

COUNCIL MESSAGES

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs
every child. one voice

January-February, 2012

Issue 3

January 18, HCC Program

Rachel's Challenge

Ms. Stephanie Stafford, speaker
10:00 a.m. at the HCESC

Please read the informational article below.

Please invite any personnel from your school or district in charge of programs

Reflections Open House

February 14 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 15, 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 increase those membership numbers, membership campaigns shouldn't end in the fall. Keep informing your families of what your unit does also. 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, collecting goods or funds for the Freestore Food Bank. 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

ABOUT RACHEL & RACHEL'S CHALLENGE

Rachel Joy Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School tragedy on April 20, 1999. Immediately after the tragedy, her father Darrell began to speak around the nation and used writings and drawings from Rachel's many diaries to illustrate the need for a kinder, more compassionate nation. Today, Darrell and thirty other speakers honor Rachel's life by reaching the nation with Rachel's simple but profound message. Words from Rachel, "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion then it will start a chain reaction of the same."

Rachel's Challenge Mission: We exist to inspire, equip and empower every person to create a permanent positive culture change in their school, business and community by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion

- Receive information about "What is Rachel's Challenge"
- Learn how to bring Rachel's Challenge to your school district
- Costs involved to bring the program
- Testimonials from Three Rivers School District staff & students about how the program affected them & their lives after their involvement when they attended the school and community programs this year.



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 February 12, 2012 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. Applications can also be found on our website at www.HCCPTAs.org

The deadline for scholarship submissions will be March 2, 2012

VOLUNTEERS ARE NECESSARY FOR MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS

Volunteers can make a difference and have a significant impact in helping you reach out to others and grow your PTA membership. Word of mouth is the most effective method of new member recruitment. Here are three steps to get volunteers "plugged in" to your membership marketing efforts.

1. Motivate them with why membership is important. First, they need to understand your PTA story. This is your vision, values, and mission. We are the advocates for our children. We want to make the world a better place.

We also want your members to get in touch with their own story of how membership has influenced their life. I can let you know a little about my story. I have met so many wonderful people in PTA. We are all striving for one thing – being an advocate for our child, for our school, and for the nation's children.

2. Make sure you tell your members how they can be involved. One size does not fit all when it comes to membership marketing. Some volunteers will be great at calling potential members that they know, but calling people they don't know, may be hard for them. Perhaps another member may call new parents. But, personal contact is a key ingredient for increasing renewals. Check on those who are not joining and gain important insights and understanding of why they do not wish to continue in your association. And, perhaps you can change their mind by implementing something they think is very important.
3. It is important to establish a plan and goals to be successful. Use your volunteers as much as possible. Make them feel a part of the organization. If you have sign-ups for an event, make sure that all who sign up have a job to do. You can never have too many helpers.

REMEMBER – A membership chairman cannot work alone. She/he needs a staff of volunteers to help. Each board member should be helpful – this is NOT a one-person job. And remember your teacher liaison. She/he can be a great help to get your teachers to join.

If we all work together, we CAN increase our membership. (Some of the information came from National PTA)

Carol
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 14. 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



2011-2012 HCC Service Project -- The Free Store

Council will be collecting money and non-perishable food items at the Founders Day Program, Feb. 15, 2012

A flyer with all the information is included with this newsletter

Any questions, please contact Jan Hunter, Immediate Past President, at 513-922-1946 or jch8387@hotmail.com

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

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Please contact your State Representative to let them know that you are opposed to HB 136

This legislation significantly expands vouchers.
The qualifications are expanded to all families not just areas with "failing schools"
The maximum family income for participation would be raised to \$95K

Passage of this bill would cost each of our school districts because of the funding formula. In most cases more money would be deducted from our districts than we receive in funding on a per pupil basis.

PTA supports public funds for public schools

For more information on HB 136 click on "Urge against HB 136" on the HCC PTA webpage

- 1. Go to our website: www.HCCPTAs.org**
- 2. From the main page click on "Find Your Representative"**
- 3. Put your zip (5+4) in the bottom left**
- 4. Click on the Representatives name (their page comes up)**
- 5. Click on "Contact Me" and fill in your information and**
- 6. Type & send your message**

Please contact 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.

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

