

COUNCIL MESSAGES

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs
every child. one voice

November -December, 2018

Issue 2

November 14 HCC Program
10 a.m. at the HCESC

Program: All That is New and Exciting at the Renovated Museum Center
Speaker: Museum Center Staff

**Please note a change to the second Wednesday was necessary due to district schedules
Please join us for a very timely and informational program. Everyone is welcome

Membership Reminders

Has your school submitted their Membership dues? Each unit **must** submit at least their first installment of dues by November 30, 2018 in order to be a unit in good standing. This will allow your unit to participate in PTA programs at all levels including: NPTA Reflections, Scholarships, Membership Awards, and Council Educator of the Year.

Does your school have a cool membership theme that you would like to share with others? If so, send in your theme along with pictures to the Ohio PTA website and they will showcase your school.

Congratulations!! 9 of our schools reached 100% Teacher Membership as of September 29th. They were recognized at the Executive Luncheon and received a certificate. They are: Bobbie B. Fairfax (DDS), C.O. Harrison Elem. (OH), Colerain Elem. (NW), Colerain Middle (NW), Delhi Middle (OH), Dulles Elem (OH), Springmyer Elem (OH), White Oak Middle (NW), and Whitewater Valley Elem. (SW)

There is still time to continue adding to your membership. You can do this through school functions, newsletters, family, friends, and local businesses.

Please email me when your school reaches 100% teacher membership and they will be recognized at the next HCC General Meeting and received a certificate.

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

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. The amount is based on your unit membership numbers from last year. These dues are separate from the membership dues sent to OPTA. If you have any questions, contact Lori Mueller, HCC Treasurer, lmuellet@fuse.net. Checks are made payable to HCC PTA/Dues and should be mailed to: Lori Mueller, HCC Treasurer, 309 Country View Dr. Harrison, OH 45030



CONGRATULATIONS TO COUNCIL'S 2018 OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

Dawn Backus

She was a Physical Education teacher for 23 in the Northwest Local School District, retiring last year from White Oak Middle School. She was honored at the September Executive Luncheon and received a beautifully engraved vase.

Celebrating Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving seems as American as apple pie, but actually there are variants of this day all around the world. Their meanings, dates and customs vary, but they all revolve around the concept of gratitude. The American holiday of Thanksgiving traces its roots back to 1621, when colonists held a harvest feast with local natives. In 1861, Abraham Lincoln declared an official Thanksgiving Day in late November. Over the years specific traditions and customs associated with the holiday have evolved from watching afternoon football games to marking the beginning of the holiday shopping season. The basic concept of the holiday has never changed though - celebrating food and the fall harvest and giving thanks with family - has remained.

Three other countries have Thanksgiving celebrations very similar with the American custom. **Canada** shares many of the same Thanksgiving traditions, both culinary and cultural. Due in part to its proximity, traditions once unique to one country or the other have blended over the centuries. The first Canadian Thanksgiving is believed to have been held in 1578. The occasion, drawing inspiration from similar European holidays, was a way for early settlers to appreciate the fruits of a successful harvest. Canadian Thanksgiving is held on the second Monday in October and is not a public holiday in every province. The West African nation of **Liberia** was founded by freed American slaves so many American traditions, including Thanksgiving, are celebrated. Mainly celebrated by Christians, Liberians take the concept of the cornucopia and fill their churches with baskets of local fruits. The baskets are auctioned and then families retreat to their homes to feast. Concerts and dancing are also a distinctive part of their Thanksgiving traditions. Because turkeys and pumpkins are hard to come by in Liberia, roast chicken and mashed cassavas usually comprise a traditional Thanksgiving meal in the West African nation. Similarly, an American trader, Isaac Robinson in the 1800s, brought the feasting tradition to **Norfolk Island** located east of Australia and the tradition has remained. Families bring fruit and vegetables to the church to celebrate, tie cornstalks to pews, and decorate the altar with fresh flowers.

Some of the other countries that have a holiday either celebrating the autumn harvest or a celebration of gratitude, or some combination of the two are:

Germany celebrates Erntedankfest a harvest festival that takes place on the first Sunday of October and gives thanks for a good year and good fortune but is not necessarily considered a family oriented holiday. Celebrations are marked by parades, fireworks, music, and dancing. Favored for the feast are chickens, hens, roosters and geese.

Japan, celebrates a holiday similar to both American Thanksgiving and Labor Day on November 23. The national holiday, known as Kinrō Kansha no Hi, or Labor Thanksgiving Day, traces its origins back more than 2,000 years to a ritual offering thanks for the season's first rice harvest. The widely celebrated modern day version of the holiday is centered around giving thanks for workers' rights.

Grenada, the West Indian island's version of Thanksgiving shares no origin with America's yet it would not exist without the United States. Grenada's Thanksgiving marks the anniversary of the 1983 U.S. military invasion to restore order after the death of communist leader Maurice Bishop. American soldiers told locals about their upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, its signature feast, and its intention to focus on gratitude. The people of Grenada showed their own gratitude by working in secret to surprise the soldiers with meals like those they were missing complete with turkey and all the fixings. Today, it's celebrated in formal ceremonies of remembrance.

Leiden in The Netherlands is where around 40% of the pilgrims on the Mayflower had lived and worked from 1609 to 1620. Several elements of colonial American life seem to have come from this Dutch contact, including civil marriages, ladder-back chairs, and wood-planked house construction. Some suggest the pilgrims' Thanksgiving found inspiration in Leiden's annual commemoration of the breaking of the Spanish siege of 1574. The people of Leiden still celebrate the American settlers who once lived there with a non-denominational church service on the fourth Thursday of November. Afterwards, there's no turkey, but cookies and coffee are offered.

China celebration known as the Mid-Autumn Festival typically falls in late September or early October, when the moon is fullest and brightest. Much like the American Thanksgiving, the festival originated as a holiday to express gratitude for the changing of the seasons and to celebrate the fall harvest. The holiday can be traced back more than 2,500 years, long before Europeans ever set foot in the new world. The favorite Chinese dessert is moon cake pie a

baked concoction filled with sesame seeds, ground lotus seeds, and duck eggs. What a totally different taste than the American Thanksgiving staple of pumpkin pie.

South Korea, half a world away, celebrates a holiday very similar to the American Thanksgiving. The holiday, known as Chuseok Day, is held in the mid to late September and celebrates the autumn harvest. Koreans typically spend Chuseok Day with their family watching Korean wrestling, circle dances, and giving thanks to their ancestors.

Vietnam folklore says the holiday, known as Têt-Trung-Thu Festival or the Children's Festival, is held as a way for parents, once busy with the harvest, to make amends with their children who may have felt neglected. While the origins of the holiday vary considerably from the American tradition, many of the fundamentals are the same. The Vietnamese use the holiday to give thanks and celebrate with family.



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 20, 2019** to Lori Mueller, HCC Treasurer, 309 Country View Dr. Harrison, 45030. Checks are made payable to HCC PTA/Scholarship Fund. **Please note:** Schools who do not contribute to the Scholarship Fund will be ineligible for any scholarships.

Scholarship applications will be available in the schools around the first week of January 2019 and available online. Thank you so much for your help with this very important program. Please contact Joan Freidhoff 741-0485 or Janine Schneider, 675-5671, if you have any questions.



COUNCIL'S FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE PROJECT

Council has been reviewing possible projects for the 2018-2019 Service Project. Unfortunately due to the several changes in our meeting dates which then caused an earlier printing of the newsletter we were not able to include the information in this issue. We hope to have the decision by the October General Meeting but if not we will advise our units on or before the November 14 General Meeting.

Our past projects have been a HUGE success because of the great support of our units. Council thanks all its units and is once again looking forward to another successful project. Council Immediate Past President, Janine Schneider, 675-5671, tschne@fuse.net is in charge of the Council Service Project. If you have any questions, please contact her.

REFLECTIONS: *Check with your Area Advisor for the due date in your district.* This is different than the due date to Council. District entries going on to the Council level competition are due to Council on December 12, 2018. Any questions check with your Area Advisor or HCC Council Coordinator, Kathie Smith, 509-9225, klsmith@sibcycline.com

NOVEMBER COUNCIL GAME: Celebrating Thanksgiving

While researching our Thanksgiving holiday, I found it very interesting to learn that Americans are not the only ones celebrating being thankful around this time of year. Please read the article on the previous page and then answer the questions below. Bring your answers to the November 14 General Meeting and enter for a chance to win a prize.

1. Besides America, what other 3 countries have very similar Thanksgiving type celebrations?
2. Around the world what is the main concept of the "Thanksgiving" holiday?
3. In what year did the American holiday begin?
4. Between the United States and Canada which has the oldest celebration?
5. Instead of turkey what type of poultry is preferred in Germany as the main course?
6. What two American holidays is Japan's celebration similar too?
7. How did the people of Grenada show their appreciation to the Americans?
8. It is believed that about 40% of the pilgrims on the Mayflower came from what country?
9. What is the name of the baked concoction filled with sesame seeds, ground lotus seeds and duck eggs that the Chinese enjoy at their Thanksgiving?
10. In South Korea what is the favorite sport to watch as they celebrate the autumn harvest?
11. In Vietnam folklore the holiday known as the Children's Festival is celebrated for what reason?
12. Campbell's soup created green bean casserole over 50 years ago. More than ____ million green bean casseroles are served on Thanksgiving. 10 20 30 40
13. Wild turkeys can run ____ miles per hour when they are scared. 20 15 10 5

******Important Due Dates for Unit Treasurers******

November 15: Form 990 and Charitable Trust are due

November 30: Membership list/dues to OPTA and dues to Hamilton County Council

must be in to remain a unit in good standing!



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