

COUNCIL MESSAGES

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs

every child. one voice

November -December, 2013

Issue 2

November 20th HCC Program

Safety in Our Schools

We have all heard about the various safety programs that have been put into place in our schools – the responsibilities of the school staff, the police, other emergency responders -- but what about the parents that might be volunteering in the school at the time of a crisis. Did you ever think about what you would do if you were there – Where would you go? What would you do if you had students with you? What is expected of you? This program will help answer these questions and more. Please join us.

MEMBERSHIP – SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR!

MEMBERSHIP DUES REVIEW

Accountability is important in our PTAs. An assessment of dues accountability is the responsibility of each unit. What does this mean? It means that your unit is responsible to submit \$4 per member directly to OPTA each month. At the end of your year, the amount of dues you submit should match your full membership for the year. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!** If any unit accepts membership dues in the name of PTA and does not forward the state and national portion, this constitutes fraud. We are all accountable. If a member pays to join, they should receive a membership card and they should also feel that they are now a part of Ohio and National PTAs.

A Membership Dues Review will allow OPTA to randomly verify the compliance of your unit. How to make sure you are in compliance? Remitting the dues amount to OPTA is the responsibility of your entire board. The President, Membership Chair and Treasurer should be the ones collecting, posting, documenting and sending in membership monies each month. You should complete a Membership Cover Sheet each time you send in dues money.

Your unit may receive a Membership Dues Review. If your unit receives this form, you must reply immediately. OPTA will then let you know they received your information and will inform you if more verification is required. They are requesting your cooperation. If you need more information after receiving this form, you can reach OPTA by e-mailing membership@ohiopta.org.

Our goal this year is to raise PTA membership by 10%. If every unit strives for this goal, more voices will be heard on behalf of our children.

Carol Kiradjieff, Membership Chair, carolchili@fuse.net

(**This information is from OPTA in there newsletter, THE NEWS.)



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UNITS

At the Executive Luncheon we recognized 8 of our schools who had already achieved 100% Teacher Membership. Congratulations to: Bridgetown Middle (OH), CO Harrison Elem. (OH), Crosby Elem. (SW), Delhi Middle (OH), Delshire Elem OH), Monfort Heights Elem. (NW), Oakdale Elem. (OH), and Whitewater Valley Elem. (SW)



SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Thank you for your past scholarship donations. It is very important that our units participate in this program. These donations fund the Student and Vocational Readiness Scholarships, one to a graduating senior from each high school in our 6 school districts and one to a student from each of the HCDDS schools. They also fund the teacher/staff scholarships for which any teacher, elementary through senior level or administrator may apply.

Please mail your scholarship donation by February 15, 2014 to Linus Ryland, HCC Treasurer, 1065 Sundance Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45233. Checks are made payable to HCC PTA/Scholarship Fund. Scholarship applications will be available at the schools around the first week of January.

Please note: Schools who do not contribute to the Scholarship Fund will be ineligible for any scholarships.

Thank you so much for your help with this very important program. Please contact your district Area Advisor with any questions or concerns.

Advocacy Report

What do school lunches, polio vaccines, gun safety, substance abuse education and family involvement requirements within No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation have in common?

PTA has advocated for them all!

Did you know that PTA is the largest and oldest child advocacy organization dedicated to the health, welfare, safety and education of children? Advocacy is an intrinsic part of PTA:

The PTA Mission:

- A powerful voice for all children
- A relevant resource for families and communities
- ***A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child***

The PTA Purposes:

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship
- To raise the standards of home life
- ***To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth***
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth
- To develop between educators and the general public such efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education

So we have discussed the why, so how about the what...

What can you do? As a parent we are all advocates for our children. PTA helps with that by providing parent education and supporting family involvement in the schools. Because PTA is a respected part of the education and youth community, we often have a say with governmental and other organizations. You are a part of that by just joining PTA. Being a member is your first additional step in advocacy. Perhaps you want to take advocacy another step. Stay informed! That is where the PTA Advocacy Committees come in. Please look for this monthly report and look to other resources (listed below). An even bigger step is to contact legislators or others about issues that concern you. Ohio PTA has also created a great tool for online advocacy:

CAPWIZ found at www.ohiopta.org click on the Advocacy link
With CAPWIZ find your legislators, look up legislation,
SIGN UP for the "PTA Takes Action" at the bottom of the website page

Useful Advocacy websites:

Ohio PTA	www.ohiopta.org
National PTA	www.pta.org
State of Ohio	www.ohio.gov
Ohio School Boards Assoc.	www.osba-ohio.org

Current Advocacy Update:

ACTION ALERT: HB237 Delaying of Common Core. PTA opposes. Send an email from Advocacy “Issues and Legislation” Tab.

Note: Common Core Parent Guides available at: <http://www.ptacommoncore.org/>

Other Ohio Legislation Concerning Children (from Ohio PTA website):

SB96 To require one unit of world history in the high school social studies curriculum.

SB42 school districts levy exclusively for school safety and security purposes.

SB21 Third-Grade Reading Guarantee.

SB15 General Assembly to determine cost of a high quality public primary and secondary education.

HB237 With respect to the Common Core Initiative academic standards and the distribution of student information.

HB228 To reform the system of funding elementary and secondary education.

HB215 To authorize a board of education or governing authority of a school to enter into an agreement with a volunteer who is a current or retired law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event.

HB193 To revise current high school diploma requirements including state-administered assessments.

HB181 To prohibit submission of a student's personal identifiable information to the federal government without direct authorization of the local school board.

HB167 To authorize school districts with an average daily membership greater than 60,000 and located in a city with a population greater than 700,000 to levy property taxes, the revenue from which may be shared with partnering community schools.

HB59 Operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015

HB32 Establish a minimum school year based on hours

HB18 With respect to metal detectors in public schools.

HB8 To revise the school safety laws.

All of the above can be found on the Advocacy “Issues and Legislation” Tab with links to more information about each Bill

Please contact me (Elise Fessler @ bfsing@cinci.rr.com, HCC 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).

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2014 Founder's Day Service Project

Supporting: *May We Help*

Their Mission: "Our volunteers design and create unique, custom solutions to free individuals with special needs to engage in, and pursue their passions."

Visit their website for more information: www.MayWeHelp.org

Requested Donations:

Gift Cards for Home Depot or Lowes

Pre-paid Visa

Monetary Donations

Make checks payable to: **May We Help**

Examples of "May We Help" projects:

Music stand for person with visual impairments.....



Locker shelving unit



Tracheotomy water therapy guard



Please bring gifts to the February 19th HCC General Meeting or contact Elise Fessler (931-4234, bfsing@cinci.rr.com) for other arrangements.

COUNCIL DUES

It's that time again! Each unit in the Hamilton County Council is responsible for paying dues. These dues must be paid by November 30th to remain in good standing and participate in council business i.e.: Reflections, Outstanding Council Educator, Scholarships or Membership Awards. Dues are based on your unit membership numbers from last year.

If you have any questions, contact Linus Ryland, HCC Treasurer, Linus.ryland@fuse.net

Checks are made payable to HCC PTA/Dues and should be mailed to:

Linus Ryland, HCC Treasurer, 1065 Sundance Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45233.



CONGRATULATIONS TO COUNCIL'S 2013 OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

Linda Brown

She retired at the end of last year from Bobbie Fairfax, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services
She was honored at the September Executive Luncheon, receiving a beautifully engraved glass apple paperweight.



Hamilton County Council of PTAs has a variety of items available which are great for saying "thanks" to your board members, teachers, staff, or maybe just a little gift for yourself. A really nice gift for everyone is our new book, "Life Made Simple" with sections on: Teacher/Staff Appreciation, Snacks for Meetings, Inspirations, Easy Main Meals, Installations, and Kids Time (great ideas for crafts and goodies to make with your children or grandchildren.) All offer you, the busy volunteer great, easy solutions whether it is for your meetings, something to do on a rainy day with your children or a simple meal at the end of a busy day. They would make great holiday gifts and it's a "steal" at only \$5. Come take a peek and see for yourself. And of course we still have our great selection of pins, PTA board position pins, earrings, key chains and PTA note cards – always a nice way of saying "thanks." Prices vary from \$2 to \$5. Contact Lori Mueller, Ways & Means Chairman for information at: lmueller@fuse.net or 513-367-1069

If you have not already sent in your membership numbers to OPTA they must be in by November 30th to be a unit in good standing!

Don't forget to vote!

November 5th

And now turn the page and do the Council Game on the last page of this month's Council Messages, then bring it with you to be entered into the November General Meeting prize drawing

***NOVEMBER COUNCIL GAME:* PTA SCRAMBLE**

This month's game is a word scramble. All the words relate to something about your Council, National PTA or Ohio PTA. Complete the scramble and bring it to the November 20th General Meeting where you can enter it for a chance to win a prize. Make yourself a copy so you'll remember your answers. Good luck!

1. ako eret
2. ohlcSo fo mtoIfrnnoai
3. listfReoecn
4. wlybsa
5. tnerulevso
6. ribeehmmmps dcra
7. lgedetea
8. elbu dan dglo
9. ceveisr orcjspte
10. scennoetvoni
11. ssoorniluet
12. uesodrFn aDy
13. erniFd fo iCdnrhle
14. "feiL dMea eipSml"
15. taigdtusnnO ioCculn dctroauE
16. nmdtmneae
17. lyEra rBid rwadA
18. nnaidgts uerls
19. nveiEgn stsreDe
20. cnlioCu sMaessg

Name: _____

School PTA: _____

Check out our website at www.HCCPTAs.org