



COMMUNICATIONS

SATELLITE

Beaming News From California State PTA Commissions
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PURPOSES OF THE PTA

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

JANUARY 2010 BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORTS

Leadership Services Commission:

Barbara Ledterman

- Albert Ko is the new [Second District PTA](#) president. Second District covers San Francisco County.
- Leadership mentors have conducted more than 30 field services to mentor districts throughout the state.

Programs and Member Services Commission:

Mary Galuska

- The former Member Services Commission has been renamed to reflect its greater emphasis on programs oversight.
- Historian Debbie Vincent notes this Feb. 17 is the [Founders Day](#) centennial.
- Reflections Chair Dell Goodman: Five [theme entries](#) for 2011-12 were sent on from California to National PTA: "One day I will...", "What Truly Matters," "The Wonder of Nature," "I Found a Treasure!" and "Isn't It Amazing."
- [Honorary Service](#) Committee Chair Heidi McLean: The Committee will recognize deserving recipients at Convention 2010.

Communications Commission: Linda Mayo

- The hottest page on the California State PTA website is [Reflections](#), viewed 75,000 times since September.
- Fifty press articles and conferences helped spread the PTA message throughout the state, September-December.

Convention Commission: Kathy Stevenson

- [Convention 2010](#) (Sacramento, April 29-May 2) is open for registration. Special events include a Capitol Rally and a Town Hall Meeting with National PTA, both on Thursday; and a forum with candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction on Friday. Saturday's keynote speaker is Tom McKee, author of *The New Breed: Understanding and Equipping the 21st Century Volunteer*.
- [Meetings and workshops](#) are on a new, exhibit hall-friendly schedule. Registrants can buy a pack of ribbons for \$20. Con-

tribute to Healthy Lifestyles Grants by *Sleeping in for PTA* on Sunday. Participants get a nightshirt with their \$20 donation.

- [Please book your hotel rooms through PTA's website](#). Venues large enough for the annual PTA event require large room blocks to reserve the space. Unused rooms could cost state PTA tens of thousands of dollars.

Community Concerns Commission: Brian Bonner

- The California State PTA voted to support the [School Library Standards for Students](#).
- [State School Attendance Review Board](#) (SARB), Bonner: Quarterly meeting attended via video conferencing as a pilot of a cost-cutting strategy for the state Board of Education. Notes: [Correlation](#) between poor attendance and failure is surprisingly strong.
- For information: Bonner in conference call for [Education and the Environment Initiative](#); Bonner will represent state PTA on the Childhood Injury Policy Planning Committee of the [California Department of Public Health](#).
- Disproportionate Minority Contact Conference, Kathy Rabun: A lack of minority role models in schools has a negative effect. Discussion focused on [the school to prison pipeline](#).

Education Commission: Suzan Solomon

- Meeting of [California Commission on Teacher Credentialing](#), Linda Ross: Panel is considering a Mathematics Specialist Credential.
- Meeting of [California State Board of Education](#), Sophia Waugh: Student Advisory Board recommended reforming the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma Program, a merit-based fee waiver for UC and CSU applications, and credit for extracurricular sports and arts. Board set standards for modified assessment in 6th-8th grades. For class of 2010, 87 percent have passed exit exam to date.
- Meeting of [California Advisory Commission on Special Edu-](#)

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[cation](#), Cory Sanfilippo: Discussed Charter SELPA report and how this will work in practice. Discussed a validation process to replace state exit exam for special ed students.

- Meeting of [California Middle Grades Alliance](#), Solomon: Discussed 12 recommendations from the state Department of Education on academic intervention. PTA argued for parent involvement and a whole-child view of middle grade student needs.
- [Education Coalition](#) Leadership meeting and press conference, Solomon: Race to the Top (RTTT) Dollar issues discussed. American Education Week focus of Nov. 17th press event.

Health Commission: Colleen You

- [School Health Advisory Committee](#), You: Developed shared vision of healthy students and schools; discussed engaging local policy leaders in fighting childhood obesity; workshop on how schools, cities and other agencies can collaborate to jointly use sports and arts facilities.
- For information – PTAs may want to explore these programs: American Cancer Society [School Wellness Recognition Award](#) Program; School Health Advisory Committee [meeting summary](#); Dairy Council of California [Mobile Dairy Classroom](#); the EPA has [Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools](#) program; [Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network](#) will be a PTA Allied Agency; PTA will work with [National Eating Disorders Association](#) to promote awareness week Feb. 21-27, 2010.
- Healthy Behaviors Initiative, You: Discussion of healthy eating and physical activity in afterschool programs. [PTA Health Commission](#) shared its [Healthy Lifestyles Guide](#) and the [Farm to School](#) program.
- [AWARE](#), You: The antibiotic resistance conference included updates on Alliance initiatives including [Older adults](#) and long-term care, and [college student](#) education. Shared the National PTA program “[Let’s Fight Flu Together](#).”
- CDE conference call, You: Phone meeting of the [Coordinated School Health Steering Committee](#) discussed training on [Coordinated School Health](#);
- State PTA adopted the position statement: *Chronic Illness Care in California Schools* advocating education about and appropriate care for chronic conditions and illnesses of enrolled children.

Membership Commission: Carol-Ann Koch-Weser

- The [Midyear Membership Challenge of “Add 10 in 10”](#) is being publicized to units to help them extend their community commitment. Letters to the editor are encouraged as one way to attract broader support. [Membership resources](#) are online.
- [Six Things To Promote About PTA Membership](#) and [10 Steps to Membership Success](#) are available online.
- California State PTA’s *Diversity and Inclusivity Plan* promotes use of the National PTA e-Learning course “[Cultural Competency](#).”
- 2009 National PTA [Emerging Minority Leaders Conference](#), Koch-Weser: Keynote speaker the Rev. Jesse Jackson noted the emphasis placed on sports versus homework – “You excel at things you practice.” The [2010 conference](#) will be June 10-13 in Memphis, Tenn.

Parent Involvement Commission: Becky Reece

- California State PTA will be an exhibitor at the [CABE](#) bilingual education conference March 10 in San Jose.
- Meeting of Family Action Network, Reece: Reviewed a proposal to close the [achievement gap](#) using parental and community involvement in schools.
- Meeting of California Early Childhood Educator [Competencies Project](#), Reece: Reviewed skills sought for educators of 0-5-year-olds.
- [California Complete Count Census 2010 Committee](#), Pam Brady: School boards, administrators and PTA are working to promote census participation.

Finance Commission: Diane Foote

- Of crucial concern is the upcoming third-year mark since the [IRS](#) implemented the requirement that all nonprofits must file tax returns, regardless of income level. Those PTAs that have not filed in three years will lose their nonprofit status.
- More than 90 percent of PTA units in California are in good standing through submittal of officer lists, per capita and insurance premiums.

Legislation Committee: Debbie Look

- The California State PTA endorsed a proposed [ballot measure](#) 1420, [Local Control of Local Schools Funding Act](#) to reduce the threshold for school parcel taxes to 55 percent. Backers have until April 16 to collect the needed signatures to make the Nov. 2, 2010 election ballot.
- State PTA is responding to the [Governor’s budget proposal](#) and its catastrophic cuts to children’s health services, launching “9 million reasons to speak up” campaign urging members to speak up on behalf of California’s more than 9 million children by lobbying their elected representatives, hold rallies in their local communities, and joining PTA on the Capitol steps on April 29th.
- Regional [Race to the Top](#) Hearing – LA, Patty Christiansen: RTTT goals are to unify standards nationwide and determine the effectiveness of teachers. The Leg Team attended numerous events on RTTT. Hear Debbie Look’s [radio interview](#) on RTTT.
- [Water Cooler Group](#), Michael Butler: The coalition is working to bring forward early (ages 0-5) care and education issues.
- [Commission on the 21st Century Economy](#), Look: Group proposes changing personal tax rates, eliminating corporate income tax and replacing lost revenue with Business Net Receipt Tax. The net result would shift tax burden to middle- and lower-income taxpayers.
- [California School Boards Conference](#), Look: Workshops included innovative teacher pay and saving class-size reduction.
- State PTA proposes a new legislation principle to read: “Effective governance systems and practices that place a high priority on the needs of children and youth;” and a new legislation plank to read: “To improve governance systems and practices in order to effectively serve the needs of children and youth.”
- [Sacramento Update](#) is now published in a vibrant electronic format. Check it out.

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Scholarship and Grant Committee: Wendy Hicks

- No school nurses applied for [scholarships](#). The transferred funds benefit [Healthy Lifestyles Grants](#).
- Allocated: \$4,540 in Parent Education Grants; \$7,500 to Teacher Scholarships; \$6,500 to Volunteer Scholarships; \$6,700 in Cultural Arts Grants; \$4,549 in Healthy Lifestyles Grants; and \$3,471 in Translation/Outreach Grants.

Special Needs Committee: Julie Redmond

- The committee is creating a web page offering links and resources for special education, GATE and other needs. Ideas are [welcome](#).

Student Involvement Committee: Suzanne Meloy

- [Applications](#) for Student Representatives to the California State PTA Board of Managers have been revised. Submissions are due by March 15.
- The student involvement brochure "[Students Are Our Future](#)" has been updated.

Resolutions Committee: Brenda Steffen

- Four draft [resolutions](#) were submitted for consideration by the committee.
- Two 2009 resolutions, [Teen Driving Safety](#) and [Social Host Accountability and Underage Drinking](#) were submitted to National PTA.

Parliamentarian: Sue King

- Phase Two testing of the [E-Bylaws](#) program has begun, with units in pilot districts building their bylaws online.

- Since July 1, 393 sets of bylaws have been updated.

President-elect: Carol Kocivar

- PTA is promoting participation in the [2010 Census](#) to assure federal allocations for schools and families are equitable.
- EdSource is presenting [California at a Crossroads: Crisis and Opportunity](#) March 19 in Santa Clara.
- CDE has compiled information PTAs can use to find resources to help [foster youth](#).

President: Jo Loss

- State PTA was awarded a \$144,500 grant from Wal-Mart Foundation.
- Hewlett Foundation granted \$20,000 for videoconferencing equipment at the state PTA office.
- The [PTA survey](#) was completed by more than 1,200 unit leaders, nearly one-quarter of all presidents.
- A Special Committee on the Arts has been formed to further the \$340,000 two-year grant received from the Hewlett Foundation.
- For a blast from the past, check out the 1978 [Harper Valley PTA](#) video clip on YouTube.com.

National PTA: Board member Carla Niño

- [National PTA](#) is moving from Chicago to Arlington, Va., in early June, to be closer to Washington, D.C. PTA purchased a large building. Rental income will offset purchase costs
- Focus areas for national are [MORE](#), the fatherhood initiative; helping [military families](#), forming PTAs at Department of Defense schools; [Common Core](#) uniform state standards; and supporting [emerging minority leaders](#) with training and networking.