

Georgia PTA District 12 Fall Newsletter

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Congratulations to the 12th District. We were named "Outstanding District" in Georgia for the second year in a row. Thank you for your continued support of PTA in our schools.

Live • Learn • Lead

Wow, where did the summer go? It is hard to believe, but we are all back to work on PTA business or if you are like me, you never really stopped - maybe just slowed down a little.

I had the opportunity this summer to attend my second National PTA Convention in Memphis. Like the first, it was filled with learning and networking opportunities. Several great initiatives were rolled out last June, including Million Hours of Power & Beyond the Backpack. Keynote speakers included Tony & Lauren Dungy, Arne Duncan - US Secretary of Education, Vicki Phillips - Gates Foundation and Sarah Brown Wessling - 2010 National Teacher of the Year. National convention comes at a time when the gas tank needs refilling. I encourage you to start planning for next year's convention in Orlando, June 9-12! What fun it will be! You will be reenergized and rededicated.

As we begin this new school year, please remember that the success of your PTA is not measured in dollars and cents but rather in the connections that you make and the partnerships that you form. "Whether helping to turn around a struggling school, demystifying school data, or speaking up for education achievement, PTA engages parents to improve student success in learning and in life". Even in hard economic times, parents and care givers understand this message. Be sure to focus on it!

To your success,

Carol

EMLC- Emerging Minority Leaders Conference

The annual Emerging Minority Leaders Conference will be held on October 1st and 2nd in Athens. This is a great opportunity to engage emerging leaders in PTA. Title 1 funds can be used to pay for the conference, so be sure to speak with your Title 1 coordinator for information on the paying for the conference. The cost to attend is \$100 and registration information will be coming out shortly. Also, two (2) scholarships will be made available to each district. Please plan to attend as this is in our back yard. We are the host District. It would be great to see representation from all our schools!

Dates to Remember

Advocacy Conference,
September 15, 2010

PTA Universities at
State Office:
Reflections -
September 8, 2010

IRS Form 990 -
September 11, 2010

EMLC, October 1-2,
Athens, GA

Membership Dates to Remember

Last business day in
September - Early Bird
Certificate and
Platinum Membership
Award

Last business day in
October - Gold
Membership
Certificate, Community
Partnership Award and
Oak Tree Award,

Last Business day in
November - Silver
Membership Certificate

Last business day in
February - Bronze
Membership Certificate

Membership Pointers

Our local units are encouraged and challenged to increase their local unit membership by 5% over last year's numbers. Ask your principal to encourage the school staff to join PTA/PTSA now. Ask each PTA member to participate in the Ask 4 More membership campaign by recruiting four new members (ask a friend, relative, neighbor, co-worker, church member, even students to support your school by joining the PTA/PTSA). Remember, membership in PTA is open to the general public. Point out the following benefits to prospective members.

As a member of your local PTA, you will:

- **Get connected.** There's no better way to know what's happening at school.
- **Discover great resources.** PTA offers a variety of programs designed for parents as well as students.
- **Tap into a network.** PTA functions bring parents and teachers together, with opportunities to build rapport and discuss issues on your mind.
- **Strive for excellence.** Play an important role in providing programs and opportunities for involvement that help make your school the best it can be.
- **Be a role model.** Demonstrate to your child the importance you place on education and parental involvement.
- **Enjoy special discounts.** Some retailers and attractions offer PTA members reduced pricing. Visit the Georgia PTA website for more info. Maybe you have a local business partner that would like to offer something!

Promotion, Promotion, Promotion

How often do you take the opportunity to share the good work you do at your school with others? You work hard on your programs and for the awards you receive. Be sure that parents, teachers and prospective members know the great things happening. Whether it is Facebook, Twitter or a newsletter or email, it is important to promote your PTA! Check out the Georgia PTA website, <http://www.georgiapta.org/news-newsletters.html> For Ten Tips on Writing a Press Release

Become a fan on Facebook – 12 District- Georgia PTA
Follow me on Twitter – GAPTA_D12

Be aware of Social Networking Protocols – never post something that you don't want EVERYONE to see!

Legislative Updates

Advocacy Conference - September 15th

8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

What you will learn:

- Advocacy basics
- Social networking & grassroots advocacy
- Getting results at the local level
- How to talk to your legislators
- Election year do's and don't for PTAs
- Engaging non-traditional PTA members
- Where the public education money comes from

Registration fee of \$25 includes materials and lunch

Register online at www.georgiapta.org



Welcome New Georgia PTA Legislative Chair

Georgia PTA is proud to announce our new legislative chairman, Otha Thornton. Otha has had the privilege to serve as a National PTA Board Director from 2007-2009 and has served on the National PTA Legislative Committee since 2007. After recently retiring from 21 years of service with the US Army, Otha and his family have settled in Smyrna. He is originally from Elberton, GA (part of our fabulous 12th District).

Treasurer Reminders

Submit PTA Dues Transmittal Form monthly to Georgia PTA for additional memberships collected and membership awards beginning in August.

Your audits should be completed and copies sent to the state offices by September 30th.

You present your audit report to your general membership for adoption.

Make sure your local unit's Form 990 has been filed with the IRS. The due date is 5 months and 15 days after the end of your fiscal year (found in your bylaws).

The Treasurer and President review monthly bank statements and PTA financial status. A second officer or committee chair checks over the statement and signs as well as the Treasurer and President. THIS IS DONE EACH MONTH.

Be sure all checks are signed by **two** signers. Never issue a blank check for an unspecified amount. Never issue a check made payable to "Cash," and never pay with Cash. Checks provide a record of transaction.

You can now receive payments online. See the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Leadership Resource for the guidelines that must be followed.

Remember, it is very important to keep accurate and detailed accounts of all funds received and expended on behalf of the PTA.

Please refer to the Financial Management Section of the 2010-2011 PTA Leadership Resource for all your financial checklists, guides and forms.



District Fall Conference

Monday, September 27th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm (sign in begins at 6pm)
How to be an effective Advocate

Tuesday, September 28th, 9:30 - 11:30 am (sign in begins at 9am)
Effective Family Engagement and the National Standards

Gwinnett County Instructional Support Center
437 Old Peachtree Road NW - 200 Building
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000

You may attend either meeting or both. Voting will take place at the Monday session. You must present your PTA membership card in order to vote. We will be electing the Nominating Committee for District spring elections.

National Healthy Lifestyles Award

National PTA healthy Lifestyles promotes good nutrition and regular physical activity in order to address the nation's childhood obesity epidemic. One-third of American children and youth are either obese or at risk of becoming obese. But here's the good news: increasing physical activity and improving nutrition at home and at school through programs like PTA Healthy Lifestyles can reduce the risk of obesity and improve the overall health of students and families. In celebration of PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month in November, National PTA offers PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grants of up to \$1,000 to local PTAs. The applicant PTA must be in good standing. The grants Application are due by 5:00pm, EDT, Friday, September 10, 2010. The grants can be used by the local PTAs to increase access to and awareness of healthy foods, increase physical activity for students and families, provide healthier foods in school and engage and train family and community member in promoting physical activity and healthy eating habits. Go to www.pta.org/pta_healthy_lifestyles_award.asp for more information and grant forms.

Last year, the 12th District had three recipients of the Healthy Lifestyles Award! Cedar Hill ES PTA, Centerville ES PTA and Sweetwater MS PTSA each received a \$1000 award to use for their programs!