

PTA CONNECTS

CALIFORNIA STATE PTA ONLINE NEWSLETTER February 2008

Find New Ways to Communicate with Your Members

Here's a great idea from Crescent Intermediate School PTA in Orange, California.

Collect email addresses from your members and use the Internet to let parents know when there are volunteer opportunities at the school. Crescent PTA sends out short, concise emails that are always titled **"Wanna Pitch In?"** The messages break down events into manageable shifts and clearly define the tasks each volunteer will be doing.

"Our parent participation has skyrocketed as a result of these emails," says PTA Team Leader Jody O'Donnell. "No one feels guilty if they can't help for any certain event...they're just happy to know about it and happy to help when they can."

Do your members know about California State PTA publications?

Many are **FREE** and available either on the California State PTA web site or by email subscription. A hard copy subscription is also available for a minor fee. Please encourage your members to subscribe. Send these via your email list to your PTA unit members.

<p>The Communicator</p>
<p>Camera-ready print material for use in PTA newsletters and handouts http://www.capta.org/sections/communication/communicator.cfm</p>
<p>PTA in California</p>
<p>Official newsletter of the California State PTA http://www.capta.org/sections/communication/pta-california.cfm</p>
<p>SMARTS Newsletter</p>
<p>California State PTA's program to encourage arts education http://www.capta.org/sections/programs-smarts/news-2007-12.cfm</p>
<p>Sacramento Update</p>
<p>PTA Legislative information from Sacramento and Washington http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy/sac-update.cfm</p>
<p>Legislative Alerts</p>
<p>Information for PTA members to support advocacy for children and youth</p>

Register for Convention: www.capta.org

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

1. The California State PTA Convention is one of the most important and exciting events in the PTA year! Don't pass up this opportunity to learn more about your organization, attend informative workshops and exchange ideas with parents from across the state.
2. Make your voice heard at the general sessions, when our State PTA listens to its members as it charts its course for the coming years.
3. Don't forget the association must elect delegates. Check the *California State PTAToolkit*, Section 2.8.1b, for the number of delegates your unit may send.
4. This year's convention will be held May 1-4 in Long Beach. Registration fees, travel expenses and meals are legitimate PTA expenses that should be paid or reimbursed by your unit.

Find Out More.... <http://www.capta.org/sections/convention-2008/>

Recognize Your Special Volunteers

1. Honor the people who have made a real difference for children in your school or community with an Honorary Service Award from California State PTA.
2. Be sure to order awards from California State PTA as soon as possible, as it may take several weeks for delivery.
3. Participating in the HSA program is a wonderful way to recognize your special volunteers and also helps support the work of PTA. The funds contributed for HSA awards support the California State PTA scholarship and grant program.

Building Bridges for Health Award
For Outstanding Contribution to Coordinated School Health
Download your application:

<http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/downloads/BridgingBridgesAwardApplication2008.pdf>

**Deadline:
March 7, 2008:**

Honorary Service Award

<http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/a-honorary-serv.cfm>

Any Time

Arts Education Month

<http://www.capta.org/sections/programs-smarts/index.cfm>

March

Membership

Deadline for all 2007-2008

**Membership per capita to be in the California State PTA Office through channels
March 31**

You can find more help on California State PTA web site
www.capta.org

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