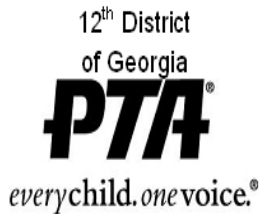


# Georgia PTA District 12 Winter Newsletter

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E-learning courses available  
online include:

Cultural Competency,  
Reflections 101, Preventing  
Theft in Your PTA, PTA  
Basics, Grant Writing,  
Conflict Management,  
Planning and Goal Setting,  
Parliamentary Procedure,  
Running a Successful PTA  
Program, Effective Advocacy  
for Your Child, Writing and  
Proposing PTA Resolutions  
and Planning Your PTA Year.

[Click here to begin](#)

## District 12 Winter Update

Wow - can you believe that the school year is more than half over! Where did the time go?

Hopefully every local unit has elected a Nominating Committee (or plans to in the very near future). Please be sure to read over your bylaws as they relate to the election of the Nominating Committee and Officers. It may help you avoid some common mistakes and misconceptions. There is also an entire section devoted to this committee in the Leadership Resource and on the Georgia PTA website.

Speaking of elections, it is never too early to start planning your officer transition. The success of your PTA in the future depends on it. Start updating or preparing your procedure book now with all the information you have accumulated. According to our bylaws, an auditor or auditing committee of no fewer than three (3) members shall be selected by the board of directors no later than two weeks prior to the end of the school year. An auditor or auditing committee member shall not be related to any signees on the checking account by marriage or any other relationship.

We are beginning to plan our Spring Conference and Exhibitor Fair to be held April 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be a great night to recognize all the accomplishments of our local units as well as begin some training for new officers. Please remember to send me a copy of your Outstanding Local Unit Report/Checklist. The whole report writing process has been streamlined. You only need to fill out a checklist and write up an eight page narrative with documentation. Take the opportunity to fill it out, evaluate and celebrate your accomplishments with all of us. I look forward to seeing you there.

Carol Ranft  
District 12 Director

## District Award - Making the Connection

This year, we have a District Level Award, called "Making the Connection". The purpose of the award is to encourage local units and councils to get connected with parents, potential members, community, key policy makers, legislators and our entire association. It really isn't difficult, but does require some extra effort on the part of leaders. Please submit your [form](#) and required documentation to your District Director by March 12<sup>th</sup>. Awards will be given out at the District Conference on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Dates to Remember

*February 23: PTA Day at the Capitol*

*February 26: Membership Awards Deadline*

*March 4: PTSA Day at the Capitol*

*March 12: Priority Reports Deadline*

*March 12: Healthy Fundraising Award Application Due*

*March 21: Reflections State Winners Reception*

*April 12: 12th District Spring Conference*

*June 9-11: National PTA Convention - Memphis TN*

*June 25-26: Georgia PTA Convention/Leadership Training*

## Don't Forget:

*Remit membership dues on a monthly basis*

*Return unused PTA Membership Cards to the State office or your District Director*

*Elect your nominating committee*

*Submit incoming officers by 5/1*

*Begin preparing your records for the annual PTA audit*

*Change your signature card at the bank as soon as the school year ends*

*Register your officers for Convention Leadership Training*

## Call to Action! President's Education Budget Eliminates Sole Federal Parent Engagement Program

We have a serious situation requiring a major call-to-action. President Obama's new budget proposes to consolidate and eliminate the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs). Consolidation of the PIRC's will eliminate the only federal program dedicated to family engagement, which serves 16.4 million parents. The proposed FY11 budget would eliminate 62 PIRC's impacting every state and territory. This program elimination affects all PTAs and parents.

Parents need PIRC's. You can help! Please urge the Obama Administration, both of your Senators and Representatives not to eliminate PIRC's.

If you haven't called your legislators, their contact info can be found by using the GA District Lookup under the *Officials* tab on [Capitol Watch](#).



## State Reflections Recap

Statewide participation - **29,975**

Total judged at State level - **2,039**

Literature - 448

Musical Composition - 221

Photography - 506

Visual Arts - 528

Dance Choreography - 161

Film & Video Production - 175

Congratulations to all the winners and participants

## A Few Words about Membership - Just Ask!

District Membership as of 2/5/2010 is **60288**. We have surpassed last year's membership number for the year, but we are not finished. Our goal as a District was a 2% membership increase. That means we need to add an additional **948** members by April 1<sup>st</sup>. We have 125 local units in District 12. The difference represents **only 8 members per local unit!** An easy way to help make that up is to ask your staff to join if you haven't achieved 100 % staff membership. The key is to never stop asking, whether it is a staff member, a parent, a grandparent or community member. Every member counts so be sure to send in dues to the state office by April 1, 2010.

## Youth PTA/PTSA Day at the Capitol - March 4, 2010

We invite Georgia's youth in our PTAs/PTSAs to join us at the Fulton County Administration Building on Thursday, March 4 for a briefing on legislative issues and advocacy. Immediately following this session, we will visit the Capitol and see legislators at work when we visit the Senate and House Chamber galleries. There is a \$5.00 student registration fee. There is no registration fee for chaperones, but they must register. Seating is limited to 300. [Learn more...](#)

### Information Needed:

National PTA is looking to measure the contribution PTA provides to support our schools. We are asking two questions about 2008-2009. 1) What was the total number of volunteer hours and 2) What were the gross receipts earned? Please send your two pieces of data to [gapta@bellsouth.net](mailto:gapta@bellsouth.net) by February 25, 2010.



### Fall District Conference Highlights:

Our Fall District Conference Training was held on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The training on October 6<sup>th</sup> featured Georgia PTA Board Members Elida Perez-Knapp, Secretary and Latino Outreach Chair and Abdul Akbar, Diversity and Inclusion Chair and National PTA Diversity Committee member. Their presentations brought to light issues affecting all our schools as we seek to include and reach parents and family of differing backgrounds and cultures.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, after an impromptu visit and discussion with Karen Crawford, Gwinnett County Public Schools Head Dietician and Rachel Petraglia, the new Gwinnett County Public Schools Chef, Natalie Rogers, Nutrition Advocacy Chair, and Kim Arasin, Health and Wellness Chair, from Georgia PTA, gave a presentation about Health and Wellness and what Georgia PTA is doing to bring this to the forefront in schools and how PTAs can help.



### New Unit Chartering

Did you know that it only takes 25 people to get a PTA organized? If you have a school in your system that is considering a PTA or has an active parent group, please let us know so that we can provide vital information that may help them in their decision-making. With your help, we can continue to work toward PTA's goal of a quality education and nurturing environment for every child.

### Common Core State Standards Initiative Survey

Georgia PTA is interested in your thoughts about the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI). Please take a minute (literally), [click here](#) and answer the three question survey. We'd like your feedback.

## PTA Day at the Capitol - February 23, 2010

Mark your calendars today and plan to attend PTA Day at the Capitol. PTA members will gather from around the state to learn about the hot issues being addressed by the legislature, get trained in how to advocate, and then go to the Capitol to talk to their legislators. After talking to your legislators "on the ropes" in the Capitol, plan to eat lunch at the Freight Depot where the legislators will be invited to join us. It's a great opportunity to learn how to advocate then have the chance to practice it with experienced advocates. Enjoying lunch with your legislators provides an additional opportunity to discuss those issues specific to your community. You won't want to miss out!

## 2010 Georgia PTA Legislative Priorities

### Funding:

- **Support** public K-12 schools with adequate state funding, reflective of the actual costs of providing the state defined services. **Support** equitable distribution of state funding to K-12 schools, currently calculated on property tax wealth in each school system.
- **Support** using public funds for public schools only. **Oppose** any effort to use public funding for private or sectarian schools.

### Health and Wellness:

- **Encourage** members to participate in their local school wellness initiatives and to assist in the development and implementation of local School Wellness Policies.
- **Promote** and encourage healthy school fundraising.
- **Support** passage of legislation that improves healthy lifestyles for children.

### Legal Education:

- **Work** in tandem with local school boards and school systems to infuse information about laws affecting Georgia teens into required curriculum at middle and high schools and encourage PTAs in schools to develop and implement a student legal education program to inform students about their rights.
- **Support** passage of juvenile justice code revisions at the state and national level.

### What does Georgia PTA do with the priorities?

Priorities form the basis of Georgia PTA's efforts with the Georgia General Assembly and Congress. Georgia PTA monitors all legislation and policy issues affecting children and youth, including K-12 education, postsecondary education, Pre-K, child health and safety, gun safety, teen driving and underage drinking. Our priorities receive most of our attention; however, Georgia PTA responds to any legislation covered by our [position statements](#).

### 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.