

Northwest Cook Region District 37 Dialogue

National Congress of Parents and Teachers
Illinois PTA – District 37 Publication – August, 2014

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www.ilpta-d37.org

Michele Sheppard, Editor

From Our Director

Thank you to everyone who attended Packet Orientation earlier this month. Now that each PTA has a plethora of resources, please share them with your entire PTA. At minimum the treasurer should have the information contained in the finance folder, Membership chair the membership folder, Reflections chair the Reflections folder and down the line. Illinois PTA has made it easier than ever to share the information by putting almost 2GB of information onto the USB drive for quick file sharing – email the information or pass the USB drive from person to person.

As we begin the school year, I encourage each PTA to look at the PTA Monthly Checklist provided on our region website: www.ilpta-d37.org within the Resources Tab. As discussed at orientation, this checklist was created for each PTA as a working document. We have included things that all PTAs should be working on throughout the year and hope you will add your own PTA specific events and items to it to pass on to your successors. The calendar begins with August and yes there are quite a few things to be doing right now. As you complete the PTA audit from last year's books, please cc: me at nfentem@ilpta-d37.org when you submit the audit to our state office (info@illinoispta.org). By sending me a copy of the required information, I can better assist you if there is a need to do so.

Start your year by defining the goals you have for your PTA to complete this year. Without goals you will have no way to determine if you are having a successful year. And without goals there is

definitely no need to fund raise. Always keep in mind that fund raising is the necessary "evil" to allow PTA to carry out our goals and programs that help to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Please be sure PTA has a presence at all the back to school activities. This year we created a tool to help you make a Why PTA board for these events. You can customize it by adding some of your PTA specific programs or leave it as is. The documents are all there to be downloaded and printed out. The document can be found on our website under the Resources Tab or by clicking this link. http://www.ilpta-d37.org/resources/DISPLAY_BOARD.pdf

Finally, I want to invite all of you to our Northwest Cook Region Annual Meeting. The dinner will take place Monday, October 20, 2014 at the Cotillion Banquets Hall with registration and social hour beginning at 6pm. Please be sure to mark this on your calendars and let your administrators know as well. Begin selecting delegates for the event and please extend the invitation to all your members. This year we will be electing a new Region Director, please attend and exercise your right to vote. I look forward to welcoming a new director to our region. Change is always an exciting time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I am here to serve you and help you make your PTA the best it can be.

Nicole

Illinois PTA NWCR/District 37 Director

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 10	Dangerous Games Kids Play Central Road School	7 PM R.Mdws
Sept 10	President's Course Central Road School	7 PM R.Mdws
Sept 12	Reflections Training School District 15 Offices	9 AM PAL
Sept 16	PTA 101 Road to Success Central Road School	7 PM R.Mdws
Sept 16	Reflections Training Central Road School	7 PM R.Mdws
Sept 17	Communications Course Central Road School	7 PM R.Mdws
Sept 17	Money Matters 101 Central Road School	7 PM R.Mdws
Sept 24	Council Course Central Road School	7 PM R.Mdws
Sept 25	Money Matters 201 Central Road School	7 PM R.Mdws
Oct 20	Annual Meeting Cotillion Banquets	6 PM R.Mdws

TREASURER – Barb Quinn

Back to School Tips for Treasurers

As school resumes, are you prepared to begin your activities? One of the first items of business for the PTA treasurer is the preparation and presentation of the annual budget—an outlined estimate of income and expenses for the year. While the Treasurer is often the chair of the Budget & Finance committee, the responsibility for the creation of the budget rests with the committee. Effective budgeting takes into consideration the goals and past practices of the association, as well as the approved programs, projects and services of the association. Once the budget has been drafted, the PTA board considers the budget then recommends the adoption by the



association's general membership. A simple majority vote is necessary to adopt the budget.

Any changes to the budget, whether in income or expenditures must be presented as an amendment to the budget and be presented to the general membership.

This budget will cover the fiscal year established in your bylaws.

Monthly financial reports will keep the PTA board and membership informed on the progress of the budget. These reports are presented and then filed for audit—no action is taken on the individual reports until the conclusion of the fiscal year, when the reports are verified by the PTA audit.

One of the areas that often cause confusion is the collection of membership dues. Here are a few tips to assist you:

- Work with the membership chair to keep accurate records including the number, names and addresses of members;
- Issue receipts if and when requested; (be sure to distribute membership cards)
- Dues receipts include the local, state and national membership dues portions, report the local portion separate from the portion you will be submitted to the state office;
- Follow established PTA procedures when money is collected and counted;
- Deposit funds immediately; and
- Remit dues to the state office as prescribed in the bylaws. The first dues payment must be submitted postmarked by October 1st annually.

It is always a good idea to have a check and balance system in place where money is concerned.

The Illinois PTA recommends:

- Bank statements be mailed to a PTA officer/board member not specified as a check signor on the account for review before reconciliation by the treasurer;

TREASURER – continued

- Blank checks not be signed;
- Funds should be counted by at least two (2) people and verified by the treasurer;
- Financial reports be based on a calendar month; and
- An Annual Report is to be completed at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

The job of PTA Treasurer can seem overwhelming! Please remember that we are here to help—answer questions, provide advice and assistance—since we are only a phone call or e-mail away.

MEMBERSHIP

Well, the kids are “Back to School” again and there’s no better time to conduct a membership recruiting campaign. Some of us approach recruitment as an obligation to our children and our school – and it may be, after all, the PTA that supports those “extras” everyone has come to expect at our schools for our children.

Membership can be an opportunity to show our support to our children’s schooling. We can decide which activities to participate in. It gives us a chance to decide how and where to volunteer our time for our children’s benefit and of course, decide which fund-raisers to support.

Membership is actually a chance to make our voices heard. We can do that within our individual PTAs by serving on a committee alone and meet new people, or work with a friend on something you both enjoy; we can do that by serving as an officer or leader; we can do that by helping a new family get involved; we can do that by attending PTA events at our local unit, the Region Annual Meeting, the Illinois PTA Convention, or the National PTA Convention and the list goes on.

Membership gives us many options including showing our support by simply being a member. It means we believe in the mission of PTA and its purposes.



Given the many reasons different people have for becoming a member of PTA, we urge you to utilize the [DISPLAY BOARD](#) or a variation of it at your membership table. Let potential members know PTA has something for everyone.

Each year our region board creates a theme and an incentive to help PTAs increase their membership. What better way to increase your membership than traveling around the world?! This year as each PTA reaches their membership number that they achieved as of June 30th this past school year, they will begin their travel at our own Springfield home/office. Where each PTA travels from there is unlimited. For every additional 10 members the PTA plane will land somewhere new, it is a yearlong adventure. When you arrive at the office you will receive your boarding pass, this pass will be put into a giant ticket bin. Every time your plane takes off from a destination your boarding pass will be saved in the ticket bin. At the annual meeting in October of 2015, one boarding pass will be retrieved from the bin and that PTA will be awarded a prize valued up to \$500 for PTA usage. Prizes will be subject to the region board’s approval.

Please join us in this traveling adventure around the world and see more details on the program [here](#). We can’t wait to see where all our PTAs travel!

SECRETARY – Michele Sheppard

Congratulations on your election as secretary!



Here is an overview of your duties and responsibilities:

- Record all the business of the PTA at executive committee, executive board and general membership meeting.
- Handle all correspondence on behalf of the PTA under the direction of the executive committee.
- Serve as the custodian of the PTA bylaws.
- Serve as the custodian of the official membership list.
- Serve as the caretaker of all official PTA records.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me for assistance.

REFLECTIONS – Joan Scovic

Reflections is the National PTA Arts program that encourages children to create works of art in six different arts categories. The program has a different theme each year, and the theme for the 2014-2015 school year is "The World Would Be A Better Place If..."

Each local unit PTA received a flash drive with the Local Unit Packet (LUP). Among the plethora of information provided by Illinois State PTA is a section devoted to the Reflections Program. These files are also available online for download at <http://www.illinoispta.org/reflections.html>.

One of the documents included with this information is the fast start guide. This one page overview of the program provides helpful tips for offering the Reflections program in your school. This month's article will revolve around how you can "familiarize yourself with the Reflections program" and "setting a due date and creating your flyers."

Familiarize Yourself with the Reflections Program

There are six arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography and Visual Arts. The LUP contains copies of the rules for each of these arts categories.

There are four age divisions: Primary (Preschool to Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3-5), Middle School (Grades 6-8), and High School (Grades 9-12).

In addition, there are two methods that can be used to submit artwork created by special artists. Children with special needs can enter in traditional age divisions. Qualifying students follow all general and arts category rules, but receive accommodation to submit Reflections entries in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. Or, Special Artists can enter through the Special Artist Division. The Special Artist Division is non-graded and limited to students whose physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges meet ADA guidelines. Qualifying students entering this division create their own artwork in any category, but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult.

Children can create as many works of art in as many categories as they like.

Finally, one of the best ways to learn more about the program is to participate in one of the National PTA Reflections 101 Webinars. These webinars explain the program, how to promote Reflections in your school, judging the projects, and recognizing your students. The webinars are free - sign up for one today using the following registration links.

Sept 9, 2014 <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/926879590>

Oct 14, 2014 <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/927778942>

Setting a Due Date and Creating Your Flyers

Each local unit can set their own due date. As a local chair, you just need to provide yourself with enough time to promote the program and collect the artwork from your students at the beginning of the year. Then, once you have the artwork, be sure to leave enough time to package it all, check the paperwork, judge the projects if necessary, and meet your next deadline. Check with your local unit PTA president to find out the next level of the program in your area: Council, District, or Region. Follow the due dates set by that chairperson.

The LUP contains several flyers that you can customize with your own contact information and due date. You can also create your own flyers.

Promote the program at all of your back to school events, during orientation events, ice cream socials, meet the teacher days - any event that includes your families! Set up a table and share the news about how the arts help children and then encourage participation in the Reflections program. Utilize your newsletter, website, backpack mail, morning announcements, social media - any outlet that will help spread the word! You will be amazed at how creative our children can be!

Best of luck getting your program off and running this year! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at jscovic@illinoispta.org.

We need you as NWCR membership chair.

Duties include monitoring the unit's membership numbers, encouraging unit chairs to gain members, carrying out the NWCR membership incentive, and writing newsletter articles. Contact Nicole for info.

PARENT ED – Matthew Rodriguez

Welcome Back! I hope all of you enjoyed at least some time off this summer and your children had a great time on vacation. There is a lot to share with you for this upcoming year.

As the country's premier child advocacy association we continue to fight for ALL of our children on as many levels as we can. Being an election year it is more important than ever to stay in tune with what the legislators are thinking and most importantly voting for. Please, please, please refer to pta.org/electionguides for more information on how you can be involved and what you need to know.

As you know Common Core has been a hot topic and there seems to be some confusion understanding the difference between the learning standards and curriculum. Here is the link to those resources to not only understand the facts but how to explain it to others. <http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content2.cfm?ItemNumber=3008&navItemNumber=557>

Our local unit packet is absolutely essential for you to kickoff the year right. We felt it was necessary to provide all kinds of resources and each person can choose what speaks to them. With technology changing, I hope you enjoy the USB drive and find it easier to not only use but to pass along to others. If you do not have it available you can always reference the materials at: www.ilpta-d37.org/lup2014.html.

I am trying to keep it short but I have SO much to say I don't want to miss any of the great things going on. Please stay tuned; great things are happening in your PTA at all levels.

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to ALL children. Every single one of us is important in making a difference.

Have a great start!



HEALTH/SAFETY – Shannon Silverman

Smart Snacks: Is Your Fundraiser, Vending Machine, or School Store USDA Compliant?

Beginning July 1, 2014 schools participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program (that's most schools) must ensure all foods sold to kids during the school day (called "Smart Snacks") meet U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutrition guidelines. But what does it all mean? Which foods are considered a "smart snack"? And how do I know if my PTA's fundraiser is compliant? We get it – it can be confusing! But we're hoping to clear up some confusion here and get you the resources you need to be successful. If you don't see an answer here, feel free to ask a question in the comments.

And stay tuned for additional resources to help make sure your PTA is ready to help support healthier foods in school!

What foods are you talking about when you say "Smart Snacks"?

For the purpose of USDA guidelines, the foods that must meet minimum nutrition guidelines are those sold during the school day in school stores, vending machines, fundraisers, and a la carte lunch lines (think "grab and go" food items not part of a full meal). There are already updated USDA nutrition guidelines for the federally-subsidized school meal. Foods sold outside of the school day (we'll get to that in a second) – do not need to meet USDA guidelines.

Wait, did you say fundraisers?

Yes, fundraisers will need to meet the nutrition guidelines if they are sold to kids during the school day or immediately before and after school and are intended to be eaten on the spot.

What do you mean when you say "before and after" school?

The guidelines apply to any food sold

- on school grounds before the school day begins
- during the school day; and
- 30 minutes after the traditional school day ends (think unhealthy fundraisers or unhealthy vending machines as soon as the bell rings).

HEALTH/SAFETY – continued

What about our fundraisers and foods sold on school grounds but not during school day?

The USDA guidelines do not apply to afterschool or weekend events like football games and musical performances, so long as they are not before school or 30 minutes after the traditional school day ends. Your school may have additional restrictions on what can be sold on school grounds, so it's always important to check first. Additionally, many PTAs are adopting healthy fundraising and event practices. The USDA guidelines are scientifically-backed based on nutrition needs for students. Your PTA may want to use the guidelines as a healthy lifestyle resource for your PTA!

What do you mean when you say foods that are intended to be eaten “on the spot”?

The USDA guidelines are only intended to target “ready to eat foods”. If a student is selling a food product through a catalog-type sale where the food is not intended to be eaten by the student at school, it wouldn't need to meet USDA guidelines. But your local school may have additional restrictions.

But I heard there can be some fundraisers during the school day that don't meet the guidelines?

Yes, there is flexibility for states to provide exemptions for infrequent school-approved fundraisers that do not meet the nutrition guidelines. Your administrative office may know this number, but you can also check the National Association of State Board of Education (NASBE) (http://www.nasbe.org/healthy_schools/hs/bytopics.php?topicid=3115&catExpand=acdnbtm_catC) for “fundraising exemptions” under your state. If your state has not determined the number of exemptions allowable, it is automatically zero, meaning that no exemptions are allowed for fundraisers that do not meet nutrition guidelines.

What about birthday celebrations and food our PTA gives to kids?

While PTA supports healthy food offerings throughout the day, USDA guidelines only apply to foods sold to kids during the school day. So if a parent or other group is providing food free of charge, they do not need to comply with USDA guidelines. Keep in mind that state and local rules

apply – and your school may have stronger restrictions on these items.

How do I know if what we're selling meets the guidelines?

Good news! There is a simple way to check this using this tool from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Just enter what kind of product you're selling (for the purpose of vending machines, school stores or fundraisers, it's generally going to be a “snack”) and answer a few simple questions. The tool will let you know if your product is compliant. Just make sure to have the nutrition label handy!

Note: State and local regulations can differ and may be stronger. This is only related to USDA guidelines, which are designed to be minimum guidelines that schools must meet. However, schools are allowed to go beyond these guidelines. You should check with your school about additional guidelines or restrictions to vending machines, school stores and fundraisers. It may also be part of your school's Local Wellness Policy.

Reprinted from National PTA, *One Voice*, Post JULY 11, 2014, By Mollie Van Lieu, http://onevoice.pta.org/?p=4412&utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=smart-snacks-is-your-fundraiser-vending-machine-or-school-store-usda-compliant

TECHNOLOGY – Brent Fentem

The use of social media is growing exponentially and the different programs our children use can be overwhelming as parents. It is hard to keep up with what they are doing online. Schools today use iPads, laptops and much more as tools for the children's educational experience. It is important to prepare the children in this manner but it tends to put parents at a disadvantage. Commonsense Media has a blog which has [A Parent's Ultimate Guide to YouTube](#) that gives tips on this popular program that our children use. Anyone can make a YouTube video and post it. Our children flock to it as a source of how to videos, comedy, documentary and much more. As you look through this link you will find related articles that might interest you regarding other internet programs the children use.



LEADERSHIP – Tracey Coleman

Time for Training!

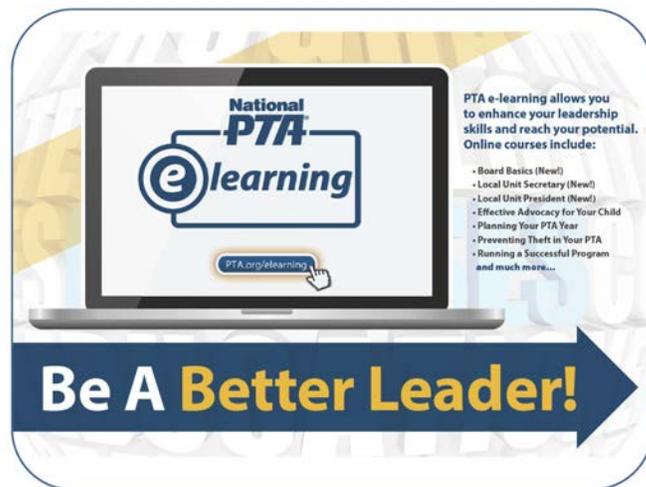
The new school year is fast approaching – are you and your board members ready? Fortunately, Northwest Cook Region PTA is here to help!

Hopefully every local unit took advantage of the workshops offered at Packet Orientation on August 5. Northwest Cook Region board members gave presentations on advocacy, communications, membership, the Reflections program, secretary duties, and treasurer responsibilities.

Those workshops gave valuable information, but your bylaws also require that your board members take PTA training courses. We have another set of workshops coming up in September at Central Road School in Rolling Meadows (open to all PTA members): Road to Success, Money Matters 101, Presidents Course, Council Course, Money Matters 201, as well as the Communications and Reflections workshops. It can be hard to schedule one more night out, but it is time well spent since the more board members who are trained, the more smoothly your PTA will run.

Northwest Cook Region board members are also ready to help local units and councils with specific issues. Need help setting goals? Resolving personality conflicts? Figuring out fundraising “do”s and “don’t”s? We are happy to come to one of your board meetings or even set up a separate training time for your board on whatever topic you need. Just contact Nicole Fentem, NWC Region Director, at nfentem@ilpta-d37.org, or Tracey Coleman, NWC Region Leadership Assistant, at traceycoleman@gmail.com.

There are plenty of online resources available to PTA leaders throughout the year, too. The Illinois PTA website (www.illinoispta.org) has a “Leadership Resources” tab where you can find helpful articles and required forms, as well as sample forms to use in your own PTA. At the National PTA website (www.pta.org), the “PTA Leaders” tab has E-learning courses you can complete at your convenience, tips for running your PTA, and a link to the Back-to-School Kit. PTA is a national association – take advantage of all of the help available at the council, region, state, and national levels!



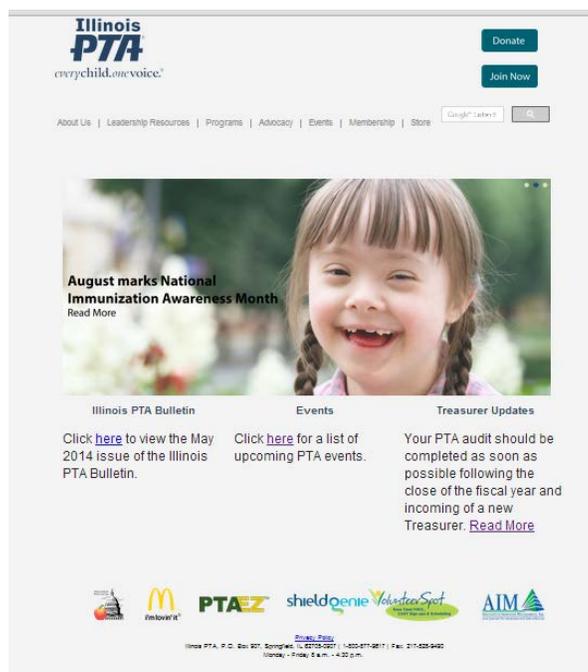
ILLINOIS PTA NEWS

This year’s state annual meeting/convention will be held on April 17-18, 2015 at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. Please be sure your entire membership is aware of this important PTA event.

As you plan your budget, please be sure to allow for your delegates to be able to attend this statewide educational event. Attending convention is an appropriate use of PTA funds. Training is a valuable asset for an effective PTA!

Watch your email and social media as more details become available.

[Check out the updated Illinois PTA website at www.illinoispta.org](http://www.illinoispta.org)



Call for Nomination for Region Director

Northwest Cook Region is searching for a candidate for the position of Region Director for the 2015-2017 term. This position is a voting member of the State Board of Directors and is charged with overseeing the activities, training, and issues for the PTA units in school district 15, 25, 54, 57 and parts of 21. While this is BIG job, there is a great board to assist you. If you are interested or know someone that might be interested, please contact Mikel at hairstyle9902@yahoo.com

SCHOLARSHIP – Angelica Parra



It is that time of year again when parents prepare to send their children back to school. As most parents prepare to buy school supplies and other necessities, some parents must start thinking of how to help pay for the education of their high school Senior which will be going to college in the next year. As there are many deadlines to meet and many colleges to think about, one must also think about the financial aid that is out there and all one needs to do is apply for it.

One of the best ways to do this is by filling out the application for the Illinois PTA Lillian E. Glover Scholarship. Two scholarships are given out every year to high school seniors who will be going into the field of education. Whether it be a counselor, a teacher, or a nurse; every student is eligible to apply. Please make sure to spread the word about this great opportunity. The application can be found online at: <http://www.illinoispta.org/scholarshipapplication>.

As PTA members there are many ways that we can help this great initiative. We can help by making direct donations or by purchasing the following:

- Illinois PTA Life Memberships
- Book of Recognition
- Certificate of Recognition

- In Memoriam Cards
- Gifts of T.H.A.N.K.S.

More details of the scholarship itself and recognitions can be found at: <http://www.illinoispta.org/scholarship.html>

NEWSLETTER – Michele Sheppard



As you begin the year and decide how and how often you are publishing your newsletter, remember that keeping your membership informed is your primary goal.

If you publish an online newsletter, how do you handle those members that do not have access to the Internet? Have you considered providing a hard copy in the office or on the PTA bulletin board?

Are you providing your membership with all the information that they need to participate in your PTA? Some PTAs have reduced the number of issues that they are publishing due to costs. While fiscal responsibility is necessary, have you considered the possibility of producing a shorter newsletter rather than fewer editions? Timely information is very important for your members.

The last item to consider is who receives your newsletter? While a newsletter is a member benefit, consider providing the information to all the families and staff so that they can see what your PTA is doing. If they don't know what the PTA does, they will never get involved. Copies of your newsletters should also be sent to the Region Director, your school district administration and school board.

LEGISLATION – Federal Highlights

National PTA has a new partner, Nonprofit VOTE based in Boston, MA. Nonprofit VOTE works on voter education, voter registration activities, and ballot measure advocacy.

The next 90 days are critical before the next election. It is critical that we urge everyone to register to vote and encourage people to use their voice to choose candidates that align with whatever is important to each individual.

LEGISLATION – continued

Voter Registration Tactics: 1 in 4 voters is not actively registered at their home address and/or their information is incorrect. Registering and re-registering is the first step to ensuring that individuals can vote.

- When getting started, it is important for PTAs to:
 1. Develop a full plan in writing
 2. Designate a volunteer to be the lead, or “champion,” of the activities
 3. Establish buy-in among board and all volunteers to address any concerns about doing this work or about getting involved in face-to-face voter engagement
 4. Become familiar with your state’s voter registration regulations
 - Nonprofit VOTE has resources summarizing the voting rules in every state, accessible here: <http://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state/>
 - **Celebrate National Voter Registration Day: Tuesday, September 23**
Resources are available here: <http://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/resources/partner-toolkit>

Also there has been a great deal of questions regarding the Smart Snack changes.

- The Smart Snacks rule setting nutrition guidelines for all foods sold to kids before, during and up to 30 minutes after the school day went into effect on July 1st. There is an FAQ on our Advocacy blog answering many of the top questions: <http://onevoice.pta.org/?p=4412>
- Beginning next week, National PTA will have a part-time fellow working on helping PTAs implement the smart snacks rule. We will have an implementation guide and be available to answer any questions to get PTA leaders and members the resources and answers they need to be successful.
- Any questions can be directed to schoolfoods@pta.org. Feel free to distribute this email address widely!
- States have or are in the process of setting guidelines around the number of exempt fundraisers a school may hold that do not meet

the nutrition guidelines. If a state takes no action to set the number of exemptions, it is automatically zero.

Individuals and PTAs can check to see if a food product is USDA compliant at www.healthiergeneration.org/calculator

Next, Wi-Fi

- The FCC recently released their proposal for the E-Rate program – which provides discount and financial assistance to improve school and library access to connectivity. The proposal focuses around closing the Wi-Fi gap, identify rural areas in particular need, and simplify the application. The goal is to have all schools have high speed internet access

FERPA Guidance

- The Department of Ed has launched the site www.familypolicy.ed.gov to provide guidance to administrators, parents and students around Family Education Rights Privacy Act. The site should serve as a good central location on FAQs and documents for PTA leaders.

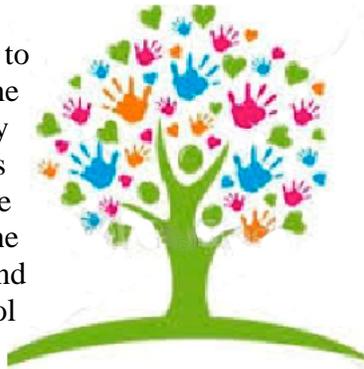
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

- The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act reauthorization bill is expected to be introduced in September in the Senate side. The JJDP A is the cornerstone federal juvenile justice legislation. The JJDP A contains protections for children involved in the juvenile justice system and provides funding to states for juvenile services. Right now, we anticipate a bipartisan bill; the lead sponsor is Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). Senator Whitehouse’s office is still negotiating very important provisions of the bill. PTA is working with his office to monitor developments as there are several important changes that need to be made to the JJDP A this session. Our full asks for the JJDP A this Congressional Session are outlined in our [Public Policy Agenda](#). Stay tuned for more information about this bill!
- September marks the 40th Anniversary of the JJDP A. Over August and September, look out for blogs, social media, and other information about PTA’s work over the last 100 years on this issue. Also, check out the upcoming issue of *Our Children* for an article about the history of the JJDP A and PTA’s involvement in the bill’s passage.

DISTRICT 37 COUNCIL CORNER

Northwest Suburban Council of PTAs

The NWSC was happy to start off the year as the region host council by bringing the region PTAs together at Plum Grove Junior High School for the Packet Orientation and Workshops. The school was full of PTA volunteers who gathered to pick up their supplies, meet



Growing Stronger Together
Northwest Suburban Council
PTA/PTSA

one another, and most importantly learn more about the PTA and our year ahead. It was a great evening. We thank the NW Cook Region Board for their assistance, all the workshop facilitators that shared their knowledge, the volunteers that helped that evening and those that attended our workshops and meeting. We hope that everyone not only learned something new and beneficial but also met some other PTA volunteers in our region. NW Cook Region has an amazing group of PTA volunteers with endless knowledge, creativity, and motivation!

NWSC's theme for the upcoming school year is "Growing Stronger Together." We know that as individuals and local units we can only go so far but when we look toward one another, we can gain inspiration, resources, and support and do *GREAT THINGS*.

NWSC is very excited to be providing new resources to our local units that will help our local units share information and network with one another. The NWSC has started a Facebook support group for local unit presidents to have the opportunity to ask questions and look for feedback from other NWSC members. The council will also be updating the council directory to provide additional resources to our board members. While continuing to provide lists of all local unit board members and their contact information, the new directory will also supply separate lists with contact information for those doing similar positions: membership, ways & means, fun fair chairmen,

fundraising, dance coordinator, etc. We hope that this additional information will help our 20 local units and their boards to access information from other people working on similar committees. This will be especially helpful to new chairmen looking for help or ideas, seasoned volunteers looking to inject a new spin on an existing program, or schools looking for information on a program that they are considering starting at their schools. We can all learn a great deal from the effort and experiences of others.

The council will also be hosting round table discussions this fall for our local unit presidents and their boards. We will have different discussion groups focusing on various PTA programs. Participants will be able to share information with one another- their challenges, successes, ideas, or resources. We plan to document the information shared so that those that cannot attend can still benefit from the information gathered. We hope that this collaboration within our council will help encourage an atmosphere of approachability and accessibility.

The council will be hosting a speaker on "Handling Anxiety" at our fall General Membership Meeting on September 22nd. This speaker will be sponsored by the council SPARK committee; SPARK stands for *Special Education Parents Accessing Resources and Knowledge*. This is the first of eight speakers and programs SPARK will offer District 15 families this year.

We are looking forward to a great year - providing resources, programs, and events that will not only assist our local units but those students, families, staff and communities in which we all serve.

Julie Holdeman
NWSC PTA President



COUNCIL CORNER continued

Arlington Heights Council of PTAs

Welcome to our new officers!

- ✓ 1st VP Programs: Allyson Jannotta
- ✓ 2nd VP: Andrea Burger
- ✓ Treasurer: Holly Ragland
- ✓ Secretary: Katie Washco

We also welcome new District 25 Superintendent Dr. Lori Bein, and wish a warm farewell to Dr. Sarah Jerome. Last, but not least, we welcome all the new local unit school PTA boards for our 9 schools!

Summer was busy closing year-end books, performing audits, filling committee positions, working on new budgets for the new school year, and planning Fall training sessions. As we approach the first day of school, all the units are busy with back-to-school orientations & welcome activities. We met with our unit Presidents and Treasurers for a pre-school workshop. And, as always, the annual Packet Pickup was a great event to kick off the school year!

We look forward to a great start to the school year & working with everyone this year! We are already drafting new ideas to make our council & local units the best they can be!

*Michelle Gledhill and Angela Barry
AHC Co-presidents*

Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs

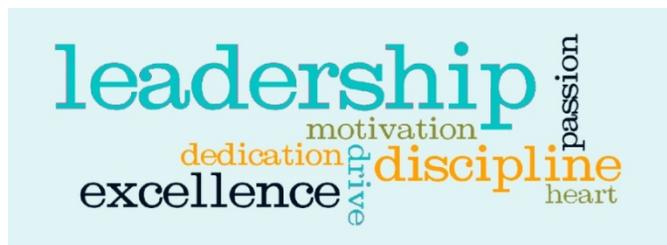
STC is proud and excited to welcome our newest family member to our council. The Early Childhood PTA is gearing up for their first school year in our school district's newly remodeled building, The District 54 Early Learning Center. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at 6pm on Thursday, August 28th. The council looks forward to helping the EC PTA "sprout" this year to benefit the children who will attend the school.

STC is also excited to welcome 18 incoming presidents out of our 28 local units. We can't wait

to see how our local units will "BE THE CHANGE" as we all gear up to do fantastic work for the children of our schools. I know often times as a new president, officer, chairperson or volunteer, we wonder "What did I get myself into?" The hours can be long and we don't receive a paycheck. One of the things I challenge you all to do this year is to remember why PTA exists in your school. You are not solely here to fundraise but to be the voice of each and every child in your school. Of course we need fundraising to help make our programs happen. Remember that you are a resource for parents who may have questions about what is going on at your school. Have you had someone ask what Common Core is? Have you stood in front of school waiting for your children to get out and overhear parents asking if they heard about the kids who got in trouble texting? Being a part of PTA helps you know the answers to these questions and have the tools in hand to educate your families for the benefit of all children. Be sure to attend leadership development training that PTA offers. Well trained PTA members result in a successful PTA. Don't forget that along the way you will or have made some great new friends. Welcome new members and volunteers with a smile and know you make the difference in the lives of children.

On October 7th at Keller Jr. High, the STC will be working in collaboration with the Schaumburg Parent University to hold a parent presentation about *Keeping Your Child Safe Online*. We look forward to this new partnership with SPU and hope to educate parents about how children are using their phones and computers to communicate through text messaging and social media. Parents will also leave the presentation with tools on how to keep their children safe online, prevent cyberbullying and encourage good cyber citizenship. We will also hold our fall general meeting that night.

*Mikel Eppenbuagh
STC President*



NATIONAL PTA NEWS

National PTA Attends Family Engagement Symposium at White House

National PTA participated in the [White House Symposium on Transformative Family Engagement](#) last month.



Hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the White House, the goal of the July 31 symposium was to expand the national conversation about transformative family engagement as a major contributor to children's school readiness and success.

Philanthropic, research and other experts met with a small group of administration officials—including U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Munoz and Deputy Assistant to the President for Education Roberto Rodriguez—to discuss achieving educational equity for children, particularly those from low-income families, through transformative family engagement.

Transformative family engagement is a shared responsibility of families, schools and communities to help students learn and achieve. It is a continuous process from birth to third grade and beyond, and occurs across all the settings where children learn—creating environments that support parents and families as strong leaders and advocates for their children.

During the symposium, participants [examined](#) successful family-engagement practices and the barriers that parents and caregivers might face when attempting to engage in their children's education, highlighting the differences between "traditional" family-engagement methods, where parents are not usually seen as partners in learning and "transformative" engagement strategies.

NORTHWEST COOK REGION/ DISTRICT 37 BOARD

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