

South Carolina

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South Carolina PTA

Official Bulletin of the South Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers

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www.SCPTA.org

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Special points of interest:

- Financial Reminders
- Legislation Initiatives
- Health and Wellness program grants and information
- Just Between Friends (formerly OMDR Plus)



Angela Vance and Laurie Weaver of Greenbrier Elementary PTA in Greenville at National PTA Convention.



Dora the Explorer and Pat Gates, SCPTA District 6 President at National PTA Convention.

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Parents Vote on Child Health, Safety at National PTA Convention

In June thousands of parents, educators, students and other child advocates gathered for the association's biggest meeting of the year—the 114th Annual National PTA Convention and Exhibition.

United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan keynoted the event, along with Coach Tony Dungy and wife Lauren. Tichina Arnold, actress, mom and National PTA Advisory Board Member; Vicki Phillips, Director of Education for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and Sarah Brown Wessling; 2010 National Teacher of the Year were also featured speakers among others.

Parents Vote on Hot Topics Affecting Children

During the convention, PTA members held debate and voted on the adoption of five national resolutions: Social Host Accountability for Underage Drinking; Teen Driving Safety; Dangers of Novelty Lighters; Educational Opportunity for Military Children and Mentoring of Youth in Quality Programs. The resolutions were proposed by PTA members and approved by the National PTA Board of Directors to be voted on by convention delegates. National PTA has adopted hundreds of resolutions on a wide variety of education, health, and safety issues since its first

convention in 1897. Summaries of the resolutions follow. They will be posted in their entirety at www.pta.org.

Social Host Accountability for Underage Drinking

PTA will work to inform students, parents, and community members on the detrimental effects and significant dangers of underage drinking and social hosting. PTA will also support legislation to adopt social host laws that would prohibit adults from providing alcohol or allowing the consumption of alcohol in homes or on noncommercial property by youth under the age of 21 who are not their children.

(Continued on page 7)



“Our military families deserve the structure, support and resources for education and wellness that we provide to our families at home each and every day.”

A Message from the National PTA President

As you know, the benefits of our work on behalf of every child flow through schools and communities throughout this great country. It reaches across oceans, to our military bases and to our military families, and back home again to the families of our reservists and national guard troops.

These families cope with constant transition and relocation. Nine percent of enlisted soldiers and 30 percent of officers serving more than 14 years in the military have moved their families more than nine times, according to Morton Ender. By the time their children reach their senior year in high school, they will have attended schools in six-to-nine different school systems. About 16.6 percent of our soldiers, officers, guardsmen and reservists are deployed around the world defending the freedoms we hold so dear. This means that their children remain at home, missing the moms and dads who would otherwise provide them love and care.

The stress of these transitions, along with the lack of strong community ties, can take a toll on our military families. A 1998 study of children of U.S. soldiers deployed in Bosnia, 8-to-11 year olds were more-anxious about the wellbeing of their parents, retained images of war recounted to them by their parents and felt their families struggled with isolation and depression. They need shelters from the storms of life and sources of stability during times of constant change.

This is why National PTA, along with the Department of Defense schools, and organizations such as the Military Child Education Coalition, has formed PTA Alliance to Support Military Families. Through this initiative, we hope to ease their lives and help children in their learning, health and emotional growth. We want our PTAs to be as sheltering for these kids as we are for our children in civilian life.

It is also why we also approved a resolution at the 2010 National PTA Convention mobilizing PTAs in support of the Inter-

state Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The compact, developed by the Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts, in cooperation with the Department of Defense, ensures smoother transitions for military children when they transfer to different states and school districts. Twenty-eight states have enacted the compact so far; we will need your help to gain participation from every state. More information on the PTA Alliance to Support Military Families will be provided at PTA.org.

Our military families deserve the structure, support and resources for education and wellness that we provide to our families at home each and every day. Thank you for lending your voice to improving life for every child.

Charles J. “Chuck” Saylor
National PTA President

www.PTA.org/chucksaylor

Back to School Central

PTA provides *Back to School Central* as a comprehensive resource of information for the back-to-school season. Content will cover topics such as preparing your child for school, adjusting from a summer schedule, evaluating schools and more. Check valuable advice on how to wind down from the summer and get ready for a tremendous school year.

Content is arranged under four categories:

- Back-to-School Preparation
- Nutrition
- Homework Help and Study Skills
- Parent Involvement and Communication.

You can also find resources and ideas in PTA's Great Idea Bank, an online community of parents

and PTA leaders sharing ideas on parenting, being involved in PTA, working with schools, and more. In addition, PTA published a family resource for dealing with tough economic times. Please check for cost saving tips and advice on managing your money and time for the benefit of your children.

Excerpted from www.pta.org

A Message from the South Carolina PTA President

Welcome to the 2010–2011 school year! The start of a new school year is a time of new beginnings and renewed enthusiasm...the perfect time for PTAs to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses and develop plans to grow and prosper. The most successful PTAs are those that are able to meet the diverse needs of their students, teachers, and PTA families while striving for greatness!

Our Summer Leadership Training Conference, held in Columbia on July 24th, was a resounding success! Our state board greatly enjoyed the privilege of meeting so many of our new local unit leaders and offering them the latest training in PTA programs, policies, and procedures. Membership cards, along with other valuable tools for success, were available for pick-up. If you missed this event or have not yet made contact with SCPTA, please call our state office and make arrangements to get your cards and have your unit information updated in our records. We are here to serve the needs of both your officers and your general membership!

As your gear up for your back-to-school membership drive, please keep in mind how vital membership is to the total PTA package. While your PTA focuses on academic enrichment

and family engagement within your school's community, your membership dues help us at the state and national levels of PTA to lobby and advocate legislatively on behalf of all children as well as provide the training opportunities that we offer to local units throughout the year. Each unit should set a goal of 100% membership which corresponds with your school's 10th day student enrollment (e.g., 800 students will generate a goal of 800 members). You should also make 100% faculty enrollment a priority, keeping in mind that this is mandatory for spring SCPTA membership awards. Don't forget as you promote membership that you can look beyond your school's walls for members. Local community members and business owners are usually willing to join...they just need to be asked!

Many units are looking for new ways to raise funds to meet their PTAs goals. Capital campaigns are gaining popularity because, unlike fundraisers that require families to buy or sell merchandise, donations of cash or property are 100% tax-deductible to the donor! This is a major perk of the 501(c)3 status you receive as a PTA. Another benefit is that your unit is exempt from paying sales tax on all resale items, which in-

cludes most fundraising merchandise. Please contact our office if you need a copy of our tax-exempt certificate. You certainly don't want to pay more than you have to! For another source of non-dues revenue, visit the National PTA website for information on the many grant and award programs they offer. They award thousands of dollars each year to local units; however, only 16 units in South Carolina applied last year. These grants are funded in part by your dues, so let's bring some of those dollars back to South Carolina this year!

Saving the best for last, it is my great pleasure to introduce our new SCPTA Executive Director, **Lorene Welch!** Lorene comes to us with a strong background in youth non-profit services and has already proven to be exactly the asset we were looking for. Her skills in working with volunteers have endeared her to the state board and to those of you whom she has assisted these past few weeks. She is excited and enthusiastic about the work we do and is eager to learn everything she can about PTA so she can serve our local units in the best manner possible. Please join me in welcoming Lorene into the SCPTA family!

Sharyl L. Richardson
SCPTA President

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Lorene Welch, SCPTA's new executive director.

The 2010-2011 Official PTA Kit: Registration Required

Have you registered for your unit's free *Official PTA Kit*? The kit registration form is available now, and shipments started earlier this summer, based on unit orders. Register for your unit's kit today to be ready for the 2010-2011 school year! To

learn more about how to register (and for the few exceptions to the rule), go to PTA.org/OfficialKit.

Updating Unit Information

To get valuable PTA resources throughout the year, units must

complete all change-of-officer name and address paperwork for the state PTA. Information provided on the kit registration form will be used one time only, for the specific purpose of shipping the Official PTA Kit.

Excerpted from www.pta.org

*Local unit presidents:
Order your Official
PTA Kit, now!*

“These guidelines have been established to protect the PTA money and to protect the hard work that everybody puts into their PTA.”

PTA Financial Reminders

Treasurers have a lot to accomplish at the beginning of the school year. Before you take over the treasurer's books, make sure that the Financial Review has been completed. Also make sure that the tax return has been completed by the previous treasurer. Even though it is not due until November 15, it should be completed at the same time as the Financial Review. The Financial Review should be submitted to SCPTA.

You should also be working with your board and your principal at your local unit to prepare a budget for the coming year. The budget is your plan of action for the year. It should have a realistic estimate of what you expect to bring in and how you plan to spend your funds. Be sure to include the ending cash from

last year. Also be sure to budget for cash to carry forward to the next year. The budget must be approved by your board and by your membership. Remember to send a copy of your budget to SCPTA to get points on your Goals Sheet.

You should refer to your budget regularly to make sure that all expenditures have been approved before writing the check. Establish your procedures now on how you will pay bills. Never write a blank check. Always get a receipt. Always have two signatures on your checks.

Fundraising starts when school starts. Make sure that all deposits are verified by two people before the deposit is made. It may be two people other than the treasurer, but it must be verified by two people. Money should never be left unat-

tended, and it should be taken immediately to the bank. Money should also never be left in the school.

Two signatures, budgets, financial reviews...what's the deal!!! These established rules are made to protect everybody. Chances are everything in your PTA will run smoothly, *but* in the event that you ever have a problem, how would you feel if everybody in your school started pointing at you for mismanaging the money. These guidelines have been established to protect the PTA money and to protect the hard work that everybody puts into their PTA. No one wants a financial accident to happen, and following these rules will insure safety for everyone's efforts.

Jill Schneider
SCPTA Treasurer

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Local Leadership Resources: Federal Requirements

Abiding by federal guidelines is extremely important to maintain tax-exempt status and ensure your PTA is financially sound. At http://pta.org/federal_requirements.asp you'll find the following basic information on maintaining your 501 (C)(3) status

- Form 990 Requirements
- Determination Letter of Federal Tax-Exemption Status and IRS Form 1023
- Disposition of Local PTA Assets
- Federal Employer Identification Number and IRS Form SS-4
- Information Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax
- Intermediate Sanctions Legislation
- IRS Federal Tax-Exemption Status-501(c)(3) Organizations
- Public Inspection Requirements
- Statement for Recipients of Miscellaneous Income—IRS Form 1099-MISC

Excerpted from www.pta.org

Legislative News

In March representatives of the South Carolina PTA Executive Board visited members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives on Capitol Hill in Washington, D. C. As the newly-elected vice president of legislation and a first-time visiting delegate, the experience of advocating directly to law makers or their education legislative assistant was an invigorating experience of democracy in action.

The 2010 PTA Public Policy Agenda includes: Parental Involvement and Family Engagement in Education, Opportunity and Equity for All Children, and Child Health. Please visit the National PTA website: www.pta.org for a complete detailed description of PTA's newly introduced legislative platform.

National PTA is encouraging all state PTAs to develop partnerships with their respective Parent Information Resource Cen-

ters (PIRC) to further increase parent and family involvement in our schools. SCPTA is proud that we have developed and cultivated partnerships with our state's PIRC office, along with the South Carolina Department of Education and multiple children and family agencies from across the state since 2008. Our latest event with the South Carolina PIRC was the *Parent Leading the Way Conference* held in February at South Carolina State University.

Legislative issues in South Carolina Education

Legislative: Election for SC Superintendent of Education. Research the candidates well! Below are the names and websites of the two candidates:

- Frank Holleman (D) - Ex-US Deputy Education Secretary and Attorney <http://hollemanforeducation.com/>
- Mick Zais (R) - Newberry College President and Retired

Army General. <http://www.mickzais.com/>

Other links with election information are:

- <http://www.politics1.com/sc.htm>
- <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2010/jan/25/burgess-running-sc-education-superintendent/>

Finally, please review the 2010 SCPTA Legislative Platform at www.scpta.org. The children of South Carolina need your voice on issues concerning their education, health, and overall well-being. Therefore, please support all National PTA and SCPTA legislative efforts with the "Call to Action" and "Action Alerts" to notify your local and state legislators to support bills that advocate for our children. **everychild.onevoice**

Clifford L. Fulmore
SCPTA Vice President of Legislation

"SCPTA is proud that we have developed and cultivated partnerships with our state's PIRC office, along with the South Carolina Department of Education and multiple children and family agencies across the state..."

Reflections: 2009-2010 Update

Congratulations to all 2009-2010 Reflections state and national winners; 134 state winners representing 120 schools in South Carolina received awards at the April 24 Reflections Awards Ceremony in Rock Hill.

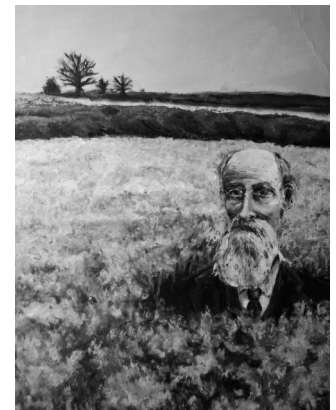
In addition, four students received awards at the national level. These students were: Charlton Clark from Greenville

Middle Academy, District 1 (Award of Excellence in Film Production), Kailyn Wrighten from Howe Hall AIMS, District 19 (Award of Excellence in Literature), Fielding Lowrance from Greenville Senior High School, District 1 (Award of Merit in Literature) and Kelley Wills, Wade Hampton High School, District 1 (Award of Merit in Visual Arts).

This year more than 16,000 entries were submitted by students to their local units throughout South Carolina. Thank you to everyone for making this year's Reflections program a success.

We look forward to having more students participate in the 2010-11 Reflections contest. The theme for 2010-11 is "Together we can."

Rosa Fulmore
SCPTA Reflections Chair



Kelley Wills, National PTA Award of Merit, SCPTA 1st place, Senior, Wade Hampton High School in District 1



“National PTA offers PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grants of up to \$1,000 to local PTAs.”

Health and Wellness Programs for Your PTA

National PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grants

PTA Healthy Lifestyles program emphasizes the important role families can play in keeping their children healthy and ready to learn. In celebration of PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month each November, National PTA offers PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grants of up to \$1,000 to local PTAs. The grants support PTA efforts to engage schools and families in:

- Increasing access to and awareness of healthy foods
- Increasing physical activity for students and families
- Providing healthier foods in schools
- Engaging and training family

and community members in promoting physical activity and healthy eating habits

To apply for the grant go to www.pta.org/healthylifestyles and fill out the application. Application deadline is September 10, 2010.

Great Health Programs You Can Start at Your School

There are several wonderful programs available to school organizations that can help increase health education and promote physical fitness. Below is a list of programs, organizations and links to more information on how you can help make your school healthier for everyone.

Share Your Healthy Stories

Do you have a great healthy lifestyles story to tell about what you're doing at your school to improve students', parents' and teachers' lives? We'd love to hear about them. Please send your story to SCPTA Health and Wellness chair Lisa Conner at lclisaconner@gmail.com.

Lisa Conner SCPTA Health and Wellness Committee Chair

Check your *Official PTA Kit* for another copy of the brand-new PTA Healthy Lifestyles family activities poster for your school. English- and Spanish-language versions of the poster are also now available online at PTA.org/GoodChoices.

Organization	Program Name	Website
Alliance for a Healthier Generation	Healthy Schools Program	www.healthiergeneration.org
SC Department of Agriculture	School Gardens Program	http://agriculture.sc.gov/
SC Department of Agriculture	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/ffvp/ffvpdefault.htm
Action for Healthy Kids	Student's Taking Charge	www.studentstakingcharge.org
Action for Healthy Kids	Game On! The Ultimate Wellness Challenge	www.actionforhealthykids.org
US Department of Agriculture	Team Nutrition	www.teamnutrition.usda.gov
SC Department of Education	SC Healthy Schools Program	www.ed.sc.gov
Michelle Obama's Let's Move	Let's Move Program	www.letsmove.gov
Eat Smart Move More	Healthy Living in South Carolina	www.eatsmartmovemore.sc.org
NFL & National Dairy Association	Fuel Up to Play 60	www.schoolwellnesskit.org

SCPTA 2010 Helen Stokes Scholarship Winners

Name	School	Sponsoring School	District
Henry Brookie	Mauldin High	Mauldin Middle	1
Fielding Lowrance	Greenville High	Greenville High	1
John Harrison	Fort Dorchester High	Rollings School of the Arts	23
Jonathan McKinney	Mauldin High	Mauldin Middle	1
Kerri McLamb	Northwestern	York Road Elementary	7
Paul Nesbitt	Cross High	Cross High	19
Taylor Pringle	Keenan High	Keenan High	6

Just Between Friends (formerly OMDR Plus)



During one of the numerous National PTA - *Just Between Friends* labs and workshops conducted at the 114th Annual National PTA Convention, the next generation of the system premiered.

Last year, *Just Between Friends* was introduced as the PTA membership management and communications system. Today, thousands of PTAs are using *Just Between Friends* for membership management; printing membership cards; communicating with their entire schools through emails and automatic reminders; volunteer/participation management; and directory creation.

Over the past year, *Just Between Friends* listened to units using the system; and collaborating with PTA, developed the next generation which enhances your user experience. Some enhancements include:

- Dramatically increased speed
- Fewer clicks to accomplish tasks
- Easier, more streamlined member entry
- A friendlier look and layout

Convention attendees were enthusiastic about the next generation. They were particu-

larly eager to use these new features:

- Volunteer reporting capabilities suitable for tracking Three for Me hours
- PTA Reflections Wizard that will help to streamline your Reflections program

It's easy to start using *Just Between Friends*! Just visit www.JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAquickstart.

If you have questions about the system, please visit *Just Between Friends*, click on "Contact Us", then click on "Customer Support." Their support team will respond quickly.

Excerpted from www.pta.org

*"It's easy to start using
Just Between
Friends! Just visit
www.JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAquickstart."*

(Continued from page 1)

Teen Driving Safety

PTA will work to promote educating parents, students, school personnel and communities regarding the risks associated with teen driving, the legal requirements of Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws, and the crucial role of parents in helping teens become safe drivers. PTA will also urge local, state and national leaders to support research and adopt policies and legislation to reduce traffic incidents involving teen drivers and their passengers. Finally, PTA will encourage the development of consistent, quality standards for driver education and training programs and support policies and legislation to make such programs accessible to all students.

Dangers of Novelty Lighters

PTA will work to promote education on the threat to public safety from youth fire setters and novelty lighters, as well as support legislative and regulatory action banning or restricting the sale of novelty lighters.

Educational Opportunity for Military Children

PTA will work to promote the adoption and utilization of the purposes of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children by state and local education agencies. PTA will also advocate for the adoption of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children with all financial and structural requirements by each state and territory legislature of the United States.

Mentoring of Youth in Quality Programs

PTA will work to promote the need for youth mentors and encourage the use of recognized quality program standards by youth mentoring programs. PTA will also advocate for legislation and other initiatives that provide youth mentoring programs with access to consistent, timely and affordable state and federal nationwide criminal history background screening of mentors, as well as advocate for legislation and initiatives that help fund quality youth mentoring programs.

Excerpted from www.pta.org

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Sharyl Richardson, SCPTA President and Lee Ann Harris, SCPTA District 7 President at National PTA Convention

We're on the web! www.SCPTA.org

Important Dates

2010

September 10

Healthy Lifestyles grant application
deadline

September 17

Official PTA Kit registration deadline

October 1

First dues payment (mandatory)

Financial Review (2009–2010)

Approved Budget (2010–2011)

December 1

Second dues payment (mandatory)

2011

March 1

Third dues payment (mandatory)

April 9

SCPTA Convention: Sumter High

School, Sumter, SC

June 9–12

National PTA Convention: Disney Coro-

nado Resort and Convention Center in

Orlando, Florida

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