

South Carolina Parent Teacher Association
Official Bulletin of the South Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers
A Branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

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Important Dates

October

October 1

Report 50 paid members to enter contest

February 2006

February 1

Report 25 new members since December 1, 2005 to enter contest

February 8

SCPTA Legislative Conference, Columbia
Reflections entries due

March

March 31

Report 10 new members since March 1 to enter contest

April

2006 SCPTA Convention

April 21-23, Greenville

New on the Web...

Hurricane Katrina relief info

Handbooks

Reflections Program Rules & Info

Local Unit Membership Incentives

Membership Card Template

Local Unit Officer's List

Parent Involvement School of Excellence Program



South Carolina PTA

Official Bulletin of the South Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers

Volume LXX, Issue 1

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October—November 2005

SCPTA Legislative Conference
Wednesday, February 8, 2006
Clarion Townhouse Hotel, 1615 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC

Make a Difference in South Carolina

By Phyllis Gildea, SCPTA Vice President for Legislation

Special points of interest:

- **Efforts and opportunities to help Hurricane Katrina victims, pages 2-4**
- **Volunteer Value \$17.55/hour, page 7**
- **Share ideas with other PTAs across the state, page 5**

All PTAs and PTSAs should send delegates to the SCPTA Legislative Conference, as a critical part of our PTA mission in South Carolina.

The PTA mission is threefold:
1. To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
2. To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
3. To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

Does your PTA or PTSA have an issue related to children that is spurring your community to "support and speak on behalf of children and youth?" Is it one that is of statewide concern? Want to see it as part of the SCPTA Legislative Platform? Your PTA or PTSA can submit items for consideration for the platform by emailing SCPTA at <Legislative@SCPTA.org>. A proposed platform will be considered by SCPTA board members this fall. Delegates to the South Carolina PTA Legislative Conference will decide what is ultimately in

that platform on February 8, 2006.

To that end, we should perhaps consider what happened in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The world watched in horror, as New Orleans' most vulnerable citizens were "Left Behind", left behind because the community did not want to consider that so many people did not have the wherewithal to evacuate.

These were the citizens that were too sick to leave on their own, or needed the money from the check they would receive in the mail on the first of the month. It was also citizens who did not have a car, did not have the money for gas, and did not have the money for a hotel. Many are the adults who were left behind educationally as children.

South Carolina, like Louisiana, has a history of under educating and not educating many of its citizens. The legacy of under educating and not educating its people who are barely able to make ends meet. It is people unable to handle even the smallest ex-

traordinary financial challenges, let alone something as devastating as Hurricane Katrina. It goes further. The uneducated and undereducated contribute only barely to a community's economic health. As their numbers grow larger, the strain on a community's economic health gets stronger and a community's ability to sustain itself gets weaker.

Regardless of the present motives, the roots of such collectively self-destructive behavior are, at least in part, racial. We need to admit that to get beyond it. We must open our eyes to the fact that *all children can learn*. We must individually and collectively reject the notion that *those people* are inferior and therefore it is a waste of time to spend any money educating *those children*. We must view adequate education of *all our children* as critical to our economy, to our culture, to our communities, to our democracy and, ultimately, our future.

Let us focus our advocacy to that end.

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Message from National PTA President Anna Weselak: "National PTA extends its sympathy and support to the families harmed by Hurricane Katrina. Our hearts and prayers go out to these families as they work to rebuild their homes and communities."

Working Together to Promote Healthy Lifestyles By Anna Weselak, National PTA President

As children across the country are returning to classrooms, good nutrition is something to work into home and school routines. Like parent involvement, good nutrition has a direct link to a child's academic success.

It's easy to promote healthy lifestyles for children when schools, parents, and communities work together. The new *Healthy Lifestyles at Home and at School* notebook in your back to school kit, produced exclusively for PTAs, has several simple ways that communities can work together. They include:

Schools: Promote healthy foods in the cafeteria. Encourage the elimination of sugary, non-nutritious foods in vending machines and at school events. Rescue recess and strive for opportunities for students to engage in physical activities during the school day.

Parents: Begin by being positive role models for children by improving their own eating and exercise habits. Offer repeated opportunities for children to try healthy foods and cut down on the number of fast food meals that are eaten each week. Work physical activities into family routines such as a nature hike, bike ride, or morning jog.

Communities: Ask stores to make fresh fruits and vegetables available for sale. See that parks and recreation centers are a safe and vital part of the community. Be sure recreational facilities are accessible to everyone, open at convenient hours and are affordable for all families. Organize physically active community events such as sporting events and community walks.

As a PTA leader, begin promoting healthy lifestyles in your everyday living and serve as an example for everyone in your state. Be mindful of foods and beverages served at your PTA events and find good alternatives to high calorie, high fat product sales. Taking care of ourselves is the first step to taking care of our children.

Disaster Relief Information Center

Making sure children are ready to learn and supporting parents, National PTA has gathered these resources to help you support the relief effort. At <www.pta.org> you will find:

- PTA's special **disaster relief bulletin board**.
- "When Disaster Strikes" from FEMA's website
- Information on appropriate donations from **Red Cross**
- **The Salvation Army**
- **Katrina Recovery Job Connection** from the US Department of Labor
- From the **Foundation Center**, a list of nonprofit organizations providing hurricane relief

- **Baton Rouge Area Foundation**
- **Habitat for Humanity** is helping to rebuild homes.
- **A list of foundations** that have established funds to aid victims
- **US Department of Education's "Hurricane Help for Schools"**
- **From the American Library Association, "Libraries and Hurricane Katrina"**

You can give immediate assistance through a **cash donation**, which is greatly needed by many districts in the stricken area. Please consider giving to one of the following two funds:

- Governor Haley Barbour's

Office and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency have created the Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund Call Center. To contribute, please call 1-866-230-8903 or local 601-981-1247 or mail your contribution to P.O. Box 3562, Jackson, Mississippi 39207. Checks should be payable to the "Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund."

- Mississippi School Boards Association (MSBA) has established the "MS Hurricane Katrina School Relief Fund," which will directly benefit schools and teachers and assist hurricane-ravaged school districts. Please go to their website at <www.msbaonline.org> for additional information and to make this donation.



On-Line Membership Dues Reporting By Darcia Beckman, SCPTA Vice President for Membership

Many of you heard about OMDR (Online Membership Dues Reporting) at the Leadership Training sessions held this past summer. Unfortunately, we did experience some difficulties in getting the system up and running, but positive progress is being made. Please continue to be patient as we bring SCPTA on line with OMDR. By October 31, local unit presidents will receive a username, password

and instructions to access the local unit portion of the system. This is where the data for your individual members will be input. As a reminder, this is the information that will be transmitted to National PTA and is used to send valuable resource materials and information to not only individual members but also to our local units. It is **vital**ly important that all data for all local unit board members and school

administrators be current. If you are a local unit president and do not receive your access information by October 31, please take a moment to complete an Officers Update and forward it directly to Darcia Beckman at beckmank@bellsouth.net so that the system can be updated and the access information provided directly to you. Thank you for your support and patience.



SCPTA Membership Report

As of September 9, 2006 the SCPTA Membership was 10,053.

Volunteer Value Estimated at \$17.55 per hour

(Washington, D.C., March 24, 2005)—INDEPENDENT SECTOR announces that the 2004 estimate for the value of a volunteer hour has reached \$17.55 per hour. This is a tool that can be used to help organizations quantify the enormous value volunteers provide. This year's estimate increased from \$17.19 per hour in 2003.

Nationally INDEPENDENT SECTOR estimates in 2004 the total value of hours volunteered was equivalent to approximately \$272 billion of

contributed service, assuming the total number of volunteer hours held constant from previous years.

"No number can adequately capture the true value volunteers bring to so many causes and communities across this country," said Diana Aviv, president and CEO of INDEPENDENT SECTOR.

"Nevertheless, this yearly estimate helps us all focus on the enormous contribution of our nation's volunteer corps."

The hourly value of volunteer time is based on the average hourly wage for all non-management, nonagricultural workers as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with a 12 percent increase to estimate for fringe benefits.

INDEPENDENT SECTOR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of approximately 500 national organizations, foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs, collectively representing tens of thousands of charitable groups in every state across the nation. Its mission is to advance the common good by leading, strengthening, and mobilizing the independent sector.

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Multiple subscription form available in the president's packet.

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District 13 PTA[®]

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Sumter-Lee-Clarendon Counties

By Pat Ali, SCPTA District 13

District 13 PTA held its annual Leadership Training on Saturday, August 20, at Lake-wood High School. PTA officers, board members, faculty, and administrators renewed their commitment to strengthen parent involvement in schools and enhance education locally. Gail Hyatt, District 13 PTA president, led a discussion of effective leadership, financial responsibility, PTA programs, legislative activities, and Reflections (cultural arts).

Nigel Lee, SCPTA President, encouraged local PTAs to remain vigilant regarding legislation on educational issues. Gail Phillips, SCPTA First Vice-President, de-

scribed the Goals Sheet and the ways that local units can serve their schools and communities. She also outlined several optional benefits for PTA units, including the Helen Stokes PTA Memorial Scholarship to help high school seniors, Life Memberships to honor outstanding individuals, and the Gerry Pfahler Endowment Fund to support local PTA projects.

Doug Griffin, District 13 PTA Treasurer, reviewed the policies and procedures enumerated in the by-laws to insure effective and responsible financial management. Ramona Lies, District 13 PTA Secretary, detailed various opportunities for parent

involvement.

District 13 PTA officers are: Gail Hyatt, president; Gayla Carle, vice-president; Ramona Lies, secretary; Doug Griffin, treasurer; Nicky Debosky, youth representative.

The District 13 PTA calendar includes several events:

November 10 – President's Roundtable
January 28 – District 13 Reflections entries due
February 2 – District 13 Reflections exhibit and reception
February 8 – SCPTA Legislative Conference in Columbia
February 16 – President's Roundtable; Founders' Day
April 13 – District 13 Spring Conference
April 21-23 – SCPTA State Convention in Greenville

Admission is \$3.00 per person, \$2.00 senior citizens ages 65 and older, FREE to children 6 and under. PTA members will be allowed to enter free on Saturday, January 28 for the awards ceremony by showing your PTA membership card. Please come out and enjoy not only the awards ceremony but a walk through the park and the interpretive center. The Berkeley County museum is also located on the property. Go to www.oldsantecanalpark.org for more information on the park.

every district meeting during the 2005-2006 school year. A check will be issued to the winning unit at the May 18, 2006 meeting. Someone from your unit must attend every meeting to win.

District 19 PTA will again be displaying its Reflections entries at the Old Santee Canal Park starting Wednesday, January 25th through Saturday January 28th. Awards will be presented on January 28 at 10:00 AM. Everyone is invited to come by the park and view the entries. Park Hours are 9 AM until 5 PM.

District 19

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Berkeley County Schools

By Liz Miller, SCPTA District 19

This year our PTA high schools have been asked to host SCPTA District 19 meetings. We hope this will attract more participation from the parents, teachers and community members. Our motto for this school year is "Volunteers Working Together for Better Berkeley County Schools"

Our second District meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 20th at 6:30 PM at Cross High School. There is an incentive of \$100 to the PTA unit with the most attending each and

Caring for the Suffering of Others

By Nigel Lee, South Carolina PTA President

Friends,

My message for this bulletin is short: pray. Pray for all our children everywhere.

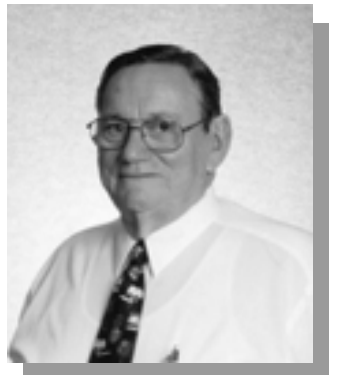
In these times of dire need please keep informed of all relief efforts by watching National PTA's website <pta.org> and our state website <scpta.org>.

I do sincerely hope that your PTA units are prospering and membership is growing. Please, remember your state office and board are here to help you if needed.

Again, my friends continue to keep our friends and neighbors in your thoughts and prayers as you are in mine.

Very sincerely,

Nigel J. Lee



Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

By Lee Ann Clark, National PTA Membership Services Director

Units, councils, districts, and state PTAs are looking for ways to help citizens affected by the hurricane. At this time, many communities are taking children into their schools in states including Arkansas, Michigan, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Iowa, New York, Pennsylvania, and California, as well as Illinois, Indiana, Georgia, and Alabama. Some units are conducting fundraisers; others are collecting clothing, school supplies, food, and water. As with any fundraising effort, local PTAs should be careful about how they handle goods and money. If units are soliciting the public for EITHER goods or money, they must have a license to solicit from the state attorney general's office. Please know for sure whether your units are cov-

ered by this license, and advise them accordingly.

If the unit is collecting funds, it is best to ask the donor to make the check out to the agency receiving the funds. It is better for the unit not to deposit the money in its regular bank account. If the check is made out to the agency, the unit can certainly collect the check and forward it on.

If the unit does deposit checks into its regular bank account, at that point the unit will have to declare it as income. The unit should keep accurate records of the deposit and disbursement of those funds.

The unit can vote, per its by-laws, to donate its own funds to a relief agency, provided that agency is a 501(c)3. In keeping with its mission, any substantial contribution from

PTA funds should focus on a school- or student-related relief effort.

There is also the issue of confidentiality in cases where citizens are relocating due to loss of home and property. It may work well for the PTA unit to partner with the school district or other community agencies to guard the privacy of the displaced citizens and to ensure the donations get where they are most needed.

National PTA leadership is meeting with US Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings so that we can coordinate our efforts in providing assistance to the many people and communities who are in need. We're looking forward to having an announcement in this regard soon.

"As with any fundraising effort, local PTAs should be careful about how they handle goods and money."

To subscribe to National PTA's email news forums PTA Local Leader News or This Week in Washington visit <www.pta.org>

PTAs Can Help in the Hurricane Katrina Recovery Effort From PTA Local Leader News (September 20, 2005)

PTAs across the country have been reaching out to help children, families, schools, PTAs, and communities affected by Hurricane Katrina. National PTA has developed the following resources and tools to assist your efforts.

Connect with PTAs in need of help through the *Hurricane Katrina Adopt-a-PTA* database <www.pta.org/adoptpta>. The Adopt-a-PTA program is designed to help PTAs coordinate their efforts to assist those hurt by Hurricane Katrina. Through the online needs form, PTAs affected by the hurricane can provide details about who they are, where they are located, and what kind of support they need for their schools, for their communities, for non-PTA schools in their communities, or for displaced children and families.

The search function allows potential donor PTAs to review needs based on type or geographic location. Donor PTAs are encouraged to directly contact the PTAs in need of "adoption"; respond to the contact person listed to coordinate the donation of specific items.

The *Disaster Relief Information Center* on National PTA's website will link you to information about relief and recovery efforts from government agencies (such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Education) and private agencies (such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army).

Use National PTA's Hurricane Katrina *online bulletin board* to exchange news and ideas about relief and recovery efforts with PTA members from

around the country.

National PTA is joining with its Proud Community Partner Office Depot, Inc. to assist those schools impacted by Hurricane Katrina through a special fundraising effort program called "Kids of Katrina" <www.pta.org/ssl/kidsofKatrina.asp>. The program will help children, parents and schools in areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, and Florida. To learn more or lend support to the "Kids of Katrina" effort, visit National PTA's "Kids of Katrina" donation form.

Also, National PTA permits state affiliates in Louisiana and Mississippi to redistribute the national portion of member dues for the remainder of the National PTA 2005-2006 membership year to assist children and schools impacted by Hurricane Katrina.



2005-2006 Reflections theme:

"I wonder why...?"

All rules and entry forms are available at <www.scpta.org> or <www.pta.org>

contact Lisa Connor, SCPTA Reflections Chair

phone: (864)552-9620

email: frenchcowboy@bellsouth.net

Back-to-School Boxes

By Darcia Beckman, SCPTA Vice President for Membership

By now school is well underway and your PTA is in the midst of awesome programs, as well as meaningful membership drives aimed at answering the question "Why PTA?" NPTA did a great job in sending out "Back to School" boxes to each local unit president that was packed with valuable tools that included:

- *How a Local Unit can prepare for Back-to-School Time*
- *Brochures on Why PTA?*
- *Membership drive instructions*
- *Three for Me program materials to increase volunteerism and parent involvement. (Copy of the press release is available at the resource booth)*
- *CD Rom with customizable forms and reproducible brochure artwork*
- *"Get Involved for Your Child Today...Join PTA" poster for your PTA to hang at back-to-school events and throughout the year.*

- *Healthy Lifestyles at Home and at School Notebook – A resource for your unit. Helpful facts, tips, and handouts to use at meetings, events, and fundraisers supporting nutrition and fitness.*
- *Our Children Magazine Back-to-School issue*
- *Five Reasons to Run the Reflections (Arts in Education) Program, Reflections themed calendar, and fundraising opportunity*
- *Idea Files: How PTAs Can Recognize Teachers All Year*
- *Catalogues from official PTA suppliers so your PTA can stock up on awards, gifts, and goodies.*
- *National PTA's National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement – Success stories and templates for assessment and evaluation of parent involvement practices. Your unit can refer to this booklet and request further training through National PTA's Building Successful Partnerships program.*

SCPTA would love to hear how you are using the tools that were provided to your local unit to make this the most successful PTA year to date. If your unit did not receive a Back-to-School box, please check with this past year's president and make sure to send an updated officers list to the SCPTA office as soon as possible. This will help to ensure that resources and information from both NPTA and SCPTA are made available to your unit in a timely manner. Please share your ideas with us by submitting a short article to the SCPTA Bulletin Chair at amybrewer1@charter.net. It's through sharing that we GROW!



"SCPTA would love to hear how you are using the tools that were provided to your local unit to make this the most successful PTA year to date."

What is PTA?

By Darcia Beckman, SCPTA Vice President for Membership

I recently had a conversation with a very involved parent who had never heard of PTA. What does that tell me? We need to be more visible in the community! Here are ideas that are fun and creative, promote parent involvement, and raise community awareness about PTA. These ideas may be done through individual units or through the efforts of multiple units working together.

- *Enter a PTA themed float in your local community holiday parade*
 - *Ask Business Partners or local businesses to allow you to set up a PTA window display*
 - *Place an ad in your local newspaper detailing PTA accomplishments in your schools and community*
 - *Increase your local unit bulletin distribution to include places where parents and children go (i.e. doctor/dentist office, family-oriented restaurants, hair care salons)*
 - *Memorialize your PTA through keeping a scrapbook to bring to the SCPTA Convention/ Leadership Trainings to share ideas and to display in your school lobby*
- These are just a few ideas. If you have done something unusual to promote what PTA is, please send it in to amybrewer1@charter.net to be considered for publication in the next SCPTA Bulletin. Submissions with photos should caption the event/individuals in the picture.

"...ideas that are fun and creative, promote parent involvement, and raise community awareness about PTA"