthy Habits Grant:

Brookwood ES PTA - Area I Gwinnett Council
Knight ES PTA - Area I Gwinnett Council
R.D. Head ES PTA - Area I Gwinnett Council



Officers from McKendree ES PTA attend the Georgia PTA Advocacy Conference on September 19

Dates to Remember

October 31:

Otter Gold Membership Certificate Form Due

Aldabra Tortoise Partnership Membership Certificate Form Due

Lemur Oak Tree Membership Certificate Form Due

November 1:

Parent Involvement & The Model PTA Workshop at GAPTA

November 4:

Election Day

November 19:

"Model Perfect or Are They?" at Peachford Hospital 10 AM

December 5:

Latino Outreach & Diversity at GAPTA

Need more info: www.georgiapta.org

Don't Forget:

Remit membership dues on a monthly basis

File a tax return (all are now required to file either the 990N, 990 EZ or 990 - based on Gross Income before expenses

Each newsletter we spotlight a Local Unit and their progress and achievements through the year.

Georgia PTA Membership Awards

Eagle Owl Visionary Pin Winners

54 local units in District 12 submitted dues for 300 or more members by August 29, 2008.

Flamingo Pacesetter's Certificate Winners

62 local units in District 12 submitted dues for 200 members by August 29, 2008.

Argus Pheasant Early Bird Certificate Winners

77 local units in District 12 submitted dues for 200 members by August 29, 2008.

See all the winners at www.georgiapta.org

Exercise Your Individual Right to Vote (from GA PTA website)

Georgia PTA wishes to inform its members that **PTA does not and cannot support any political party or candidate**. PTAs are considered non-profit charitable organizations 501(c) (3) under federal tax law. PTAs are encouraged to help educate voters about issues important to children, but with 501(c) (3) status cannot engage in direct partisan political activity and are limited in the amount of lobbying they can do.

Individuals are free to, and encouraged to, endorse and support any candidate they choose, **but they may not associate that choice with PTA in any form**. We direct your attention to the PTA Votes website (www.pta.org/vote) where there is information on what non-profits may or may not do with regard to elections.

Congratulations: R.D Head ES PTA - Platinum Membership Award

R.D. Head prides itself on the community and individual families that make such significant contributions. Through this support and effort, the school strives to maintain a partnership that enhances educational excellence. Co-President Michelle Filbey is indeed grateful to have this degree of community involvement. "PTA lends a collective voice to children where they need to be heard: at home and school; in urban, rural, and suburban communities; and in our nation's capitol. PTA is committed to the safety, well-being and education of all children."

A Few Words about Membership

District Membership as of 10/1/2008 is 50536, representing a decline of 18 % over last year. The good news is that we can make up the numbers and increase membership over the next few months. There are a few units who have already achieved the Aldabra Tortoise Partnership Membership Award (25 Business Members) and the Lemur Oak Tree Award (100% Staff Membership)

Most importantly, keep signing up new PTA members. Encourage your parents and others in your community to join your local unit. Submit your dues to Georgia PTA by the last business day of each month. **DON'T HOLD ONTO THOSE DUES -- SUBMIT THEM TO THE STATE!!**

NEW IRS REQUIREMENTS REGARDING FORM 990

In the past, only local units with receipts totaling more than \$25,000 were required to complete IRS Form 990. Due to legislative changes, **ALL PTAs ARE NOW REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A 990** (either Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-N). The form is due the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of your fiscal year. Check your bylaws to determine when your fiscal year ends. The chart below will assist you in determining when your 990 is due.

Where do you file the 990-N (e-Postcard)?

- Go to the IRS web site at <http://www.irs.gov/charities>
- Click on **Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations – Form 990-N (e-Postcard)**
- The IRS has contracted with a private company to process the 990-N (e-Postcard)
- By clicking on the link, you will leave the IRS web site and enter a privately owned web site created,

operated and maintained by a private business.

- The information this private business collects and maintains as a result of your visit to its web site may differ from the information that the IRS collects and maintains. (Please see the IRS web site privacy and security notice for privacy protections IRS provides to web site visitors).

- By linking to this private business, the IRS is not endorsing its products, services, or privacy or security policies. We recommend you review the business's information collection policy or terms and conditions to fully understand what information is collected by this private business.

NOTICE: If you are a subordinate organization, be sure to use your own employer identification number (EIN). Do not use the EIN of your parent Organization (e.g., Georgia PTA).
Note: The first e-Postcards are due in 2008 for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2007. You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your 2007 tax year ends.

STEP 1: Register as a New User

<http://epostcard.form990.org/frmNPRRequestLogin.asp>
 To file Form 990-N (e-Postcard), you must register and obtain a login ID. Click the link above to request a login ID. If you already have a login ID, go to Step 2.

STEP 2: Create your Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

<https://epostcard.form990.org/frmSecurityLogin.Asp?Stat usRequired=LoggedI>

Once you have a login ID, you can access the system and create your e-Postcard. Click the link above to begin the process.

STEP 3: Submit your Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Once you complete your e-Postcard, click the "Submit Filing to IRS" button.

Fiscal Year Ends:	990 Due:
May 31	October 15
June 30	November 15
December 31	May 15

The chart below will assist you in determining which form to fill out:

If Your Gross Receipts Total:	You will use:
Less than \$25,000	990-N (e-Postcard) - filed electronically
\$25,000 to \$100,000 and Total assets less than \$250,000	990-EZ
Greater than \$100,000 and/or Total assets greater than \$250,000	990

Link to a sample return:

http://www.georgiapta.org/documents/990_Sample.pdf

Georgia PTA holds Emerging Minority Leaders Conference

The recognition of diversity within organizations is valuing differences and similarities in people through actions and accountability. Today's PTAs are on the front line dealing with the complex issues facing families and schools in our ever-changing world. The Emerging Minority Leaders Conference was designed to respond to the growing diversity in our public schools and communities, and to help better serve all children and families.

The objectives of Georgia PTAs first EMLC were:

- Increase excitement and enthusiasm about PTA
- Increase understanding of PTA history, structure and advocacy role
- Enhance individual and organizational leadership capacity
- Model inclusiveness practices
- Raise awareness and understanding about issues and challenges of diverse populations
- Provide specific, practical strategies that inspire action to increase inclusiveness, overcome barriers and develop intercultural and interpersonal relationships
- Build relationships and a support network among participants
- Provide attendees with the opportunity to give meaningful input to Georgia PTA for positive change and cultural competency

Speakers for the conference included:

- Dr. Karen Dade—professor and chair of the education department at Spelman College and National PTA Board Member
- Jan Harp Domene—National PTA President 2007-2009
- Dr. Thomas Lockamy—Superintendent of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools
- Dr. Norman Thomas—first African-American president of Georgia PTA
- Patti Solomon—Family Engagement Specialist with the Division for Special Education Supports and Services
- Laura Dobbs—National PTA Board Member, Past President Georgia PTA
- Lori Williams – National PTA Community Connection Liaison

Plan for the National EMLC in Atlanta

October 22-25, 2009

Front Row: Andrea Beacham, Carol Ranft, Howard Whelchel Back Row: Ken Aifuwa Osifo, Belinda Bolden-Edwards, Gina Pollitt, Keymia Morrow
District 12 participants



PTA Mission: The overall purpose of PTA

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.