

Northwest Cook Region District 37 Dialogue

National Congress of Parents and Teachers
Illinois PTA – District 37 Publication – Back to School: 2013

Nicole Fentem, Director

www.ilpta-d37.org

Michele Sheppard, Editor

From Our Director

Welcome to the 2013-2014 PTA and school year!

Thank you for having the confidence in me to lead you through the next two years of PTA as the Northwest Cook Region Director. Although we are one of the largest regions in the state when calculated by membership and/or number of PTAs, it is my goal to make sure each one of you feels comfortable contacting me or any of my board members. Each council president sits on the Region board to help with communication to and from you



as well. We want to stay connected and be relevant to what is happening in your PTA community. This will help us in “Painting a Brighter Future for OUR Children”. Thank you for being a part of this journey in advocating for all children not just your own.

By now most of you will have completed your audits for last year, or at least have it scheduled to be done shortly, so you can create your budget for the upcoming year. If you haven’t already created your PTA goals and programs to support those goals, please do so soon. August is that time of year that PTA volunteers who may have taken a hiatus come back in full swing to make this year even more successful than last year.

As PTA leaders, August 7th brings us packet orientation. I am excited to see all of you at

Thomas Middle School for this very important event which includes supplying all our PTAs with valuable resources and face to face networking opportunities. Please encourage other board members to come to this evening as well.

August also brings us the due date for the PTA Unit Honor Award Application deadline: the 12th. All of our PTAs do great things and part of planning for a successful new year is reflecting on last year and all the great things you accomplished. This application is a way for you to look back at last year and share with all of us your accomplishments and show the Region how stellar you are. Then, on October 21 at our Annual meeting we will all celebrate your success. Superintendents and principals continually ask me how their PTA can get recognized at the dinner; this is your time to shine with them. The Application can be found on our website at: [http://www.ilpta-](http://www.ilpta-d37.org/resources/Honor_Award_2012-13.pdf)

[d37.org/resources/Honor_Award_2012-13.pdf](http://www.ilpta-d37.org/resources/Honor_Award_2012-13.pdf)
Open the file in Adobe Acrobat and you can fill out the form and click submit when you are done.

Please share this newsletter with your PTA community, feel free to use articles you see here in your own newsletters or as a basis for programs. The purpose of this venue is to be a resource for you. If you have any suggestions or comments, please let me know. Maybe you can be the source of our next great article!

Nicole

Illinois PTA NWCR/District 37 Director

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug. 7	Packet Orientation Thomas Middle School, AH	6:30 PM
Aug. 12	Reflections Workshop Probable Location: Marion Jordan, PAL	7PM
Aug. 30	Reflections Workshop District 15 ESC, PAL	9:30AM
Sept. 10	Road to PTA Success SD25 office, AH	7PM
Sept. 12	Money Matters 101 SD25 office, AH	7PM
Sept. 12	Communications Workshop SD25 office, AH	7PM
Sept. 16	President's Course SD25 office, AH	7PM
Sept. 18	Council Course SD25 office, AH	7PM
Sept. 19	Money Matters 201 SD25 office, AH	7PM
Oct. 21	Annual Meeting Cotillion, PAL	6PM
Nov. 8	Reflection Projects Due to Councils	
Dec. 6	Reflections due to District 37 Chair	
March 5	Reflections Reception South Middle School, AH	7PM

TREASURER – Barb Quinn

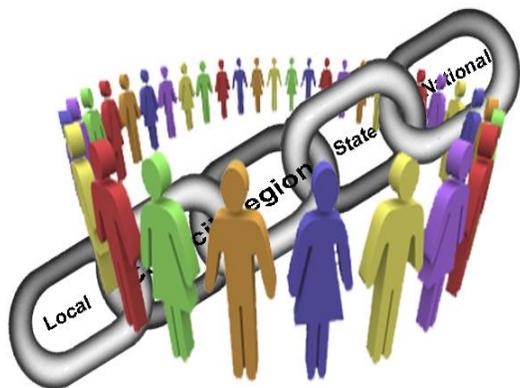
The ABCs of Summer for PTA Treasurers

The end of the fiscal year is upon you, so here are three things you need to consider:

- **Audit preparation:** bank statements, check register and ledger along with deposit and expense vouchers should be ready for the Audit Committee (see local unit bylaws for details) to complete the audit as quickly as possible;
- **Budget recommendations,** based on end of year reports, plans of work and PTA history, should be prepared along with an end of year report that shows *all* the income and expenditures for the current fiscal year--a valuable resource for the incoming leadership as they plan and prepare for the new fiscal year;
- **Complete all necessary paperwork,** including preparation of documents required by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which are due by the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of the fiscal year (see local unit bylaws for definition of your PTA's fiscal year); change of signature cards at bank as necessary; and a list of "best financial practices" for the PTA which assists in maintaining a business-like set of checks and balances to safeguard not only the PTA finances but meet any insurance requirements.

Packet Orientation will be held on **Tuesday, August 7, 2013**, at Thomas Middle School, 1430 N. Belmont Avenue, Arlington Heights. At 7:30 p.m. a Treasurer's Workshop will review available resources and provide you with information necessary to begin the new fiscal year. Please invite your incoming treasurer to attend.

If you have questions, or need assistance, please contact a member of the Northwest Cook Region/District 37 Board or myself.



MEMBERSHIP – Lori Filby

Welcome back to another PTA membership year! Whether you are a PTA newbie or a seasoned veteran you probably realize by now that the base for all of our efforts for children is found through our members. Recruiting and securing members is a year long process, but for nearly all of us it kicks off in August and September with back to school events across our region.

Last year National PTA issued a newly updated membership card design. While the 2013-2014 cards will look basically the same, some of the features of the cards have changed. The 2013-2014 membership cards will come from Illinois PTA via National PTA with both organizations' logos featured on the front of the card. This year's card will once again come with a card carrier, so each sheet of cards will have four cards per page.



REFER A FRIEND TO JOIN TODAY'S PTA!

(Present this completed card to your local PTA to join.)

Your Primary Role: Parent/Guardian Grandparent Teacher/Staff Student Other

Name: Mr. Ms. Miss

Address:

Email: Mobile #: Dues Amount: \$

Referred By:

© 2013 PTA. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. 0913 PTA and everychild.org/voice are registered service marks of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Place your PTA membership card in your purse or wallet now.

This card indicates that you are a member of your local PTA, your state PTA and the National PTA. PTA provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child while providing the best tools for parents to help their children be successful students.

To learn more about additional member benefits, discounts, and savings go to pta.org/benefits.

National PTA Headquarters:
1250 North Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(800) 303-4PTA (47362)
PTA.org

LifeTouch

Like last year NPTA is hoping members will activate the cards either through the PTA website or by phone. By registering as a PTA member with National PTA, the member gains access to valuable benefits, information, and resources from National and Illinois PTA. Card activation ensures that every member is receiving the full advantage of their three tier PTA membership (local, state, and national). Providing National PTA with member information also aids in securing more programs, grants, and funding to support the PTA mission. Statistical and demographic information help NPTA define the population of their member base and increases their ability to make an impact in federal legislation and other advocacy efforts. Activation takes only a few minutes and those who are members of multiple

units will need to activate each card separately. Once again this year activated cards will receive a coupon from PTA's new member benefit provider, Staples. The current offer will give activated members 10% off of school supplies and 25% of printing and copying all year long.

There are some key differences from last year's card too. Immediately you will notice a change in the card stock used this time around. They are not shiny which should help prevent some of the issues with smearing ink. The cards also do not have a unique ID number this year. Your unit will be able to add your own number or forgo numbering all together. Whatever works best for your PTA. On the reverse side of the card carrier, NPTA has added a "Refer a Friend" area, so that members can share the Staples offer and encourage new members to take advantage of the join, activate and start receiving this member benefit immediately.

If you'd like more information on this year's card features and activation process, visit the Northwest Cook Region web site at www.ilpta-d37.org. Click Membership tab and you'll be directed to the National PTA web site for card details, images, FAQs and, most importantly, printing templates.

Each unit will need to decide on its membership goals and member management program, but the rules for using and returning the cards are similar to year's past.

- Your unit will receive about 10% more cards than your final paid member number from last year. If your unit needs more cards, you can easily order them from the state office.
- Each card you receive is worth \$4.25, which is the cost of state and national organization dues, but remember to check your local unit by-laws for your unit's membership dues.
- Your first dues payment is due to the state office no later than October 1, but a great practice is to send your first payment as soon as your initial event concludes.
- Damaged and unused cards will need to be returned at the end of the school year or you will be invoiced for those missing.
- Remember: one card = one member = one vote. Family memberships are not valid.

MEMBERSHIP – Lori Filby, continued

Don't forget that the Northwest Cook Region is still rocking PTA through our PTA Rocks! membership program. Award levels and the program's details can be found on the Northwest Cook Region web site and they remain the same as last year. We have, however, added an exciting new award that will be announced at the Packet Orientation on August 7. Join us there for an overview of all of this information and more detailed discussions on membership recruiting and card management. This is also the night your unit will receive its card supply and local unit resource CD, so set this event as a kick-off to your 2013-2014 PTA year!

I look forward to seeing you on August 7.
Happy Recruiting!



PARENT ED – Matthew Rodriguez

Source: PTA Parent: Transitioning from Summer to School

A New Start:

Helping Kids Adjust from Summer to School

Educational consultant Laurie Hurley provides tips for easing the transition from summertime to school time:

Kindergarten - Fifth Grade

1. About a week before school starts, have your children go to bed at the time they will when school begins. Set their alarm or wake them up early. It's difficult for some kids to adjust to going to bed and getting up earlier after having an entire summer of sleeping in or staying up late.
2. If you have a school supply list (many school districts post them on their website or hand them out the last day of school), buy the supplies early. For the child who is not organized, this is a good way to begin the school year off on the right foot. Label everything and get the backpacks ready the night before school starts. Buy some extra supplies to keep at home just in case.

3. If you have a kindergartner, walk to school two or three days before school begins (or drive if they take a bus or you will be driving them). This helps acquaint them with what they will actually be doing that first day and can work wonders for alleviating the first-day jitters. If your child is especially anxious, ask if you can let them visit their new classroom for five or 10 minutes the day before school starts.

Middle School

1. Many sixth graders will be attending a new school for their middle school years. Oftentimes, the campus is much bigger and can be intimidating. Of course pre-teens may not admit they are nervous, but most parents are. Suggest a bike ride over to the school sometime during August just to look around. Many middle schools conduct orientations, but an extra trip without all of their peers might be worthwhile.
2. Just as in elementary school, it is important to have all the school supplies ready, especially an organizer. Get in the habit from day one of checking it and being sure homework assignments are recorded. Visit the school website and see if homework and grades will be posted on the site.
3. If your student struggles with the basics, consider hiring a tutor for some review sessions before and during the first semester.

Laurie Hurley is an educational consultant. She can be reached at www.hometutoringbusiness.com or (888) 847-0033.

SECRETARY – Michele Sheppard

Many people feel that this is the easiest job on the executive committee of the PTA. This is not true. The secretary is a very important part of the PTA. The secretary does so much more than send letters and cards, and record the minutes of the meetings. They are the person that keeps the association organized. The secretary sends out meeting reminders, helps the president establish the agenda for the meeting by keeping track of what items of business need to be addressed, and when needed serves as the parliamentarian. Have a great year and please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance.



LEADERSHIP – Tracey Coleman

It's Back to School time – are you ready to lead your PTA? One of the benefits of being a PTA is having access to all the resources PTA offers at many levels of the association: council, region, state, and national. Let us help you get off to a great start!



Come to Packet Orientation on August 7 at Thomas Middle School in Arlington Heights, and bring your board members with you! The Northwest Cook Region board is offering workshops for Presidents, Membership Chairs, Treasurers, and Legislation/Advocacy Chairs. You'll also have a chance to tell us "What I really want to know is", so we can answer your most pressing questions on any PTA topic.

PTA training courses will be offered in September in Arlington Heights: Road to Success, Money Matters 101 & 201, Presidents Course, and Council Course. The more board members who are trained, the more smoothly (and quickly) your meetings will run!

Are schedule conflicts keeping you from our trainings? We think the in-person experience is valuable for getting to know other PTA leaders, but sometimes it's just not possible. In that case, check out the online resources from Illinois PTA and National PTA. The Illinois PTA website (www.illinoispta.org) has a "Resources" tab where you can find bylaws information, forms and brochures, and a "Financial Facts" section. At the National PTA website (www.pta.org), you'll find details on PTA Programs and Advocacy efforts at the federal level, and you can go to the "For Members" tab and look for "Local Leader Resources" to access e-learning courses and the online guides from the Back to School Kit.

New this year, Northwest Cook Region presents the "Region Training Traveling Road Show" in an effort to reach more local leaders and to cover more subjects. We'll be visiting PTA council meetings to discuss "hot topics" like how to communicate effectively with different personality types, proper

parliamentary procedure, fundraising, and social media and print communication tips and guidelines. If you have any suggestions for topics you'd like us to cover, tell your council president or contact Tracey Coleman at traceykcoleman@sbcglobal.net.

TECHNOLOGY – Brent Fentem

This summer a few of our PTA Region board members were privileged to attend the National PTA convention held in Ohio. In case you haven't noticed, National PTA has begun using technology for much of their information, including this year's Back to School Kit. Keeping with their digital initiative all attendees of convention came back with workshop information on USB drives. Some speakers included enough information from their workshops that we were able to benefit from looking at the handouts without physically being there. What a great use of today's technology!

The USB drive contained a flyer for a website that is aimed at teaching students to be responsible digital citizens, seeing 95% of teens use the internet. This site www.ciconline.org/InCtrl has lessons for students in grades 4-8 that include videos and activities covering topics such as: Cyberbullying; Ethics/Copyright; Privacy; Media Literacy; Information Literacy; Communication & Collaboration. Feel free to share this information with your school administration and parents as resources for helping our children to be responsible on the internet. Most of them are already there so let's get them the education they need.

In addition, a workshop was given on many "free" technology tools that your PTA might be interested in utilizing. These tools can help you in communication, marketing PTA (with videos and more), data sharing and even finding more members. The following is a small sampling of some tools you might want to check into: Mailchimp, Animoto, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Google Drive, uTube, Dropbox, SurveyMonkey, and Doodle Poll.

Technology is the present and the future; let's use it to benefit our PTA and children.



HEALTH/SAFETY – Joyce Stenzel



At Healthy Schools Campaign, we have been working with schools to help make the healthy choice the easy choice for students. Now, thanks to a significant new set of standards from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), we will have another resource to help implement changes that make those healthier choices easier and pave the way for school districts across the country to more effectively implement healthy snack and beverage policies.

Today the USDA unveiled their interim final rule establishing national nutrition guidelines for “competitive foods,” or food and beverages served in school outside the National School Lunch Program, which include a la carte cafeteria items and items in vending machines and school stores. These “Smart Snacks in School” standards include requirements calling for more whole grains, more fruits and vegetables and foods lower in fat, sugar and sodium. The standards also allow for variation by age group for factors, such as portion size and caffeine content, and are developmentally appropriate for students at the elementary, middle and high school levels. These new guidelines will take effect in July 2014, which provides time for schools and the marketplace to adapt to the new standards.

This is a huge step in the right direction, and we commend USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and everyone at the USDA who have shown their commitment to making schools healthier places. We also commend all of you: this could not have happened without you, the parents, students, school nurses, school administrators, teachers and other stakeholders who raised your voices and demanded these changes. In the wake of the release of the proposed guidelines in February, Healthy Schools Campaign, our friends at PreventObesity.net and more than 100 other organizations mobilized our allies to submit comments in support of the proposed guidelines during the comment period. The USDA received thousands of letters on this issue urging them to stand up for healthy school snacks and beverages. Because of people like you, the USDA knows how important these guidelines are to kids’ health.

These changes are significant, but there is still work that needs to be done. There will still be powerful voices in the food and beverage industry working to dilute or strike down these new guidelines and school districts will face challenges over the next year implementing the changes. We encourage all of you to continue to raise your voice on these issues and find out more about how you can get involved in helping make these healthy changes in your communities. In the immediate meantime, we also encourage you to take a look at the information the USDA has released about these new standards and check out other resources on this important issue, such as this informative infographic from the Pew Charitable Trusts’ Kids’ Safe and Healthful Foods Project. Together, we can continue to work to make healthy choices an integral part of the school day.

Reprinted from <http://healthyschoolscampaign.org/>

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 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 – Barb Quinn

ARE YOU MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR KIDS?

Does the phrase "legislative advocacy" intimidate you? If it does, please think about some of these questions:

- Have you ever attended a parent teacher conference?
- Have you ever asked a teacher to explain a homework assignment?
- Have you ever asked a school administrator how new requirements in the Illinois School Code impact your child?
- Have you ever wondered what IDEA is really all about?

These are just a few examples of legislative advocacy--and while we may not realize it, we are all advocates for our own kids. So, as we prepare for the "Back to School" rush, think about how important it is for your PTA to have a board member who is interested in these issues. Having a "legislative advocacy chairman" is *not* about rules and regulations for your PTA, but is about keeping your membership informed about what is happening not only in Washington and Springfield, but in your own community as well.

Here are some "tips" to make legislative matters "member friendly":

- provide opportunities for PTA members to learn more about what is happening in your school community by hosting "parent education" events;
- work with the County clerk to provide voter registrars for new members of your community;
- work with your school district to learn more about how Illinois' fiscal climate impacts *your* schools;
- work with your PTA district/region to provide candidate forums for the general election, and school board elections;
- engage your members by providing information through the Illinois PTA Northwest Cook Region/District 37 website and Facebook page; and
- share the end of session wrap-up found on the Illinois PTA website.

Legislative advocacy is what sets PTA apart from many other parent organizations. Need help developing a plan or program for *your* PTA? Send

a PTA representative to the annual **Packet Orientation, Tuesday August 7 for a 7:30 pm workshop at Thomas Middle School, 1430 No. Belmont Avenue, Arlington Heights**, hosted by the Illinois PTA President-Elect, Matthew Rodriguez, or contact your Region director to learn how you can make a difference for your students and families.

ILLINOIS PTA NORTHWEST COOK REGION

and
DISTRICT 37

invite you to the
ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, October 21 at 6:00 PM
at the Cotillion in Palatine.

[Watch for more details to come through email.](#)

**SAVE
THE
DATE!!!**

ILLINOIS PTA NEWS

We are working to make it easier for you to take action. Our website now has a simple program that you can use to contact legislators and obtain talking points on pending bills.

[EXPLORE ILLINOIS PTA CAPWIZ!](#)

[Home](#) | [Elected Officials](#) | [Issues & Legislation](#) | [Elections & Candidates](#) | [Media Guide](#)

 **ILLINOIS**

FEATURED ALERT

Governor Quinn Signs HB2404 Into Law

Let's send him a word of appreciation

Thanks to all advocates who contacted their legislators and then Governor Quinn to support HB 2404, which allows 17 year olds charged with felonies to be addressed by juvenile court.

UPDATE

Let's follow through with effective advocacy and send a note of thanks to Governor Quinn for hearing our voice. A suggested template is attached for your use if you so desire.

...

[Take Action](#)

My Elected Officials

President
• Barack Obama (D)

Governor
• Pat Quinn (D)

U.S. Senators:
• Richard J. Durbin (D)

Policy Tools

- State Legislative Directory
- State Officials and Agencies
- Search Local

REFLECTIONS (con't) – Joan Scovic

Contact Information

Arlington Heights Council

Reflections Chair

Eleanor Verdico

847-255-6780 everdico@sbcglobal.net

Northwest Suburban Council

Reflections Chair

Donna Michael

847-963-9865 donna_michael@comcast.net

Schaumburg Township Council

Interim Reflections Chair

Lisa Guagenti

847-301-1123 lilamog@msn.com

District 37/Northwest Cook Region

Reflections Assistant

Joan Scovic

224-400-8530 jscovic@gmail.com

NATIONAL PTA NEWS

NFL, National PTA Join Forces

on Youth Health and Fitness

The NFL and the National PTA announced a partnership on youth health and fitness, launching nationwide this fall. The “Back to Sports” initiative will help PTA leaders across the country educate their communities on youth wellness—from concussion education to *NFL PLAY 60* tips on nutrition and staying active. Local PTAs will plan “Back to Sports Nights,” engaging parents and community leaders on ways to help their kids stay safer and healthier as they head back to the sports field this fall.

The announcement was made by NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL** and outgoing National PTA President **BETSY LANDERS** at the annual National PTA Convention in Cincinnati, OH.

“Back to Sports Nights” will combine information on *NFL PLAY 60* and safety resources for young athletes and their families, presented by local community and school leaders—doctors, physical education teachers, nurses, and others. They will engage parents and students in how to create a culture of sports safety and wellness.

“We are very pleased to join the PTA on youth health and fitness,” said Commissioner Goodell. “These are

vitaly important issues to our organizations, and we are proud to be working together to help educate communities on safety and fitness as our children head back to the playing fields this fall.”

“We are so pleased and excited to work with the NFL on such an important partnership,” said Landers. “Together, with the NFL, we want to make sports fun and safe for our children.”

At the convention, Commissioner Goodell joined **DR. ELIZABETH PIEROTH** and former player **LAVAR ARRINGTON** in a panel discussion on *Health and Safety for a New Generation*.

The panel discussed the important role parents play in making decisions about their children’s recreational activities, the rewards of sports participation, and Arrington’s reflections on the lessons he learned from football, lessons he is now passing on as part of *Heads Up Football*.

The NFL and PTA share a commitment to youth health and wellness. In 2011, the PTA passed a resolution on Head Injury Reporting, encouraging the PTA and its constituents to educate members and school personnel on head injuries in collaboration with state and local education agencies. Incoming PTA President **OTHA THORNTON** is a member of the *Heads Up Football* Advisory Committee, demonstrating his commitment to the important issue of youth safety.

The NFL makes the health and safety of its players a priority. This commitment extends to football players at all ages and also benefits other sports. At the youth level, the NFL’s support for USA Football, including its *Heads Up Football* initiative, helps parents, coaches, clinicians and athletes understand the signs and symptoms of possible head injuries. The NFL has successfully advocated for the passage of youth concussion laws in 48 states. Through funding for medical studies, collaboration with the military, and the work of the NFL’s medical committees, the NFL is committed to advancing science that will have an impact far beyond football. The NFL launched *PLAY 60* in 2007, aimed at reversing the trend of youth obesity and getting kids active for 60 minutes a day, regardless of the activity. Since the program was created, the NFL has committed more than \$250 million to youth health and fitness through programming, grants, and media time for public service announcements.

DISTRICT 37 COUNCIL CORNER

Arlington Heights Council of PTAs

The start of the school year for our children brings in the start of the PTA season for us parents as well. As our kids head off to school on the first day to see who is in their classrooms, we know they are excited and maybe even a little nervous. Will there be some old friends in their class, perhaps? Will there be any new students who are new to our neighborhood? How about the teacher? Will the teacher be nice or stern on the first day? We need to use this parallel and apply it to our own local units. We need to recognize as PTA leaders to stop and take a look at our own boards and see who is in place. Are all the committee chairs seasoned veterans? Do we have new PTA members? Do you know who everyone is and have you met them before?

Unlike our students, we usually do know who will be participating within our organization prior to that first day of school. Before the school year starts, use this advantage of knowing who is on your executive team and your committee chairs as a great opportunity to get to know everyone just a bit better. Building solid relationships at the beginning of your term will establish a firm foundation for your PTA. You can share concerns and information you think would be valuable to everyone. You can set goals and delegate tasks. Often you can witness the “power of asking” taking place in such informal gatherings. Many times a committee chair might feel overwhelmed and once they ask for help, many a time they are surprised at the people who stand up to offer assistance. So never discount, the power of simply asking.

You can also use this opportunity to give new parents a chance to get to know other parents. Often these new parents are new to the neighborhood or their children just started school for the first time. Many times these new parents don't understand PTA's role within the school or even realize they can actively participate and volunteer. To continue the great programs and works PTA does for their schools, it is important to bring these parents in and make them welcome.

How can you try to get parents involved to get to know the PTA? Use Facebook if you have a PTA page for your local unit, send direct emails to your board to get the buzz around, or utilize a user friendly site like Evite to help you issue an invitation to a group for an event. You can easily do an informal meeting at perhaps a local park for larger groups or a local coffee spot for smaller groups. Some schools have a back to school event in which you can incorporate a small informal PTA gathering. Keep the welcome speech short but to the point but get those people walking around and talking to one another. Encourage them to connect to one another and help make introductions all around.

In the end, you want everyone to feel welcomed to our PTAs, our schools and excited to work with one another. Have a great year!

*Julie Birenbaum and Michelle Gledhill
AHC Co-presidents*

Northwest Suburban Council of PTAs

Welcome to our new presidents and new NWSC board members! Our officers have been planning for this year throughout the summer. Our goal for the upcoming year is “The Keys” - focusing on the basics of running a successful PTA. Staying true to *The Keys*, this summer several PTAs have had observers at their audits in order to help them get through an often-complicated process. This was mutually beneficial to the PTAs through guidance of running an audit as well as to our Region board so that we may identify areas that need more training and what help our PTAs feel will truly be useful. Throughout the year we hope to help you learn and improve upon the basics of running a successful PTA. Please let any of us know if you could use guidance or training to help you in your leadership role.

As a reminder, the first Presidents Meeting is planned for Monday, August 12th at 7pm. I look forward to face to face time with you and assisting you with your PTA endeavors!

*Julie O'Hara
NWSC President*

COUNCIL CORNER continued

NORTHWEST COOK REGION/ DISTRICT 37 BOARD

Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs

“Be Your Own Rockstar!”

As my first year as a council president, I hope our theme this year helps us to inspire each other to do great work for the benefit of the children in our district. I hope our local units proudly share the work their doing at their schools and that our committee chairs are excited about the work they do at the council level. I truly believe excitement is contagious and if our members are excited for themselves and each other, I am sure we will have a successful fulfilling year.

Our Executive Committee met to create our goals for this coming year. We plan to continue to re-evaluate and document our council programs, explore pathways to connect our diverse communities within the council, promote PTA awareness through greater marketing of council and local unit activities, and assist our local units in increasing their membership by 1%. I am confident we will achieve these goals and become a stronger council in the process.

Each fall our school district holds a Run to Read fundraiser to raise money for the 1,000 books per classroom initiative. I am proud to say that STC has been named the title sponsor for this event. This opportunity will help our council promote PTA to the families in our communities. At our booth we will be able to communicate the importance of PTA membership, advocacy, legislation, and offer literature in both English and Spanish to an estimated 600 people who will be in attendance. A banner with our STC logo will be displayed and we have purchased bookmarks with our logo and website on them to be distributed in the goody bags given to each participant. We will also have our logo printed on the back of the Run to Read t-shirts that are given to each participant. We are excited to be a part of this wonderful event and to be able to promote PTA awareness.

*Mikel Eppenbaugh
STC President*

Director	Nicole Fentem nfentem@ilpta-d37.org
Secretary/ Newsletter	Michele Sheppard mls1960@aol.com
Treasurer/NWCR Leg. Consultant	Barbara Quinn BQuinnPTA@aol.com
Health	Joyce Stenzel jmstenzel@aol.com
Leadership	Tracey Coleman traceykcoleman@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Lori Filby membership@ilpta-d37.org
Parent Ed.	Matthew Rodriquez tazcubano@aol.com
Reflections	Joan Scovic jscovic@gmail.com
Scholarship	Jeanne Hamilton jeannemarieh@msn.com
Technology	Brent Fentem bfentem@ilpta-d37.org
AHC	Julie Birenbaum julester@comcast.net Michelle Gledhill michelleg29@comcast.net
NWSC	Julie O'Hara joh1012@yahoo.com
STC	Mikel Eppenbaugh hairstyle9902@yahoo.com

leadership
motivation
dedication drive discipline
excellence passion
heart

Courses begin
Promptly at:
7:00 pm

Northwest Cook Region
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]

Registration
Begins at:
6:45 pm

September Trainings

<i>Date</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>What is it and who should attend</i>
September 10	PTA Road to Success	This course explains the who, what and why of PTA. This course is for everyone! The bylaws require this for the entire board (chairmen and officers).
September 12	Money Matters 101	This course will take you through everything you will be responsible for as a PTA treasurer including how to prepare a budget, conducting an audit, fundraising, managing money and bank accounts, electronic banking, treasurer's financial reports, accountability to members and the government, and how to protect your 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. It is suggested that all PTA treasurers and presidents take this course, but it would be beneficial to any PTA officer.
September 12	Communications: Tips and Tools for Your PTA	Email blasts, Facebook, newsletters, Twitter, Pinterest, websites - there are more ways than ever to share news of your PTA. We'll explore a variety of resources including the new Communications quick reference guide from National PTA. This workshop is for presidents, newsletter editors, corresponding secretaries, publicity chairs, and everyone else whose role involves PTA communication.
September 16	President's Course	Now that you have stepped up to be President, learn what it takes to do the job well! This course will give you the information needed to manage your PTA and have a fun exciting time doing it.
September 18	Council Course	This course explains what a council is, how it connects multiple PTAs together and enhances our voice for children, what councils can do for PTAs and its role within the PTA structure. This course should be attended by Presidents and Council Board members or anyone who wants to learn more about PTA.
September 19	Money Matters 201	This course will take you more in depth into some of the legal issues you may encounter as a 501 (c) (3) association. It is suggested that all PTA treasurers take this course, but it contains many legal issues, which other PTA officers should be aware of.

Register online or via email to nfentem@ilpta-d37.org. Walk ins are welcome, but materials cannot be

All Trainings will be held at:
School District 25 Admin Building
1200 S. Dunton Ave. Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Nicole Fentem
Northwest Cook Region Director
E-mail: nfentem@ilpta-d37.org