

COUNCIL MESSAGES

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs

every child. one voice

January-February, 2016

Issue 3

January 20 HCC General Meeting
Program: TBA
10:00 a.m. at the HCESC
Auditorium

Reflections Open House
February 16 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 17 HCC General Meeting
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

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP STILL GROWING?

Happy New Year and congratulations to all units who have reached 100% teacher membership as well as the units that have sent their membership list in by November 30, 2015. Sending in your membership dues has put you in good standing with the OPTA and your unit is eligible to participate in Reflections, Scholarships, Membership Perks, etc. Remember to continue your membership drive throughout the year by setting up a membership table at school functions and contacting grandparents, friends, neighbors and local businesses to increase your membership. Don't forget the OPTA has challenged all PTA units to increase last year's membership by 5%. Are we up for the challenge?

YES WE ARE! So let's continue obtaining members so we can exceed that goal!

Please keep me informed on how your unit is doing, individual campaigns and when you reach 100% teacher membership.

Ericia Perkins, HCC Membership Chairman, eperkins0323@gmail.com



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 15, 2016 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 to: Linus Ryland, Council Treasurer
1065 Sundance Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45233

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

Don't forget to select your district's Educator of the Year due to Council at the March 9th 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.

SO WHAT ELSE HAPPENED on FEBRUARY 17th

We in PTA all know how important February 17 is because it was on this date in **1897** that 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, led by **Alice Mclellan Birney** and **Phoebe Apperson Hearst**, which later became the National PTA. We 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 National PTA has a great history accomplishing many important and worthy tasks throughout the years and is still doing so today.

Even though in our eyes the NPTA is the most important event getting their beginning on February 17 they do share their 'birthday' with several other newsworthy events occurring on this date. The earliest recorded event was in **1370** – the Battle at Rudau where Germany beats Lithuania. In **1568** the Holy Roman Emperor agrees to pay tribute to the Sultan for peace, in **1598** Boris Godunov is chosen as Tsar of Russia; in **1621** Myles Standish is elected as the first commander of the Plymouth Colony and in **1691** Thomas Neale is granted an English patent for American postal service. Other historic events include the harvesting of an 8.3-kg potato by Thomas Seddal in his home garden in Chester, England in **1795**; the US House of Representatives breaks an electoral college tie and chooses Thomas Jefferson President over Burr in **1801**; the 1st US city lit by gas (Baltimore) in **1817**; in **1865** Columbia SC burns down during Civil War; the 1st ship passes through Suez Canal in **1867**; Sardines are 1st canned in **1876** in Maine and in **1878** the 1st telephone exchange in SF opens with 18 phones (what is a telephone exchange??)

In **1901** Ohio became the 5th state (congress) to join the NPTA, this occurred on May 21 and while Arthur Honegger's "Pastorale D'ete" was premiering on Feb. 17, **1921** your Hamilton Council was also formed in that same year. We started with 9 school districts but now have Finneytown, HCDDS, Northwest, Oak Hills, Southwest, and Princeton PTSA 6-12.

But getting back to events of Feb, 17 - in **1924** Johnny Weissmuller sets 100-yard freestyle record (52.4 seconds) and *The New Yorker Magazine* is published for the first time in **1925**. In that same year NPTA began a nationwide project called Summer Round-up of Children, to identify and correct health problems. In **1936** the world's first superhero, The Phantom, a cartoon strip by Lee Falk, made his first appearance. Your NPTA was being a hero of its own by launching a Traffic Safety Education project. And while Joe Louis was busy KOing Gus Dorazio in 2 rounds for the heavyweight boxing title in **1941** NPTA was busy trying to KO child hunger by inaugurating a nationwide school lunch program. In **1954** NBC was airing its 1st broadcast in Albany-Troy, NY and PTA was helping to field test the Salk polio vaccine. The historic Suez Canal reopens in **1957** and NPTA is honored for outstanding volunteer leadership for helping to win acceptance of the polio vaccine use.

In **1966** the French satellite Diapason D-1A launch into Earth's orbit and NPTA launched their project on the issue of smoking and overall health. And while Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash record an album together in **1969** (it was never released) NPTA 'recorded' the very first Reflections Program which is still going strong today. Sadly Joni Mitchell gave her final concert at Royal Albert Hall in **1970**, but there was no sadness for PTA because they became even stronger when the NPTA and the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers united. In **1984** the film "Love Streams" was being shown love by the audiences at the 34th Berlin International Film Festival and PTA was showing love to its teachers letting them know they are an important part of the PTA unit by establishing Teacher Appreciation Week. In **1985** 1st class postage rises from 20 cents to 22 cents and Murray Haydon is the 3rd person to receive an artificial heart. NPTA also rises to the concerns of parents over what their children were hearing on Records, Tapes & Cassettes (You know those things that played music before we had Smartphones, Itunes and Ipods/Ipads) so a resolution was passed to develop a Rating System for Records, Tapes & Cassettes working with both legislators and the music companies to put labels identifying the type of music contained inside. Closing out the 80's while Howard Stern's radio show returns to NYC morning radio in **1986**, NPTA is busy instituting an AIDS Education Project and thus begins a multi-year AIDS education project in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control.

During the 90's not much happened around on the world on Feb. 17 but PTA was busy launching 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. A "Nutrition in Schools" campaign started with Forest Hills School District (then part of HCC); NPTA recognized the importance of parent involvement in a child's education and co-hosted a National Parent Involvement Summit and started the program "Taking Charge of Your TV", a critical viewing workshop in which the NPTA collaborated with the National Cable Television Association to help control the number of hours and the types of programs children/youth were watching.

In **2002** 'Always On Time' by R&B artist Ja Rule featuring Ashanti starts a two-week run at No. 1 on the US singles chart and PTA rules by cosponsoring Partners for Student Success Summit with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. NPTA also has a news release opposing school vouchers which is picked up by Good Morning America, ABC World News Tonight, and 20/20; brings 200 leaders to Washington, DC, for a legislative conference; and receives \$234,000 grant from Charles Stewart Mott Foundation for advocating for school-based, after-school programs.

Does anyone remember President George W. Bush naming John Negroponte as the first National Intelligence Director in **2005** but if you were involved in PTA then I bet you remember the Adopt-A-PTA program which delivered needed school supplies to disaster-stricken areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. NPTA also launches an effort to get more men involved in PTA and joins Internet Keep Safe Coalition to teach children rules for staying safe online. In **2008** during the 57th NBA All-Star Game: East beats West 134-128 at New Orleans while PTAs across the country held the first PTA Take Your Family to School week in February. National PTA also distributed the first PTA Back to School kit to all units and entered the world of social media with the launch of its Facebook page.

In **2012** approximately 70 ancient Olympic artifacts are stolen from the Archaeological Museum of Greece. While that is very unfortunate, NPTA fortunately is busy publishing a digital edition of *Our Children* magazine and bringing more than 150 PTA leaders to the White House for a day-long briefing with top administration officials to discuss challenges facing our nation's schools and communities. In **2013** Danica Patrick becomes the first woman at the Daytona 500 and the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series to win pole position. PTA is a winner too when it teams with Amazon Kindle to support family reading with the PTA Family Reading Experience, Powered by Kindle program, which helps children become better readers and fosters the love of reading through a set of free literacy games and activities that are fun for the whole family. The National Football League and National PTA also partnered that year to launch the Back to Sports initiative for youth health and fitness. In **2014** The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon premieres on NBC. NPTA does its own premiering of the NPTA and PTA Events mobile apps. It also partnered with LifeLock, Inc. to raise awareness about the long-term impact of online activity and encourage students to be good digital citizens. #ShareAwesome, a national campaign to spotlight and address important issues of online safety and digital citizenship in a fun, positive way is launched.

So if anyone thinks that PTA isn't as relevant today as when it began in 1897 they only have to look at the many tough issues still being tackled and addressed each year by the largest parent/teacher organization in the world.

Linda Day, Council Messages Editor & Past President of Council



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. And we have a really special **NEW** item – an 8 pack of blank note cards/envelopes made from winning entries in last year's Reflections program. A form is attached to this Newsletter (to see them in color go to our website at www.HCCPTAs.org Another 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/goodies to make with your children/grandchildren.) It offers the busy volunteer great, easy solutions for meetings, something to do on a rainy day with your children or a simple meal at the end of a busy day. Both items would make great holiday gifts. Other items are also available. Come take a peek and see for yourself. Prices vary from \$2 to \$6. Contact Lori Mueller, Ways & Means Chairman for information at: lmueller@fuse.net or 513-367-1069

Sue Hummer 2016 Founder's Day Service Project

(formerly called the Hamilton County Council of PTAs Founder's Day Service Project)



Kenzie's Closet



After discovering a classmate of her daughter could not attend prom because of financial difficulties, Brynne Coletti, worked behind the scenes to provide assistance to help the student. This started Mrs. Coletti on the road to creating a non-profit to help *any young woman with financial need* attend their prom and Kenzie's Closet was born. Mrs. Coletti named it after Makena "Kenzie" Comisar; a St. Ursula Academy senior who was killed in a single-car accident before she could attend her prom. Kenzie was known for her big heart and generosity.

The mission of Kenzie's Closet "is to dress young women for their high school prom so that no student in the **Tri-State area** misses her prom because of financial limitations." It opened its doors during the 2006 prom season. They are a 501(c)(3) organization. They work with social workers, school counselors and/or principals of accredited high schools for referrals.

They provide a boutique where the students come to 'shop' for the dress and accessories that will transform them into the "the princess of their dreams." They are paired with an adult 'personal shopper' to assist them and each receives a prom dress of her choice, new shoes, a wrap, purse, and two pieces of *bling jewelry* to complete her dream outfit. There are 5 volunteer professional seamstresses that make all necessary alterations so that each dress is a perfect fit. Special dates for 'shopping and fitting' are set aside for young ladies with special needs. There is **NO** cost for any of this to the young lady. What is not donated, especially larger dress sizes, are bought through local retailers. During the 2014 prom season they assisted 420 young women.

This year Council is asking our units to donate to this very worthy cause.

Requested Donations: *Prom attire including:
Clean dresses, wraps, purses & costume bling jewelry
Pre-paid Visa or MasterCard
Monetary Donations*

Make checks payable to: **Kenzie's Closet**

Please bring gifts to the February 17th HCC Founders' Day Program/General Meeting. Contact Elaine Efke, 738-2770, Elaine50@fuse.net if you have any questions.





CONGRATULATIONS to our November General Meeting winner: **Elise Fessler**, President and Delegate from Bobbie Fairfax PTA, HCDDS. Be the next winner of a nice prize, it's simple to do. All of the answers can be found in the article: 'So What Else Happened On February 17th' in this Council Messages.

COUNCIL MESSAGE'S GAME

1. What year and where was the earliest recorded event occurring on February 17?
2. Who was elected the first commander of Plymouth Colony?
3. What city was the first one in the US lit by gas?
4. Who were the founders of the National PTA?
5. When and where was that very important and historic first meeting?
6. What was the most important event occurring in 1901 even though it wasn't on Feb. 17?
7. What event was just as important and followed it in 1921?
8. Who is Johnny Weissmuller?
9. While NBC was airing its first broadcast in 1954 what very important task was the NPTA participating in?
10. Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash sort of made history by recording an album together in 1969 but what big program did NPTA 'record' that year that is still going strong today.
11. Who founded the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers?
12. In what year did the two organizations become one?
13. And some may think that the biggest event of 1986 was Howard Sterns' radio show returns to NYC morning radio but what really important activity was being initiated by the NPTA?
14. Who is John Negroponte?
15. The first PTA Take Your Family to School week was in February of what year?
16. In 2012 approximately 70 ancient Olympic artifacts are stolen from the Archaeological Museum of Greece. While that is very unfortunate, NPTA is busy doing what?
17. Who is Danica Patrick and what did she accomplish in 2013?
18. While Jimmy Fallon was premiering on The Tonight Show in 2014 the NPTA was premiering something of its own, what was it?

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