

# COUNCIL MESSAGES

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs

*every child. one voice*

January-February, 2013

Issue 3

January 16, HCC Program

### ***Diabetes***

Dr. Nana Jones, from Children's Hospital is our guest speaker  
10:00 a.m. at the HCESC

Please invite any personnel from your school or district in charge of health information.

### **Reflections Open House**

February 19 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 20, 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)

## ***RECRUITING & RETAINING MEMBERS***

There is nothing like a great mission and our mission is helping children! How do we keep members and how do we recruit new members? To keep our members we want to show progress toward a shared goal. They want to be a part of something important and this is a chance for them to give back. And, don't we all want to fun in our everyday life? Isn't it fun to work with friends and new-found friends and to learn something new? Yes, there are people out there who are non-joiners, so you have to think of some way to get those people involved. One way to do that is make sure they have been asked to join. Their friends and peers should be telling them how important PTA is to their children and a way for them "to give back." PTA can help people believe that tomorrow can be better.

As PTA grows older, so do our members. We need to appeal to our younger people without alienating our older supporters. Sometimes it just comes down to knowing that all members are valued. To get younger people involved, we need to tell "our story." Each of your units has stories to tell – how you've helped your teachers and your children over the years. Remember the importance of Ohio and National PTA and how they work for you. Look at the legislation over the years and see how our schools PTAs have been a great influence. In the 80's we developed and presented to OPTA a program on "Seat Belt Safety" (Northwest) and "Rating of Records & Tapes" (Oak Hills) and now movies have the rating system; and in the 90's a program was established for "Nutrition in our Schools." (Forest Hills) These goals were met and now the nation has incorporated those and other important ideas to aid all children. We are contributing to society – not just to our own children, but all children.

Recruiting our teachers and administrators is very important. When parents see their involvement and their dedication to PTA, it makes it easier to get "non-joiners" to respond. Perhaps having one member recruit one more member may also be an important goal. Ask your school Booster Clubs to have a "Moment for PTA" on their agenda. And don't forget; be sure to give each member their card. They need that card to vote at your meetings. It's a simple gesture but important for that member to be able to prove they are important members of your group.

Be sure to use Ohio and National PTA membership resources for the help you need. And remember, your Membership Chairman needs a co-chair and all the Board members to be helpful in recruiting. She/he cannot do this job alone.

PTA provides a voice of support for all children, our schools and the educational system of our country.

Carol Kiradjieff, HCC Membership Chair [carolchili@fuse.net](mailto:carolchili@fuse.net)

(Some of the information in this article is from the "Our Children" magazine)



## WHAT IS FOUNDERS DAY?

FOUNDERS DAY, FEBRUARY 17, commemorates the day when the PTA idea took on the force and vitality of a nationwide movement. On that day in 1897 about 2, 000 people came to Washington, D.C. to discuss "Questions most vital to the welfare of children and the manifold interests of the home." They came in response to the call of Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. As a result, the national organization came into being, one dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in home, school, church and community. 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.

This year we will be celebrating National PTA's 117 years, Ohio PTA's 112 years and Hamilton County Council of PTAs 92 years of working with and for the children and youth in our communities. I bet most of you had no idea your Council had been around so long. Many of the topics and areas of concern have changed over the years but not the tireless efforts of you the volunteers who help to make each of our local units such a success thereby making your Council a success.

Please join your Council on February 20, 2013 at the Hamilton County Educational Service Center to celebrate all these wonderful years of PTA. The Reflections display may be viewed from 9:30am-10:00am. The general business meeting will begin at 10:00 am followed by the Founders Day Program.

Linda Day, Messages Editor & Past President of Council



### *The Official Emblem of the National PTA* **THE OAK TREE**

The original National Congress emblem was that of an angel with its arms around two children. In 1921, however, Mrs. A.H. Reeves, editor of the Children Welfare Magazine used the oak tree for the cover design.

Mrs. Reeves wrote..."The Congress began as a national organization, a main trunk, as it were, and like a tree threw out branches as it grew, which in turn spread into smaller shoots - the individual associations all drawing their life from the parent stem and carrying its vitality to the farthest reach of their influence - of all the trees, the oak seems best to typify the Congress spirit...with its sturdy heart, its usefulness in building, its broad protecting shadow, the acorns which perpetuate its life."

For these reason, the oak was adopted as the National Congress emblem.

The **trunk** is the National Congress.

The **main branches** are the states.

The **smaller branches** stand for districts and councils.

The **twigs** represent the many local PTAs.

The **leaves** typify our millions of members.

Last, and most significant of all, the **acorn** represents **the fruits** or accomplishments of our work from which future developments will arise.

**Each** in turn **draws** its life from the **parent stem**.



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, 2013 will be applied to this year's scholarships. Remember, any unit that does not contribute to the HCC Scholarship Fund will be ineligible for any 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](http://www.HCCPTAs.org)

*The deadline for scholarship applications is March 2, 2013*

**Don't forget to select your district's Educator of the Year due to Council at the March 13 Board Meeting. Any questions specific to how your district selects their nominee and/or the due date within your district, please check with your Area Advisor.**



Hamilton County Council of PTA's has a variety of pins available which is a great way to say "thanks" to your volunteers and school staff. We also have the new "Life Made Simple" handbook (great for anyone and any type gift), PTA board position pins, earrings, key chains, and PTA note cards. Prices vary from \$2 to \$5. They are available at our General Meetings or you can contact our Interim Chairperson, Lori Mueller, 513-367-1069 or [lmuellet@fuse.net](mailto:lmuellet@fuse.net)

## BUILDING TODAY'S PTA! CONTEST

Membership has its rewards. Win up to \$6,000 for your PTA

National PTA will award over **\$100,000** in CASH & PRIZES for membership growth at the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual National PTA Convention & Exhibition in Cincinnati, OH

Grow your PTA and your chances to win – now until March, 2013

For more details on how **YOUR PTA** can win award money visit **PTA.org/Today**

Also refer to the NPTA website, PTA.org for more information on these other events



**PTA Take Your Family to School Week (February 18–22, 2013)** encourages families to engage in their child's learning and overall well-being by visiting their students' school and participating in a wide variety of activities. Funded by the AXA Foundation, PTA Take Your Family to School Week has a theme this year of "*Safety at Home and at Play.*" According to Safe Kids Worldwide, the greatest risks to children at home and at play include: falls; fires, burns, and scalds; poisoning; and playground injuries. Through collaboration with school leaders and Safe Kids Worldwide Coalitions, PTAs will provide hands-on educational activities that will encourage families to work together toward achieving safer behaviors. Check with your local PTA leaders for events at your school.

**Male Engagement Conference: A PTA Priority** - The more men who are involved in PTA, the better! National PTA and [Watch D.O.G.S.](#) are hosting the Male Engagement Conference, **February 8–10, 2013**, in Kansas City, Missouri, to discuss this important aspect of family engagement. For more information, go to [www.pta.org/mec2013](http://www.pta.org/mec2013).

**Save the Date: 2013 National PTA's Legislative Conference March 12-14**



National PTA and People to People Ambassador Programs, the leader in global educational travel, are hosting the PTA Future Leaders Forum **July 15–19, 2013**, in Washington DC. Middle-school students from around our nation will have the chance to: meet notable leaders, learn the significance of our nation's most famous historical sites and institutions, build valuable leadership skills, give back through community service projects, participate in diversity-awareness training, and learn how to effect change through advocacy. Enroll your child in PTA Future Leaders Forum today to help them begin the educational journey of a lifetime. Learn more at [peopletopeople.com/pta](http://peopletopeople.com/pta).

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***2013 Founder's Day Service Project***



*Lighthouse on Highland*

They provide temporary housing and support to teens in Hamilton County who are struggling with significant issues.

The list of items needed:

*Boxes of Cereal*

*Hot Sauce, Ranch Dressing and other Condiments*

*Canned Soup, Vegetables and Fruit*

*Pasta and Sauces*

*New Socks*

*New Men's Boxers (large and extra-large)*

*New Women's Underwear (all sizes)*

*Gift Cards (Kroger, Meijer, Wal Mart, or Target)*

**OR**

*Money may be contributed to purchase other food items available at a significantly discounted price from the Free Store Food*

Make checks payable to: **Lighthouse Youth Services (In the memo please put PTA-Highland)**

Please bring these items to the February 20th HCC General Meeting or contact Elise Fessler (931-4234, [bfsing@cinci.rr.com](mailto:bfsing@cinci.rr.com)) for other arrangements.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to our November General Meeting winner: **Kelly Weissmann**, Delegate from Oakdale Elementary and Bridgetown Middle Schools in the Oak Hills School District. Be the next winner of a nice prize package. All the answers can be found in the newsletter, so it's simple to do. All you have to do is take a few minutes to read the newsletter. The game is below.

### COUNCIL MESSAGE'S FOUNDERS DAY GAME

1. Who were the founders of the National PTA?
2. When and where was that very important and historic first meeting?
3. Who founded the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers?
4. In what year did the two organizations become one?
5. What colors are associated with all PTAs?
6. What is the official logo of the National PTA?
7. What was the first emblem of the National PTA?
8. What is the official emblem of the National PTA?
9. What does the trunk represent?
10. What do the main branches represent?
11. What do the smaller branches represent?
12. What do the twigs represent?
13. What do the leaves represent?
14. What do the acorns represent?
15. When does NPTA as a whole honor Founders Day?

**Bring your answers to the January General Meeting and enter in the prize drawing!**

**Good Luck!**