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President's Message by Kathy Rabun

Happy New Year! I hope all is going well for you and for your PTA.

We are entering into the home stretch for the PTA year. By now your unit's nominating committee should be doing their work and should be giving the membership 30 days notice of the proposed slate of officers before the election meeting defined in your bylaws. Please let your council and 32nd District know the mailing and contact information for your newly elected president and treasurer as soon as they are elected, to facilitate the delivery of the mailings from State and National PTA. Very important mailings with great information for your unit come during the summer. If we do not have the contact information, the mailings go to the District President, who gives them to council presidents, who then gets them to units. This can take some time, and some of the mailings are time sensitive.

We are entering a very busy time for PTA. February 22 is the District Founder's Day Dinner, where we remember Alice McClellan Birney, Phoebe Apperson Hearst, and Selena Sloane Butler, who created PTA as an organization to advocate for children 110 years ago. We will also be awarding District scholarships to graduating high school seniors, and giving Honorary Service Awards to people/groups who do outstanding work in Contra Costa County for children.

32nd District will be holding our general meeting March 19, where we will elect the 2006-2008 executive board, as well as have a presentation on Regional Occupation Programs (ROP) in Contra Costa County. I hope to see you there.

March is also time for the EdSource Conference. PTA is a member of the founding group for EdSource that works on educational finance issues in California. This year the Northern California conference is in Palo Alto.

May brings the California State PTA Convention- being held in Sacramento this year. Convention is a legitimate PTA expense, and is an opportunity to network with other PTA people and attend great workshops. It is a splendid opportunity for training for your newly elected PTA board. At this convention, the attendees will be electing the officers for California State PTA for 2006-08 as well as voting on resolutions. You can register for convention at capta.org.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your hard work for the children of Contra Costa County. The strength of PTA is that we work and advocate for ALL children, not just our own. Thank you for all of your time and energy- I thank you, the kids thank you.

Kathy Rabun
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Don't Miss Our Last General Meeting of Year and an informative program on Regional Occupational Programs for Students

What is ROP?

Provided by Aleta Schnaitter, VP—Parent & Community Involvement

32nd District PTA has a wonderful program planned for March 19th (see informational flier in this issue) to introduce the Regional Occupational Program (ROP) to our PTA membership.

ROP is the Contra Costa County Office of Education's career training program designed for high school juniors and seniors. The goal of ROP is to help students learn about career opportunities and develop job skills.

ROP prepares students for current employment opportunities and future careers. Each class includes a job finding skills unit that includes resume development, effective interviewing, and identifying sources of employment. Students also complete a portfolio of their class work.

ROP can be an excellent way to prepare for college. If students are uncertain of their college major or career choice, ROP gives them a chance to explore a career field. They can also use their skills to work part-time to help pay college expenses. Contra Costa ROP is a leader in college prep. courses, with 24 U.C. approved course offerings.

Internships and hands-on experience provide students the opportunity to "try out" career choices before investing time and money in college or training school. ROP also offers job training opportunities for adults who need to upgrade existing skills or acquire new ones. ROP staff assist adult students with job search information and interview preparation.

Excerpted from the CCCOE website

Looking for some fun and education related activities to fill chilly and rainy afternoons and weekends?

Provided by Aleta Schnaitter, VP—Parent & Community Involvement

The joy of learning most often starts at home with children learning from their parents how to solve problems, acquire new skills, and develop a sense about themselves. Research shows that quality time with parents actually helps children succeed in school. Here are a few activity ideas:

1. Explore and play with toys that educate. Set up an ant farm, aquarium, or terrarium. Experiment with a chemistry set, microscope, telescope, or magnifying glass. Build a model airplane. Younger children enjoy toys that help them count.
2. Read together.
3. Visit the local library: An alternative to buying books is to introduce your children to a whole building full of books at your local library or school library. Make a visit to the library special by allowing your children to apply for a library card and to choose books that may encourage them to use the library frequently.
4. Visit a zoo, aquarium, or museum: Children are naturally curious and should be encouraged to find answers to questions by patient observation and through the use of references, either at home, in libraries, zoos, aquariums, or museums especially interactive museums where children can learn through hands-on experiences.
5. See some live theatre: Check the newspaper. There is a wealth of puppet shows, music and plays geared to appeal to children of all ages.
6. Explore your family history: Look through old photos, documents, and heirlooms, and start writing down your family history. Interview older family members and record their stories. Look through genealogy databases to find more members of your family. Visit the places your family used to live and explore the local churches and libraries for information on relatives. Exploring the family history will bring the family closer together and give them something to hand down to their families

Highlights from Recent CDE News Releases

32nd District PTA General Meeting

~ Monday, March 19, 2007 ~

6:15 – 9:00 p.m.

Discover Contra Costa County Regional Occupational Program (ROP),

Offering 50 rigorous and relevant career courses, including:

Architectural Design, Art & Animation, Automotive Technology, Biotechnology, careers in Teaching, CNA-Certified Nursing Asst., Computer Science, Culinary Arts, EMT-Emergency Med. Tech., Forensic Science, Intro. to Law, Medical Assistant, Robotics, Sports Medicine, Veterinary Science, Video Production.

Come meet with your fellow PTA board members for a fun, friendly, informative evening at the **Contra Costa County Office of Education, 77 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill**

Everyone is invited. Dinner is provided.

6:15 Dinner (Free with RSVP)

6:45 General Meeting

7:00 PROGRAM: “ROP is Alive and Well in Contra Costa County”

First-hand knowledge about future careers

Dr. Joseph Ovick, C.C.C. Superintendent of Schools - *State of Education in C.C.C.*

Marie McClaskey, ROP Student Program Director, C.C.C.O.E.

Judy Moon, ROP teacher, Mt. Diablo H.S.

ROP students

PLEASE reply before March 16 so we know how much food to order.

For more information, directions, or to RSVP;
contact Aleta Schnaitter (925) 244-1106 or aschnaitter@hotmail.com

Convention Registration Continues

By Maureen Chang, VP—Organization & Convention

Registration for the 108th Annual California State PTA Convention is currently underway. The Convention will take place in **Sacramento from May 3-6, 2007.**

Three Ways to Pre-Register for Convention:

Online**

Go to California State PTA's website at www.capta.org. It's quick, easy and secure. Credit card payment only. Available February 1 – April 27.

FAX**

Complete the registration form and fax it to 650.565.9600. Credit card payment only. Available February 1 – April 27.

Mail**

Complete the registration form and mail it *by April 15, 2007*, along with payment to: SMART-reg International, Inc., Attn: California State PTA Registration, 990 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Payment by check, money order or credit card. Make check/money order payable to: California State PTA. There will be a \$25 fee for all returned checks.

Confirmation of Registration:

Confirmations are emailed immediately with online registration, faxed with faxed registrations, and mailed via USPS for mailed registrations.

Please note that Early Bird Discounts only apply until March 31.

Since Districts are not collecting registration forms and verifying membership at that time, a current PTA membership card must be presented upon arrival at convention registration or the non-PTA member registration fee will be required!!!!

Convention Registration Time-line



January 2	Convention Book mailed by State PTA also available at www.capta.org
February 1- April 1	Hotel Reservations open through SCVB
February 1- March 31	Early Registration (with lower fees)
March 1	Last day to cancel hotel without penalty
April 1- 27	Advance Registration on-line
May 2-6	On-site Registration
May 3-6	CONVENTION

If you have any questions about Convention please contact Maureen Chang at 925-743-0464 or chnngng@aol.com.

Slate of Officers for the 2007-09 Term

The 32nd District PTA Nominating Committee nominates the following slate of officers for the 2007-2009 term:

President	Sue Woodworth-Bennett
1st VP Leadership	Charley Cowens
2nd VP Convention	Mitzi Reagan
3rd VP Communications	Maureen Chang
4th VP Membership	Chris Low
5th VP Community Concerns	Rachel Hurd
Secretary	Christina Reich
Treasurer	Will Sanford
Auditor	Open
Historian	Kim Lonie

Are you interested in serving on the 32nd District board 2007-2009? We still have a few chair positions available, including Reflections and Honorary Service Awards Chairman. Please contact Sue Woodworth-Bennett at bennettela@aol.com or 925-964-0491.

Keep Your PTA Communication Flowing

By Rachel Hurd, VP—Communications

As your PTA unit holds its election, be sure to obtain roster contact information for your newly elected boards and submit this information to your PTA Council president and to 32nd District as soon as possible.

32nd District needs the name, telephone number, email address, street address, city, and zip code for the president, treasurer, and recording secretary of each unit. We also need the name of your principal, his/her email address, and the school address and telephone number. This information is **due by May 15, 2007**. We forward your information to the CA State PTA, which is how you receiving mailings from CAPTA.

Please send this information by email to: **32districtpta@sbcglobal.net**, if possible. If no access to email, mail to Rachel Hurd, 9474 Broadmoor Dr., San Ramon, CA 94583.

Councils may request more complete board roster information, and most likely have an earlier deadline in order to meet our deadline. Thank you for your help on this!

Membership Per Capita Due Now

By Sue Woodworth-Bennett, 4th VP—Membership

Don't forget to send in those membership dues. All payments need to be received by your council treasurer by March 1st. So far, 32nd District membership totals are down from last year, so please remit your dues portion as soon as possible.

	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2006-07</u>
32 nd District	43396	37295
Bayside Council	3465	2831
Delta Council	4233	3179
Las Trampas Council	7561	5425
Martinez Council	2251	1838
Mt. Diablo Council	6079	5479
San Ramon Valley Council	19807	18543

If you have any questions please call me at 925-964-0491, or email me at bennettela@aol.com

32nd District PTA Calendar

Date	Time	Place	Event/Deadline
February 22	6:00 p.m.	Zio Fraedo's Ristorante	Founders Day Dinner
February 26	9:30 AM - Noon	CCCOE	District Board Meeting
March 19	9:30 AM - Noon	CCCOE	District Board Meeting
March 19	6:15 to 9 PM	CCCOE	General Meeting: Program—Discover Contra Costa County Regional Occupational Program
April 16	9:30 AM - Noon	CCCOE	District Board Meeting
May 3-6		Sacramento	CA State PTA Convention
May 15			Annual Reports & Officer Contact Data due (Unit deadlines to Councils are earlier.)
May 21	9:30 AM - Noon	CCCOE	District Board Meeting
June 18	9:30 AM - Noon	CCCOE	District Board Meeting

Officer Contact Information is due to 32districtpta@sbcglobal.net by May 15, 2007.
 We need the name, telephone number, email address, street address, city and zip code for each unit's
 President — Treasurer—Recording Secretary—and Principal
 (* note the school telephone and address are fine for principal)

We're on the Web!
www.32ndpta.org

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32nd District PTA

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