

COUNCIL MESSAGES

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs
every child. one voice

January-February, 2011

Issue 3

January 19, HCC Program
Educational Transitions

Ms. Katie Hunter, Counselor
Oak Hills School District
10:00 a.m. at the HCESC
She will discuss the transition from middle to high school and high school to college or technical school.

Reflections Open House

February 15, at the HCESC
6:30 –8:30 p.m.

This will be your first opportunity to see the entries that won at the Council level and to find out which ones went on to State.

February 16, HCC Program
Founders Day Celebration & Reflections Display

Reflections will be displayed before the meeting/program which begins at

10:00 a.m. at the HCESC
(look for an additional article on Founders Day in this newsletter)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Can you believe the school year is almost half over? Those warm outside temperatures are just a memory (perhaps a good one depending on your weather preference.) Your units should be in full swing now and hopefully your membership numbers have increased. You can still work on increasing those membership numbers because membership campaigns shouldn't end in the fall. Also keep informing your families of what your unit does for the students and the school. Do you have a newsletter or website? Be sure your members can see that your PTA is a vital part of your school.

Be sure to attend the monthly HCC general meetings. Your HCC Board works hard to bring meaningful programs and training to you. Feel free to contact me if you have any ideas for programs or training. You should be hearing soon about the HCC Reflections entries. Don't forget to participate in this year's Founder's Day service project (Barnes and Noble gift cards for Lake HS.) Make sure your staff and seniors are aware of our scholarships and be sure to participate in the Outstanding Educator program. Contact information and other Council information can be found on our website: www.HCCPTAs.org or in your HCC Yearbook. Here is to continued success!

Respectfully Submitted,

Elise Fessler HCC PTAs President bfsing@cinci.rr.com

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Congratulations to all units. Everyone is in good standing with Ohio PTA because all units have sent in their membership dues on time. All are eligible for Reflections, Scholarships, etc., etc. This does not mean you stop with your Membership Drive. Please continue to get new members and don't forget to try for the 100% Teacher Membership Award.

It is now time to send out your Second Membership Notice to those who have not joined. It is never too late to become members of a unit. Don't forget to set up a membership table at each of your functions and don't forget to contact school board members, grandparents, school neighbors and local businesses.

REMEMBER!!! All board members should be promoting membership, not just the chairman. One or two people cannot do this job alone. Become a team and you will be successful

Carol Kiradjieff HCC Membership Chair carolchili@fuse.net

Don't forget to select your district's Educator of the Year due at the Council Board Meeting, March 9. Any questions specific to how your district selects their nominee please check with your Area Advisor



HISTORY of the PTA

On February 17, 1897, some 2000 concerned people gathered together in Washington, DC to speak on behalf of the needs of children. Out of this meeting came the National Congress of Mothers, which later became the National PTA. Each February, PTAs across the nation pay special tribute to the cofounders who were:

Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. They also remember the woman who in 1926 founded the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, which united with the National PTA in 1970. Her name was Selena Sloan Butler.

The year 1897 was a time when three-fourths of all American children dropped out of school before reaching the 5th grade. Many went to work in factories, in mines and on the farm at a very early age. The vast majority of these children barely learned to read and write; and disease, malnutrition, and accidents took a heavy toll on the nation's youth. Since its' founding, the National PTA through its state and local units has played an important role in the raising of America's youth. Some of the impressive highlights are:

- ❖ In 1899: The NPTA called for the creation of a national health bureau (this was 14 years before the creation of the U.S. Public Health Service) and the NPTA was already expressing concern for juvenile justice.
- ❖ In 1901: On May 21, Ohio became the 5th state (congress) to join the NPTA
- ❖ In 1910: Advocated supervision of motion pictures and vaudeville because of their influence on children and youth. How many of you thought the influence of movies was just a recent concern?
- ❖ In 1922: the oak tree was adopted as the official emblem. The original PTA emblem was an angel with its arms around two children. However, in 1921 Mrs. A.H. Reeves, the editor of the Children's Welfare Magazine used the oak tree for the cover design and from then on it became the emblem for the National PTA. The trunk of the oak tree represents the National PTA. The main branches are the states and congresses. The smaller branches represent the districts and councils. The twigs represent the local units. The leaves are the millions of members. And the acorns represent the accomplishments of PTAs' work. Each in turn draws life from the parent stem.
- ❖ In 1925: Began a nationwide project called Summer Round-up of Children, to identify and correct health problems.
- ❖ In 1936: Launched a traffic safety education project.
- ❖ In 1941: Inaugurated a nationwide school lunch program.
- ❖ In 1951: Called a national conference on narcotics and drug addiction.
- ❖ In 1954: PTA help field test Salk polio vaccine
- ❖ In 1957: NPTA was honored for outstanding volunteer leadership for helping to win acceptance of the use vaccines.
- ❖ In 1966: Established a project on the issue of smoking and overall health.
- ❖ In 1969: Began the Reflections Program which is still going strong today.
- ❖ In 1976: Began nationwide project to combat violence on television.
- ❖ In 1979: Ohio PTA put out a publications titled "A Look at Public Funds for Non-Public Schools." Isn't this amazing that this is still such a hot topic today with all the discussion about vouchers for private and charter schools. And with public education having to fight for every dollar it gets.
- ❖ In 1984: The National Teacher Appreciation Week, started, giving us a way of showing our teachers we appreciate them and letting them know that they are an important part of the PTA unit.
- ❖ In 1985: A Rating System for Records, Tapes & Cassettes (You know those things that played music before we had CD's and Ipods.) Anyway...National PTA passed a resolution in 1985 and worked with both legislators and the music companies to put labels identifying the type of music contained inside.
- ❖ In 1986: Instituted an AIDS Education Project and began a multi-year AIDS education project in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control.
- ❖ In 1990: Launched the Common Sense Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program. The program provided the unit PTAs with the necessary materials to lead parent discussions in their schools and provided parents with handouts to use when talking to their children.
The NPTA President was appointed to President Bush's Education Policy Advisory
The 1990's Nutrition in Schools campaign was launched (started in the Forest Hills School District in HCC.)
- ❖ In 1992: Recognized the importance of parent involvement in a child's education and co-hosted a national parent involvement summit.

- ❖ In 1994 Started the program “Taking Charge of Your TV” A critical viewing workshop in which the National PTA collaborated with the National Cable Television Association to help control the number of hours and the types of programs children and youth were watching.
- ❖ In 2000: Provided the publication “Building Successful Partnerships: A guide to Parent and Family Involvement: to share successful programs . Workshops are still given today.
- ❖ In 2005: Partnered with National Ad Council to provide Public Service Announcements (PSA) encouraging parent involvement,

Today this organization has over 5 million members representing 54 congresses. They include the 50 states, Washington DC, the European Congress, the Pacific Congress and the Virgin Islands.

As you know PTA or PTSA (without the periods of course) is the trademark of the National PTA. A few years back the NPTA developed the logo, *Everychild.Onevoice*, that is used on all their literature and correspondence:

Not quite as long as NPTA’s history but pretty impressive just the same is your Council’s history. In 1921 Hamilton Council was formed. We started with 9 school districts but now include the 5 local school districts: Finneytown, Northwest, Oak Hills, Southwest, Three Rivers, and the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services. Council runs very much like your unit does with elected officers and various chairmen. Council provides information for our membership through our monthly meetings and our newsletter, Council Messages. We provide ten student and three teacher scholarships each year along with recognizing each district Educator of the Year and both council and state Reflections winners. Over the years Council has worked on Seat Belt Safety by making a tape with the assistance of Channel 9 News; helped with a Resolution dealing with warning labels on music tapes (for those of you too young to remember this is what music was recorded on before CDs); and in 1990 your Council presented a resolution on “Improving School Nutrition.” The resolution urged that nutritious school meals follow the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association guidelines. The resolution was adopted at both the Ohio PTA and the National PTA Conventions.

Council helped host the NPTA Convention and the OPTA Conventions when they were held in Cincinnati; won the OPTA President’s Gold Membership Award; and followed that up with winning the OPTA Outstanding Council Award.. And with great members and volunteers such as yourselves Council is ready and able to tackle the problems and concerns of today’s children and youth. Thank you for all you do in your individual schools, neighborhoods and for Council.

Since their inception our PTAs have provided support for our staff and students through coordinating volunteers, providing ‘extra’ educational materials, providing enrichment opportunities with in schools, helping to educate and inform parents and teachers through newsletters and programs.

Linda Day, Messages Editor & Past President of Council



2011 HCC FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE PROJECT
LAKE HIGH SCHOOL
 MILBURY, OHIO

This entire school was destroyed by a tornado in June 2010, including the Media Center/Library and 100% of the contents. Council is asking our units to help this school rebuild by donating Barnes & Noble Booksellers gift certificates (the school has a partnership with them for discounted prices)

Bring your gift certificates to the Founders Day Program
 February 16, 2011

PLEASE MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THIS SCHOOL AND ITS STUDENTS BY DONATING!

A GUIDE TO BY-LAWS

Your by-laws should be reviewed every year and revised every 3 years to be consistent with Ohio & National PTA and for your Unit to be in good standing.

What is the difference between Revising & Amending? Amendments are used when only a few changes are necessary. If you are changing the amount of your membership dues and/or changing the quorum for voting and that's all you wish to do, then you need to Amend your By-Laws. You only need to make the necessary changes and send in only those changes with a coversheet, making sure to include your school name, city and state, your district number (#6), your Council (Hamilton County Council) and your IRS Employer ID#. A Revision is a complete rewriting of your By-Laws.

The steps you need to update your By-Laws are as follows:

1. Obtain a Sample By-Laws for Units from Ohio PTA.
2. Obtain a current copy of your Unit By-Laws. Can't find your By-Laws? Contact OPTA for a copy.
3. Appoint a Committee. Choose members who are interested in this job. The President may be a member of this committee.
4. Compare the Sample By-Laws with your Unit By-Laws.
5. Starred items (*), Articles and Sections, are required and may not be edited except as noted on the Sample. This assures that your By-Laws are not in conflict with Ohio and National PTA. When changes are made at either National or Ohio PTA, they automatically become a part of your By-Laws without further action on your part.
6. Be sure to check the "helpful hints" on the Sample By-Laws.

After you have made your changes, follow the procedure noted in the "Amendments" article in your By-Laws. Present the changes to your Board first, then to your Membership. Read aloud the amendments (or if revised, have a complete set of the By-laws ready for the members to take home and review). The first presentation is just to let your members know about the changes. You then present them at the next membership meeting where discussion and comments are expected. You then vote on the changes. The By-Laws must be approved by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting. After your By-laws have been voted on by your membership, you submit the new By-laws to Ohio PTA for approval.

Complete the cover sheet, explained above, and e-mail the By-laws to Ohio PTA's Director of By-Laws. If you send them by regular mail, send 3 copies. An approved copy will be returned to your unit.

After approval, make copies for the board, membership and retain a copy for the Secretary's Minutes.

Any questions? Please let me know. (This is Ohio PTA Information).

Carol Kiradjieff, Resource Committee & Past Council President



Council is proud to award scholarships for students and educators from the PTA units which are members of Council. All Council PTA units are encouraged to make an annual contribution to any or all of the scholarship funds. Please send contributions early so that scholarship amounts may be determined. Any donations received before March 15, 2011 will be applied to this year's scholarships.

Please make checks payable to: Hamilton County Council of PTAs Scholarship Fund.

Send donations to: Lori Mueller, Council Treasurer
309 County View Dr.
Harrison, OH 45030

Scholarship forms will be available in January. Students please see your school counselor. Teachers please check with your principal.

The deadline for scholarship submissions will be March 4, 2011

Advocacy Update!

Current Advocacy Update (Information from Ohio PTA Advocacy E-mails):

CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION On Dec. 1, 2010, the U. S. House of Representatives passed S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act by a vote of 264-157. The act reforms and improves programs under the Child Nutrition Act, including school breakfasts and lunches.

TOBACCO PREVENTION A group of U.S. Senators sent a letter to the President asking that he request \$225 million for tobacco prevention and cessation programs in his budget request for Fiscal Year 2012. The Prevention and Public Health Trust Fund created by healthcare reform legislation has \$1 billion available for 2012, and the \$225 million would come from those funds. Since state funding for tobacco prevention was completely cut in June, this funding is all the more crucial while we work to get that funding restored. (Source: American Lung Association)

PTA TAKES ACTION CHALLENGE So far, Ohio is in second place (behind New York) in the challenge. The National PTA has challenged all states to increase the action alert response rate through the PTA Takes Action Network. The PTA Takes Action Network is how PTA keeps members up to date on what's happening on federal legislative issues affecting families, schools, and communities—and is one way PTA members can reach out to their members of Congress and speak up for children. Sign up on the network by going to <http://www.pta.org/takesaction/>. You can also sign up by going to www.ohiopta.org - Advocacy page. Let's go Ohio!

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE The Ohio PTA Common Core State Standards Committee has been working hard over the past few months promoting the common core state standards and training PTA members on advocacy skills. The committee will be reaching out to councils to schedule additional trainings on the CCSSI and advocacy skills.

OHIO PTA ADVOCACY CONFERENCE The Ohio PTA Advocacy Conference was held Tuesday, Nov. 16, at the Vern Riffe Center in Columbus. Members from around the state gathered to become energized, engaged and to learn about advocacy at the state and federal level.

Please contact me (Elise Fessler @ bfsing@cinci.rr.com, HCC & Finneytown PTAs' Advocacy Chair) to get on a distribution list for monthly Advocacy Reports (this report can be used as is for meetings and newsletters or edit it as desired but please keep the references mentioned)



Hamilton County Council of PTA's has a variety of pins available which are great for saying "thanks". Also available are: PTA board position pins, earrings, key chains, cookbooks and PTA note cards. Prices vary from \$2 to \$5.

Contact Valerie Perry, Ways & Means Chairman for information at:
521-7999 or vsperry14@aol.com

Calling All Cooks

Help Council update the Cookbook (and you can reserve a place in Council history) by bringing your favorite recipe to the January or February General Meeting. It can be for any type of food. Council would like to make an addendum to their current Cookbook but we need lots of recipes so please help us out.

Don't forget to add your name & PTA to the recipe you bring.

COUNCIL GAME

This month's Council game is: Facts about your Council

The answers to all the questions can be found in your 2010-2011 blue Council Handbook. Bring your answers to the January 19, 2011 Council General Meeting and enter them for a chance to win January's prize package.

1. Which Ohio PTA district does Council belong to?
2. What year was Council chartered as a PTA?
3. Name the school districts that belong to Council.
4. How many presidents has Council had since it was chartered as a PTA?
5. How many Council presidents have served two **separate** terms as president and what are their names?
6. What are the names of the Council presidents who also served as Ohio PTA presidents?
7. What is the name of Council's current president?
8. Name the scholarships provided by Council.
9. Name two of the awards given by Council.
10. Which unit PTA officer generally represents the unit at Council General Meetings?
11. Name three of the positions/people that can vote at Council General Meetings.
12. At which General Meeting does Council honor Council's Outstanding Educator?
13. At which General Meeting does Council recognize **their Ohio PTA** Reflections winners?
14. In which month does Council present the annual School of Information workshops?
15. Why is the date of November 30 so important?
16. What is the name of Council's bi-monthly newsletter?
17. What is the address of the Council's website?
18. Name three of the items Council's Ways and Means Chairman sells at the General Meetings.
19. What does the recipient of a Friend of Children Award receive?
20. Why did Lynn Miller receive Council's Service to Children Award?

HELP SAVE A TREE: Council Messages is also available via email so if you would like to receive your copy in that format, please go our website to sign up. www.HCCPTAs.org