

# COUNCIL MESSAGES

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs

*every child. one voice*

November -December, 2014

Issue 2

## November 19th HCC Program *Suicide - Warning Signs & Our Youth* 10 a.m at the HCESC

The sad fact is that too many young people see suicide or attempts at suicide as the only solution to their problems. Even if your children don't personally know of someone who has attempted or committed suicide they have heard of someone. Please join us for a very helpful and informational program on the issue of suicidality by Amy J. Wiggerhaus, LPCC-S. She is the Team Leader of the School-based Program from the Department of Psychiatry at Children's Hospital Medical Center.

## *MEMBERSHIP - A Requirement for Your Unit*

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:carolchili@fuse.net)

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



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UNITS

Nine (9) of our schools have already achieved 100% Teacher Membership!! Congratulations to: Bridgetown Middle (OH), CO Harrison Elem. (OH), Delhi Middle (OH), Delshire Elem OH), Monfort Heights Elem. (NW), Oakdale Elem. (OH), Rapid Run Middle (OH), Springmyer Elem (OH), and Whitewater Valley Elem. (SW). Please notify Carol Kiradjieff when your unit reaches this achievement so we can recognize your unit at one of our General Meetings.

# HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs



## 2015 Founder's Day Service Project

### Comfort Quilts for Kids

Each new family coming in to Ronald McDonald House receives a Welcome Bag containing a few items to make their stay a little more comfortable and to make them feel special and cared for. They try to include a small toy for the child, a notepad and pen, some toiletries, and most importantly a small, handmade quilt. These quilts can be very comforting to the children and also serve as treasured mementoes of their time spent at the Ronald McDonald House.

As you can imagine the number of quilts needed is always high as is the cost of the materials needed to make them. Groups of Comfort Quilts for Kids supporters meet several times a month around the Cincinnati tri-state area to make these quilts. These volunteers donate their time and talents to making the quilts but the cost of the materials needed – fabric, batting, thread, etc. – is a constant expense. Each quilt is 40” x 40”. Elaine Efke, Council Immediate Past President is one of these volunteers.

This year Council is asking our units to donate to this very worthy cause. All of our donations will go the group meeting at the library in Lawrenceburg who make quilts for the children in our very own Children’s Hospital.

#### Requested Donations:

*Gift Cards for JoAnn Fabric, Hancock’s Fabric, Hobby Lobby  
(or any other place that sells quilt making materials)*

*Pre-paid Visa or Mastercard*

*Monetary Donations*

Make checks payable to: **Ronald McDonald House/Comfort Quilts for Kids**



*Quilts made by the Lawrenceburg group*



If you are interested in joining a group, please contact the founder of this program, Nora Kelly at [norakel@fuse.net](mailto:norakel@fuse.net).

Please bring gifts to the February 18th HCC Founders’ Day Program/General Meeting. Contact Elaine Efke, 738-2770, [Elaine50@fuse.net](mailto:Elaine50@fuse.net) if you have any questions.

## 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 and 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](mailto: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 2014 OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

*David Kelly*

He is the principal at Miamitown Elementary in the Southwest Local School District.

He was honored at the September Executive Luncheon, receiving a beautifully engraved desk clock/pen set and a year's subscription to the National PTA Our Children Magazine.



## 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 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, 2015 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 Laura Kumler, Council Scholarship Coordinator, 607-3617, if you have any questions.



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 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. Other items such as pins and note cards are also available. Come take a peek and see for yourself. Prices vary from \$2 to \$5. Contact Lori Mueller, Ways & Means Chairman for information at: [lmueller@fuse.net](mailto:lmueller@fuse.net) or 513-367-1069

**REFLECTIONS:** Check with your Area Advisor for the due in your district. Any questions check with your Area Advisor or Council Coordinator, Kathie Smith, 509-9225, [klsmith@sibcycline.com](mailto:klsmith@sibcycline.com)

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

## NOVEMBER COUNCIL GAME: Holiday Trivia

With the holidays fast approaching I thought it would be fun to see how much knowledge we have about this widely celebrated time of the year. Put on your trivia cap, answer the questions below, then bring your answers to the November 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting and enter for a chance to win a prize.

1. Where did the Christmas tree originate?      America    Asia    Europe    Africa
2. Where are most Christmas trees grown?      Wild Forests    Tropical Jungles    Tree Farms    Deserts
3. What were the first artificial Christmas trees made from?    Goose Feathers    Plastic    Metal    Silk
4. What do most Europeans use for Christmas tree lights?  
    Incandescent Bulbs      LED lights      Real Candles      Flood Lights
5. What is a tree with fake snow called?      Snowed    Flocked    White    Frosted
6. When do most Americans put up a Christmas tree?  
    Weekend after Thanksgiving    1<sup>st</sup> week of December    2<sup>nd</sup> week of December    Christmas Eve
7. When do most Europeans put up a Christmas tree?  
    Weekend after Thanksgiving    1<sup>st</sup> week of December    2<sup>nd</sup> week of December    Christmas Eve
8. In what country was the first Christmas card created?      France    Germany    Spain    England
9. Which of these companies was the first to use Santa Claus in an advertisement?  
    Pepsi      Coca Cola      7 Up      RC Cola
10. Which president was the first to decorate the White House Christmas tree?  
    Franklin Pierce      Benjamin Franklin      George Washington      Abraham Lincoln
11. In what year did the US Postal System issue its first Christmas stamp?      1942    1952    1962    1972
12. How many times is the name Santa Clause used in “The Night Before Christmas”?      2    0    5    7
13. What musical instrument was “Silent Night” first played on?      Guitar    Organ    Flute    Harp
14. In what ocean can you find Christmas Island?      Indian    Arctic    Atlantic    Pacific
15. Which US state was the first to recognize Christmas as an official holiday?  
    New York      Alabama      Virginia      Pennsylvania
16. Name the Grinch’s dog in the movie “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”?    Pete    Sam    Ruth    Max
17. In the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life” what is the angel’s first name?    Clarence    Samuel    William    Stanley
18. What kind of Christmas does Elvis Presley sing about?      Red    White    Blue    Snowy
19. In what year was “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens published?      1765    1843    1860    1906
20. What two reindeer are mentioned in the song “Here Comes Santa Claus”?  
    Dancer & Prancer      Donner & Blitzen      Vixen & Blitzen      Comet & Cupid
21. What European country is “The Nutcracker” set?      Germany    Russia    Poland    Denmark
22. If you were to receive all of the gifts in the song “The 12 Days of Christmas,” how many gifts would you receive?    144    284    364    424