

COUNCIL MESSAGES

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs

every child. one voice

March-April, 2013

Issue 4

March 20 HCC General Mtg/Program: **Illegal Substances & Our Kids**

10 a.m. at the HCESC

Guest Speaker: Officer Joe Willig, Harrison Police Dept. DARE

I don't think anyone believes anymore that substance abuse is "just an inner-city problem." But do you know what is really out there? Do you know the street names? Do you know the signs to look for? Join us and hear Officer Willig give us the most up-to-date information we as parents need to have to keep on top of this very real and very sad problem.

April 17, HCC Evening Dessert Program 7:00 p.m.

Honorees will be our:

State Reflections Winners and Honorable Mentions

Student, Teacher, Administrator Scholarship and Vocational Readiness Recipients

District Educators of the Year

Unit Membership Award Recipient

Hosted by

Finneytown Local School District & PTAs at

Finneytown Secondary Campus

8916 Fountainebleau Terrace 45231

(registration form at the end of this newsletter)



SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

A sincere THANK YOU goes out to all the schools in our Council who sent in scholarship contributions this year. A scholarship is awarded to one student from each of our member high schools, three educators and two vocational readiness recipients. These scholarship recipients will be invited to attend the Hamilton County Council of PTAs Evening Dessert Meeting to celebrate their achievement. The following is a list of the PTAs and others who have made a contribution to the HCC Scholarship Fund as of Feb. 15:

Dr. Ralph Sinks

Finneytown School District: Finneytown Elementary and Finneytown Secondary.

Hamilton County DDS: Bobbie Fairfax and Margaret Rost.

Northwest School District: Colerain Elementary, Colerain High School, Colerain Middle School, Monfort Heights Elementary, Northwest High School, Pleasant Run Elementary, Pleasant Run Middle School, Weigel Elementary, Welch Elementary, and White Oak Middle School.

Oak Hills School District: Bridgetown Middle School, CO Harrison Elementary, Delshire Elementary, Dulles Elementary, Oak Hills High School, Oakdale Elementary, Rapid Run Middle School, and Springmyer Elementary.

Southwest School District: Miamitown Elementary, Harrison JR/SR School, and Whitewater Valley Elementary.

Three Rivers School District: Three Rivers Elementary, Three Rivers Middle School, and Taylor High School.

Donna Elbe, Scholarship Coordinator

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP STILL GROWING?

CONGRATULATIONS to our two new 100% Teacher Membership Award winners. They are **WHITEWATER VALLEY ELEMENTARY AND FINNEYTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**. You can still send new members to the Ohio PTA Office and any you send before March 31 will be a part of this year's total.

It is now an important time for you to help Council in our selection of this year's Council Membership Award Winner/Winners. How do we make this choice? We most often check the schools that have increased membership over the past year. Some schools have increased a lot and some schools just a little. But that is not the whole criteria. Did you do something special to promote membership in your Unit? Did you push membership at each of your meetings? We would like to know what special ways you used to get more members to join your Unit.

You do so many great things for your schools during the year and other schools and we on Council would enjoy hearing your success stories. You have wonderful fundraisers and programs and I know you find unique ways to increase your membership.

We would love to hear your ideas, especially those concerning your membership drive, and then we would like to print those ideas in our next "Council Messages" issue. We will, of course, credit your unit. This will help all our units as they think about and plan for next year's membership campaign. And this is one way to let others know how truly successful your unit has been.

Please e-mail me at carolchili@fuse.net with your special campaign ideas by March 11 and help us to select our Membership Award Winner for this year.

Carol Kiradjieff, Membership Chairmen



COUNCIL SLATE OF OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR 2013-2014

The following slate was presented at the February General Meeting and will be presented again at the March General Meeting where nominations from the floor will be accepted. The vote will follow. Make sure your delegate/alt. delegate is there so your unit's voice is heard.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| President: | Elaine Efkeman, Southwest |
| 1 st Vice President: | Lori Kleiman, Finneytown |
| 2 nd Vice President: | Janine Schneider, Three Rivers |
| Recording Secretary: | Carol Kiradjieff, Oak Hills |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Jan Hunter, Oak Hills |
| Treasurer: | Linus Ryland, Oak Hills |



Make plans to join the Ohio PTA Team now by volunteering for the National PTA Convention in Cincinnati. As the host state and especially as the host city we would love to have a great turn out. You can volunteer on any day (s) for a minimum of 4 hours (shifts will be in 2 hour intervals.) Areas of interest include: registration, workshops, host/hostess or you can volunteer for wherever they need you. And a Convention T-shirt will be provided. Do it as a group from your unit to make it even more fun. Contact OPTA 1-800-699-6628, go to their website, or contact Elaine Efkeman, HCC President, 738-2770 or elaine50@fuse.net for a sign up form.

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL 2012-2013 REFLECTIONS

(ENTRIES THAT WENT ON TO OPTA)

DANCE

Intermediate --- Chloe Amlin - CO Harrison

MUSIC

Senior

Andrew Walker - CHS

Middle

Mhea Zwerin - Bridgetown Middle

Becca Chai - Bridgetown Middle

FILM

Senior

Evan Mauntel - CHS

Middle

James Fain - Finneytown Secondary

Brianna Jones - WOMS

Intermediate

Aubrey Weaver - Finneytown

Josie Holland - Dulles

Paula Connelly - CO Harrison

LITERATURE

Middle

Hallie Menkhaus - Three Rivers

Alexander Krueger - WOMS

Emma Fitzgerald - WOMS

Elizabeth Cran - Bridgetown

Primary

Megan Geers - Harrison

Emma Fankhauser - Struble

Natalie Alcon - Struble

Conner Boehmite - Struble

Intermediate

Mallory Burke - MHEA

Christian Gehring - MHEA

Grace Armentrout - CO Harrison (had two entries move on)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Senior

Samantha Ponsock - WM Henry Harrison

Mackenzie Smith - CHS

Hannah Mossman - NWHS

Emily Adkins - Oak Hills

Intermediate

Conner Schultz - Whitewater Valley

Aubrey Weaver - Finneytown

Harper Gable - MHE

Jack Hart - Delshire

Middle

Brianna Jones - WOMS (had two entries move on)

Madeline Schwoeppe - Rapid Run

Karli Lippert - Rapid Run

Primary

Ava Weaver - Finneytown

Lucas Campbell - MHE

Will Steioff - CO Harrison (had two entries move on)

VISUAL ARTS

Senior

Tessie Havig - NWHS

Taylor Helms - Oak Hills

Erika Frondorf - Oak Hills

Cameron Suter - Oak Hills

Intermediate

Riece Crooks - Weigel

Karlie Sturgill - MHE

Katie Wernicke - MHE

Katie Olson - Delshire

Middle

Selena Neal - PRMS

Kayla Dillon - CMS

Hazel Swisshelm - WOMS

Elizabeth Cron - Bridgetown

Primary

Alexis Campos - Miamitown

Mitchell Bolden - CE

Ellena Burgin - MHE

Gia Hensley - Delshire

Special Artist -- Lindsey Cornn - Whitewater



Friend of Children Award

The ***Friend of Children Award*** was designed by the Hamilton County Council of PTAs. It can be purchased by a unit or individual and presented to someone who has shown a special interest in helping children. The effort made by the recipient need not be PTA related. Possible recipients might be tutors, PTA volunteers, scout leaders, teachers, administrators, newspaper writers, corporate executives, a business volunteer group, and so on. Council would like to provide you with a way to show your appreciation for that individual's or group's efforts on behalf of children.

The cost of each award is \$20. The award includes a special cloisonné *Friend of Children* lapel pin and a certificate suitable for framing for you to present to the individual you are honoring. In addition, a donation will be made in the name of the recipient to the Hamilton County Council of PTAs Scholarship Fund.

For more information contact:

Jan Hunter
#922-1946 (H)
jch8387@hotmail.com

Order an award by completing the order form below and sending form along with \$20 payment to:

Jan Hunter
2573 Countrylake Dr.
Cincinnati 45233

Friend of Children ORDER FORM

Recipient Name _____

Presented by _____

Date for Certificate _____

Short Description of Recipient/Reason for Award _____

Contact person _____ Phone _____

Mail certificate and pin to: Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make \$20 check payable to: Hamilton County Council of PTAs

A GUIDE TO BYLAWS

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** and **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 bylaws. 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 Bylaws for Units from Ohio PTA.
2. Obtain a current copy of your unit bylaws. Can't find your bylaws, then contact OPTA for a copy.
3. Appoint a committee (choose members who are interested in this job; your president can be a member of this committee.)
4. Compare the Sample By-Laws with your unit bylaws.
5. Starred items (*), Articles and Sections, are required and may not be edited except as noted on the sample. This assures that your bylaws 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 bylaws without further action on your part.
6. Be sure to check the "helpful hints" on the Sample Bylaws.

After you have made your changes, follow the procedure noted in the "Amendments" Article in your bylaws. Present the changes to your board first, then to your membership. Read aloud the amendments or if revised, have a complete set of the bylaws 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. After discussion, the president will call for the vote on the changes. The bylaws must be approved by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting.

After approval by your membership, you will submit the new bylaws to Ohio PTA for approval. Complete the cover sheet included with the Sample Bylaws, and e-mail the bylaws to our District #6 Advisor. 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 and membership and retain the master copy for the secretary's minutes.

Any questions please let me know. (This is Ohio PTA information).

Carol Kiradjieff (carolchili@fuse.net)
Membership Chair & Council Resource Member

OHIO PTA 107th CONVENTION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

APRIL 19-21, 2013

Double Tree Hotel
Columbus, OH 43235

NATIONAL PTA PRESIDENT BETSY LANDERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Mauricio Velasquez-President of the Diversity Training Group
Carole Morbitzer-2013 Ohio Teacher of the Year

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM on the OPTA web

"YOUR PTA PASSPORT"



CONGRATULATIONS to our January General Meeting winner: **Anne McIntosh**, Delegate from Crosby Elementary in the Southwest 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 GAME – Changing Your Bylaws

1. What are the two ways to change your bylaws?
2. How often should we review our bylaws?
3. When should you change your bylaws by using amendments?
4. What does a revision of your bylaws include?
5. Starred * items, Articles and Sections are required to be in your bylaws but you may edited or move a section to another article if your membership approves it. (True or False)
6. If your bylaws have been “lost”, where can you find a copy?
7. Name two the steps you should follow in updating your bylaws (there are 6)
8. How many times should you present the bylaws to your membership?
9. What is needed to approve amended or revised bylaws?
10. After the membership votes and approves the amendments/revision you are done until next year. (True or false)
11. Name two pieces of information that needs to be included on the cover sheet before sending your bylaws to OPTA.
12. Once the bylaws have been returned from OPTA it is only necessary for the membership to have copies. (True or false)

Bring your answers to the March General Meeting, share your knowledge, & enter your name in the prize drawing!

Good Luck!

MEMBERSHIP ALERT

How did you promote your Membership drive this year? Did you do something special? Council would like to know a special technique that you may have used to get people to join your PTA. Please let us know. You may become this year's Membership Award winner.

Send your ideas to Carol Kiradjieff, carolchili@fuse.net

Advocacy February 2013!

*****PTA TAKE ACTION*** Support Student Access to Mental Health Services**

Ask your Members of Congress to Cosponsor the Mental Health in Schools Act

<http://capwiz.com/npta2/issues/alert/?alertid=62370566&queueid=9224293236>

National PTA recently endorsed the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2013, a bill that, if enacted, would increase access to mental health services and support for students and families. Recent tragedies across the nation have highlighted the need for improved access to mental health services. Nearly 70 percent of adolescents living with mental illness do not receive treatment. The American School Counselor Association recommends one school counselor for every 250 students, yet the national average during the 2010-11 school year was one counselor for every 471 students.

Here are some educational hot topics:

The following is taken from National PTA Emails:

2012 National PTA Public Policy Agenda and Executive Summary Now Available

Each year, National PTA publishes its top federal policy priorities and recommendations for Congress and the Administration. The 2013 agenda includes a new section on school safety, which features policy recommendations related to safe routes to school, anti-bullying efforts and gun violence prevention. Website:

http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3222&navItemNumber=556&utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=PTA_Takes_Action_Update_February_2013&utm_medium=email

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Proposed Min. Nutrition Standards for Competitive Foods

The promulgation of a proposed rule initiates a public comment period on school foods sold through vending machines, a la carte lines, and school stores. National PTA and its network of nearly 5 million parents and educators strongly supported the enactment of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which passed with bipartisan support in 2010. Its continued implementation, including the establishment of nutritional guidelines for competitive foods, is a top priority for National PTA.

Registration for the 2013 National PTA Legislative Conference Now Open

Taking place March 12-14, 2013 in Arlington, VA, the National PTA Legislative Conference brings PTA advocates to the nation's capital for comprehensive advocacy trainings, PTA policy issue debriefs, Congressional visits and more.

The following is taken from Ohio PTA "The News":

Youth Suicide Prevention HB543

Incorporates youth suicide awareness and prevention training into school district in-service training requirements. Materials are being provided to school districts free of charge through The Jason Foundation Inc. and other health providers.

Sequestration and American Taxpayer Relief Act (HR8)

HR8 passing has delayed the 8.2% across the board spending cuts (sequestration) until March if not changed.

Ohio PTA Recommends Wait On "Charitable Trust Act" Filing

The Attorney General's Office is not set up for organizations filing yet. PTA will forward information later.

Gov. Kasich's school-funding proposal (Budget Proposal HB59)— school district spreadsheets released (from OSBA-"Facts in a Flash")

The state Office of Budget and Management (OBM) released district-by-district spreadsheets simulating the dollars generated under the governor's school-funding proposal. (Note: FY 2013 base excludes funding for transportation as calculated for FY 2011 and the career technical education attributed funds).

spreadsheets by district: <http://jobsbudget.ohio.gov/documents/Preliminary-District.pdf>

Join the "PTA Take Action Network" by signing up at: <http://www.pta.org/takesaction/>

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

*YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE
HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs
EVENING DESSERT MEETING*

**Wednesday April 17, 2013
Desserts @ 7:00PM Program starts @ 7:30 PM**

**FINNEYTOWN SECONDARY CAMPUS
8916 Fountainebleau Terrace 45231**



WE WILL BE HONORING:

*PTA Reflections State Winners & Honorable Mentions
Student Scholarship & Vocational Readiness Recipients
Educator Scholarship Recipients
District Educators of the Year
Unit Membership Award Recipient*

**RSVP Due to HCC (Elise Fessler) by April 12th
You can mail this form or e-mail requested information to address below**

**PTA unit Presidents should coordinate RSVPs for their unit including:
Principal, Reflection chair, Reflection winners, Scholarship recipients,
District Educator of the Year and any winner/recipients' accompanying guests**

Return to: Elise Fessler, 9086 Millcliff Dr. Cincinnati, Ohio 45231
E Mail : bfsing@ccinci.rr.com

RESERVATIONS

Print names of those attending below (& on back if needed)
PTA Unit & School District _____

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|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |