

# COUNCIL MESSAGES

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs

*every child. one voice*

September – October, 2018

Issue 1

[www.HCCPTAs.org](http://www.HCCPTAs.org)

<p>September 26 HCC Executive Luncheon <i>at Receptions</i></p> <p>3302 Westbourne Rd, 45248</p> <p>We will honor Council's Outstanding Educator and recognize any units who have already achieved 100% Teacher Membership</p> <p>Program begins at 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>(There is a reservation form on the last page of this newsletter that can be removed and mailed in)</p>	<p>October 10 HCC Program 10 a.m. at the HCESC</p> <p><b>Program: State Board of Education Update</b> <b>Speaker: Pat Bruns, Board Member</b></p> <p>As voting members of Council, it is the responsibility of the unit delegate and/or alternate delegate to attend Council General Meetings. However, Council programs are open to anyone from your unit, so please come join us.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Meeting has been changed to the 2<sup>ND</sup> Wednesday due to room availability</p>
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## ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

Many of our meeting dates for the upcoming school year had to be changed from the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday because of holidays, conflict with district calendar schedules or meeting room availability at the County Office. This is just a reminder from the information that was sent out at the end of last school year.

If the Delegate or Alternate Delegate is unable to attend, please make sure your unit is represented and their voice is heard by having a representative attend the General Meetings. And of course anyone else interested in attending is always welcome.

## 2018-2019 HCC GENERAL MEETING

August 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>5th Wednesday</b>	10:00am General Meeting	Auditorium
	<b>Program: PTA 101 – Starting Off the New Year</b>		
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>4th Wednesday</b>	<b>11:30am</b> Executive Luncheon	Receptions – West side
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</b>	10:00am General Meeting	Auditorium
	<b>Program: State Board of Education Update</b>		
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</b>	10:00am General Meeting	Conference Room
January 16, 2019	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday</b>	10:00am General Meeting	Auditorium
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Founders Day Program /Reflections Display	Display 9:00-10:00 AM	Program: 10:00AM
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Reflections Open House 6:30-8:30 PM	All events in the Conference Room	
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</b>	10:00am General Meeting	Auditorium
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00pm</b> Evening Dessert	Location: TBD Host: Southwest School District

## PTA MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a PTA unit is important for students, teachers, school staff, and parents. The more members PTA has the more likely we will be heard by the Legislators at the local, state and national levels on issues that effect our schools. There is a lot of talk about educational change and teacher accountability, so make your voice heard by becoming a member of the oldest organization that continually speaks and works on behalf of children and youth.

Membership chairman please take advantage of back to school packets from your principal and your school newsletter to send out your Membership Invitation announcement and send your teachers an introductory letter about becoming a member. Ask your principal if you can set up a membership table at beginning of the school year events: Open House/Meet the teacher night, sporting events, and other events that your school has. Don't forget to ask: grandparents, family, friends, school business partners, and businesses that the families frequent. Please be sure that everyone that serves on the unit board (chairman, committee members and elected officers) are PTA members.

If your unit offers a special price. if more than one family member joins, just remember you must still send in dues to OPTA/NPTA for **each** person and **each** member receives a membership card.

Don't miss out on these upcoming Awards: Ohio PTA Cardinal Early Bird Award given to units that submit their first round of membership dues by September 30, 2018 and Council's 100% Teacher Membership. Council will recognize units who have reached 100% teacher membership at our annual Executive Luncheon on September 26, 2018. Please email me as soon as you have reached this accomplishment so that your unit is presented with this award.

Ericia Perkins, Membership Chair [eperkins0323@gmail.com](mailto:eperkins0323@gmail.com)



## EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR TIME IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Your Area Advisor will receive the nomination form and an instruction letter at Council's October 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting. Presidents, as soon as you get your packet of information from your Area Advisor, start your process for selecting your school's nominee. Get your committee together, solicit nominations from parents, staff and students, make your selection and then submit your nominee to your Area Advisor. Please check with your Area Advisor for any additional directions. Each of our five school districts will submit one nominee to Council to be their district's Educator of the Year. **How your school district selects the district nominee is determined by your Area Advisor.** The nominations are due back to Council by March 6, 2019; *however*, your Area Advisor may set an earlier deadline to be turned in at the district level. Each district educator will be honored at the Hamilton County Council of PTAs' Evening Dessert Meeting, April 17, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact either your Area Advisor or myself.

Linda Day, Outstanding Council Educator Chairman

*The Sue Hummer HCC Founders' Day Service Project for 2018-2019 will be announced at the October General Meeting. We hope all our units will once again make the new project as successful as our previous projects have been.*

## COUNCIL MESSAGES' GAMES ARE BACK FOR ANOTHER FUN YEAR

Don't forget to look for a game in each newsletter. Read the accompanying article (if there is one) and then complete the game. Please bring your results to the general meeting for a chance to win a prize.

## *Home Alone After School?*

Will your child becoming home after school to an empty house? Whether this is the first time or they have done it before, it is important to set guidelines and go over basic safety rules so your child knows exactly what is expected of them and what to do in case an of emergency. Inspect your house making sure there are no hazards, can your child lock and unlock the doors and windows, operate the security system (if you have one), operate appliances (if allowed) and know what the smoke alarm sounds like. Do they know how/when to call 911. Post your work numbers and those of neighbors he could call for help. Write your home address and phone number on the list, too, so he won't forget them in a moment of panic.

The first rule should always be for them to check in upon arriving home either with you or a designated adult. Leave a spare key with a neighbor in case your child loses theirs. Never hide one outside your house, wherever you can think of so can a burglar. And don't put your name or address on your child's key or key chain. This makes it easier for a person who finds it to break into your home. Have them wear the key on a chain around their neck or on a chain threaded through a belt loop. It should be kept hidden under the shirt or in pants pocket.

Every parent should have a different, special word (code word) for each child. In case of an emergency yourself and you had to send someone to the house, without being able to contact your child and let them know, you would tell the word to the person so that the child would know that the situation was legit.

Whether your child is walking home or walking from the bus stop go over street safety. If they feel they are being followed by someone walking or in a car, **never** go home go to a neighbor's home or a business and tell them. Make sure your child understands to never enter the house if the door is ajar, opened/unlocked when it should be locked, a window is broken or there are other signs of possible forced entry. Immediately go to a neighbors and call 911.

Have an emergency plan – in case of fire – get out of the house, go to a neighbors and then call 911. Review emergency exits, practice fire drills, practice stop, drop and roll. If rooms are smoky, crawl on hands and knees to escape. If you are behind a closed door, first feel it to see if it's hot before opening it. Put a first-aid kit in a handy location such as the kitchen and teach them some basics: how to stop bleeding from a cut and deal with minor burns. The kitchen also is a good place to keep a flashlight, batteries, and battery-powered radio in case there is a power outage. Do not light candles. Make sure they know where to go in your home if a storm becomes severe.

While alone, your child should keep the doors and windows locked. It's a good idea to keep ground floor curtains closed, too, so strangers can't peer inside. Make sure your child knows what you want them to do if someone knocks at the door. The safest is not to answer under any circumstances. Even people we know harm children. Don't schedule deliveries or repair people when you aren't there. Instruct them to never let anyone in to use the phone no matter what the reason might be. Instead, they should summon a neighbor by phone, or place a 911 call for the person instead of letting them inside.

Set rules for phone usage. Is the child allowed to use the phone for personal phone calls? If someone calls and you have caller ID then only answer if you recognize the number/name otherwise let it go to voice mail. If allowed to answer the phone, then practice phone calls in which you try to get information from them and see how they respond. Do the same with visitors at the door.

There should be set rules for whether friends are allowed over, they can go to a friend's house, how much television time, and how much computer/internet time. If the child is allowed to prepare a snack, microwave use is much safer than cooking on a stove. Of course remind them to never put metal in the microwave.

If the unthinkable happens, and your child hears someone trying to break into your home, they should escape out another door or window and run to a neighbors for help. If escape isn't possible, the next option is to lock themselves in a room, preferably with a phone, and dial 911. If possible, stay on the phone until help arrives. If not, they should still leave the phone off the hook/the line open because the emergency operator may be able to trace the call and send police.

Since there are many different situations involving emergencies, it's a good idea to do some role-playing. Practicing escape routes in case of fire or someone breaking in, where to go in your house or what to during a severe storm, and how to handle minor injuries. Role playing can make your child feel more confident. And assure your child is it okay to tell you if they have any fears or concerns or if they simply don't like being home alone.

Linda Day, Council Messages Editor

# OCTOBER COUNCIL GAME

## HOME ALONE AFTER SCHOOL?

Match the word/words below with their safety tip. Come to the October General Meeting, participate in the game and enter for a chance to win a nice prize.

1. Guidelines/safety rules are important because a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Inspecting the house with your child makes sure they know \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Along with the list of emergency phone numbers, you should include your \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The first rule should always be to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The safest way for a child to carry the house key is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The second rule should be \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A child should never enter the house when there are signs of a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. If a child thinks they are being followed, they should never \_\_\_\_\_.
9. In case of a fire the child should first \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a good location for a first aid kit.
11. Ground floor curtains should be kept closed so that \_\_\_\_\_.
12. All children should know how to use \_\_\_\_\_.
13. A \_\_\_\_\_ is important in case you have an emergency and you had to unexpectedly send someone to get your child.
14. Because so many different types of situations involving emergencies can occur \_\_\_\_\_ is a good idea to practice with children.

check in  
forced entry  
code word  
kitchen  
go to their home

child knows what is expected of them  
home address & phone number  
911  
get out of the house  
never leave the house without parents knowledge or permission

under shirt/in pants pocket  
no one can peer inside  
role-playing  
the smoke alarm sound

### NOTE TO ALL UNIT PRESIDENTS

Beside yourself your unit Delegate, Alt. Delegate, Membership and Reflections Chair, and Treasurer should be receiving Council Messages. There are 5 issues per year, Sept/Oct; Nov/Dec; Jan/Feb; March/April; and May. If they did not receive the Sept/Oct issue then I do not have their name and/or their mailing address. Please check with them and if they did not receive this issue, please send their information to Council through your Area Advisor or to me, Linda Day, Council Messages Editor (address listed in the Council Handbook.)



## *NPTA Reflections Program Theme for 2018-2019*

### *“Heroes Around Me”*

The NPTA Reflections Program encourages children, Preschool/kindergarten through Grade 12 to give imaginative expression in the areas of literature, music composition, photography, visual arts, video/film production, and dance choreography. Participation begins at the local level with each district developing its own local procedures/timetables in accordance with the **National PTA rules**.

All local entries advancing to HCC will be displayed **on February 20, 2019** at the **Founders’ Day Program**, from 9-10 am and that evening at the **Reflections Open House** from 6:30- 8:30 pm at the HCESC.

HCC entries that win or receive honorable mention at the Ohio PTA level will be recognized at **Council’s Evening Dessert Meeting on April 17, 2019**. Ohio PTA displays its winning entries during the OPTA Spring Convention in April and the National PTA winners are displayed as part of the National PTA Reflections Program’s Traveling Exhibit. All students are encouraged to participate. *Entries maybe completed at home or in the classroom setting.* Each student has to complete his/her project independently. Please refer to the OPTA Handbook and website for complete information. Any questions, please contact your unit Reflections Chairperson, your district Area Advisor or Council’s Reflections Coordinator, Kathie Smith, 509-9225, [klsmith@sibeycline.com](mailto:klsmith@sibeycline.com)



### *Council Ways & Means*

Don’t miss out on a chance to say thank you, thinking of you, or just saying “hi by Hamilton County Council of PTAs’ beautiful note cards made from winning Reflections Art and Photography entries. And you can’t beat the deal. A pack of 8 white note cards with one winning entry in color on the front of each and 8 envelopes for only \$6. Note cards are for those times when you really should ‘say it’ with a personally written note instead of a text or email.

Also Council has a great selection of other items. The very useful *“Life Made Simple”* book with its great ideas on how to make our lives of volunteering just a little less hectic, PTA board position pins along with other pins, earrings, and key chains – always a nice way of saying “thanks.” These items are not just for PTA people, they can be used as gifts for anyone.

There will be a sale table by the front door at the Executive Luncheon in September.

Contact Lori Mueller, Ways & Means Chairman for information at: [lmuller@fuse.net](mailto:lmuller@fuse.net) or 513-367-1069.

#### **CANCELLATION/DELAY POLICY**

HCC Meetings are:

----cancelled if 3 or more member school districts are cancelled, including evening meetings if evening events are cancelled.

----delayed by 30 minutes (10:30 start) if 3 or more member school districts have 2 hour delays.



# LET'S GET TOGETHER



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## HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL EXECUTIVE LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2018 @ 11:30 A.M.

(Doors open at 11:00. Meeting at 11:30. Lunch served at 12:00)

### RECEPTIONS

3302 Westbourne Rd, Cincinnati, Ohio 45248

Please join HCC PTA for a wonderful lunch and a great opportunity to interact with peers and associates from your own and other school districts. You will receive the Council Yearbook which contains a variety of information about what's available through your Council, a calendar of meetings and programs, contact information for your Council officers, and contact information of members in other school districts.

We will honor the Outstanding Council Educator of the Year. This person was chosen from the 5 district Educator of the Year nominees for 2017-2018. We will also recognize any units that have already achieved 100% Teacher Membership.

Please fill out and send in the form below by **September 17<sup>th</sup>**. **THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE WALK-INS.** Please understand that this is a catered luncheon and the caterer needs a firm count. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

**Everyone is invited!**



**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs**

**SEND RESERVATION FORM & PAYMENT TO:** Jan Hunter  
2573 Country Lake Dr.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45233 jch8387@hotmail.com

**COST:** \$ 15.00/per person      \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**School District:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PTA Unit:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ PTA Position \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ PTA Position \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School District Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School District Position: \_\_\_\_\_