



CRESCENT COURIER

Official Publication of Thirty-Third District PTA
a proud component of California State PTA

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Thirty-Third District
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.[®]

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President’s Message

With the first day of school just around the corner, I would like to welcome everyone to a new year and to personally thank you for everything you do for children and families. While you are planning your first meetings, kicking off your membership campaigns and organizing your programs, keep in mind that PTA offers many levels of support and many valuable resources. Our Thirty-Third District PTA *Crescent Courier* will be highlighting these resources in each of its issues. Look for them in the coming months and utilize our many user-friendly resources to make your PTA the best it can be.

Vera Johnson, President

1st Vice President's Message

Teamwork is an important tool to help your PTA succeed. Here are a few things to remember that will help you get started:

1. Practice active listening;
2. Let the team set the goals and make the decisions;
3. Make sure expectations are clear and concise;
4. Allow people to do their jobs; and
5. Make sure there is continued effective communications.

Also remember that we are here to provide help and training so that you can accomplish your goals.

Anita Avrick, 1st Vice-President

First Things First

These are the highest priority items for council presidents to do or to make sure is being done at the unit level:

- Read over your bylaws.
- Make a budget and get it approved. Consult the Planning Ahead section of this issue for possible expenditures.
- Get the program directory finished and distributed.
- Kick off your membership drive.
- Know the financial calendar due dates.
- Kick-off Reflections.
- Start planning Red Ribbon Week.

Proposed Mission Statement

This is the proposed Mission Statement for Thirty-Third District PTA which will be voted on at the September Thirty-Third District PTA Executive Board meeting:

The mission of Thirty-Third District PTA is to support and empower its councils and units as we further the Purposes and benefits of PTA by expanding membership, by developing and strengthening leadership and promoting informed advocacy on behalf of all children and families.

WANTED—CRESCENT COURIER EDITOR!!

The *Crescent Courier* is in great need of an editor—someone who has had experience with constructing newsletters; ideally someone who is comfortable with Publisher or a similar software. The editor will not have to solicit articles; that is the job of the Director of Communications. The editor will be responsible for formatting and organizing the articles provided. If you are interested, please contact President Vera Johnson.

Planning Ahead

As councils and units plan for the year, it is important to avoid calendar conflicts as much as possible and to budget for events throughout the year. With that in mind, on the next three pages we offer a list of events, by season, with a little description for your reference.

Planning Ahead for Autumn

- Key: \$ (minimal fee of \$5-\$10) \$\$ (fee of \$20-\$30) \$\$\$ (large fee of \$50-\$200) \$\$\$\$ (significant costs including hotel and airfare)

September 2011

- **District Orientation** (September 25-26): a time for council presidents to familiarize themselves with each other and the elected district board members, and to get some special training. \$\$\$
- **Legislation Conference** (September 27): a wonderful opportunity for PTA presidents and legislation chairmen to learn from experts about the California state budget and to learn how to advocate at the local and state levels. \$\$

October 2011

- **Bylaws Workshop** (October 1): basic parliamentary procedures, bylaws and e-bylaws, and elections will be covered. For presidents and parliamentarians. \$
- **Financial Workshop** (October 5 —same session offered two times, once in the morning and once in the evening): training for council financial officers. \$
- **Council Presidents and Superintendents Conference** (October 12): a breakfast conference specifically for council presidents and superintendents to develop or strengthen effective partnerships. Speakers will discuss key issues of importance at the school district level. If your superintendent can't attend, make sure someone else from the district can. \$\$
- **UPOC** (October 15): a training session for **Unit Presidents, Officers, and Chairmen**, and a chance to ask questions after being in office for a few months. The training is invaluable for those who were elected or appointed too late to go to Spring Training! \$

November 2011

- **Presidents and Principals Conference** (November 3): a breakfast conference specifically for unit presidents and their principals. A speaker presents on issues pertaining to the individual school level. If your principal can't go, invite your assistant principal. Council presidents are also urged to attend. \$\$

December 2011 Nothing !! Happy Holidays!!

Planning Ahead for Winter

- **Key:** \$ (minimal fee of \$5-\$10) \$\$ (fee of \$20-\$30) \$\$\$ (large fee of \$50-\$200) \$\$\$\$ (significant costs including hotel and airfare)

January 2012

- **Diversity & Inclusion Conference** (January 21): an all-day event with multiple speakers. The event is held in a very large room to permit open attendance. \$\$
- **Parent Education Workshop—Getting Ready for Kindergarten** (January 26): an opportunity to get someone trained and ready to bring back information to your council or unit and help with outreach to preschool parents. \$

February 2012

- **Mid-Winter Conference** (February 3): the first of Thirty-Third District PTA's two association meetings and your attendance provides a voice for your unit or council. The breakfast program includes a Founders Day presentation, a keynote speaker, as well as association business. Unit and council members are urged to attend. \$\$
- **Teen Scene—Middle & High School Conference** (February 16): an interactive and meaningful presentation helps encourage discussion and thinking in teens and their teachers. For old-timers, this used to be called Secondary Conference. \$
- **Reflections Recognition & Reception Tea** (February 26): a chance to enjoy the Reflections submissions to Thirty-Third District PTA. View the art, hear literary works and see dance and music videos! Parents, student participants and PTA board members from all levels are welcome. Free!

March 2012

- **Sacramento Safari** (March 18-20): a fabulous experience for PTA members to learn about advocacy, the ins and outs of state government and a chance to meet lawmakers. Includes a component for high school students (2 per council) as well. \$\$\$\$

We're Here to Help...

Does your unit or council need training in some specific area? Do you have a new officer who could use some help? Thirty-Third District PTA would love to be there for you. Units: ask your council for help. If they can't oblige, they'll call us. Councils: call us if you need help at your level. There's a wealth of expertise and services available for the asking,

Planning Ahead for Spring

- Key: \$ (minimal fee of \$5-\$10) \$\$ (fee of \$20-\$30) \$\$\$ (large fee of \$50-\$200) \$\$\$\$ (significant costs including hotel and airfare)

April 2012

- **Annual Meeting** (April 12): the second of the district's two association meetings and, as with Mid-Winter Conference, your presence is welcome and necessary. The breakfast program includes a keynote speaker, district HSA presentations, membership and newsletter awards and more. Every other year there is an election (not this year). \$\$
- **Convention Orientation** (April 19): offered in the morning and evening, the district Convention Committee will make sure you are as ready as can be for California State PTA Convention. Free!

May 2012

- **California PTA State Convention** (May 9-12): It's "Showtime in Anaheim!" This is the opportunity for all PTA members to attend a variety of workshops and general sessions. Hear inspirational speakers, experience Reflections presentations, vote on resolutions, learn more than you ever imagined, visit the PTA Store, explore the famous Exhibit Hall to collect information about fundraisers and educational opportunities directly from vendors and be inspired by the presence of thousands of people all there for the kids. \$\$\$\$
- **Spring Officer Training Workshops—West** (May 23): the first of two excellent opportunities to get specific officer training, this time on the west side of Thirty-Third District PTA. Newly-elected officers can feel more confident after this training; returning officers can brush up their knowledge. Members who simply want to learn more about particular positions are welcome to attend. \$

June 2012

- **Spring Officer Training Workshops—East** (June 2): the second excellent opportunity to get specific officer training, this time on the east side of the district. Newly-elected officers can feel more confident after this training; returning officers can brush up their knowledge. Members who simply want to learn more about particular positions are welcome to attend. \$
- **National PTA Convention** in San Jose (June 21-23): a great opportunity to meet PTA members from all over the country. There are workshops, an Exhibit Hall and general sessions, just as with California State PTA Convention. \$\$\$\$

Look for the Back to School Issue of the *Crescent Courier* coming in late September. You will find inspiring words from the president, advice and reminders from the Board of Directors, a useful calendar of upcoming PTA events and more. The following article is a preview of the kind of informative article you can expect...

PTA AND STUDENTS

Compiled by Adele Kaplan, Student Involvement Chairman

Student membership is an important part of PTA. Students of all ages are eligible to join any PTA or PTSA and are given the same privileges and responsibilities as any other member of the association. Students work together with parents and teachers as a team, developing skills as advocates and community leaders. The California State PTA actively encourages and supports student participation in PTA/PTSA leadership, events and programs at every level of PTA – unit, council, district and state.

Students are eager to be involved in implementing positive change. Inviting students to join PTA/PTSA is an excellent way to encourage their support and participation as stakeholders in their school community. An effective collaboration of students and adults helps to ensure that vital PTA/PTSA programs remain relevant and serve the needs of the students and the school community.

Through their involvement, students benefit as well. They gain leadership skills, receive community service opportunities, and are introduced to the legislative process and the importance of advocating for a cause.

From the grass roots of our local PTAs to the National PTA, students are a vital part of our organization; bringing enthusiasm, energy, fresh ideas and focus to issues that affect them and their communities. Promote student involvement in your PTA today.

~ Student Involvement Committee

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Students, upon payment of membership dues, have all membership privileges and responsibilities.

If a unit PTA wishes to include a student member with a dues structure that is lower dues for students, the bylaws must be amended and forwarded along with the standing rules to the California State PTA parliamentarian for approval (refer to the *California State PTA Toolkit*, 3.2.3).

If students are enrolled as members in a PTA:

- the amount of per capita dues forwarded must be per person;
- each student member must receive a membership card; and
- student members' per capita dues cannot be subsidized by the unit.

~ Student Involvement Committee

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