



everychild. one voice.

## President's Message by Kathy Rabun

I hope your PTA year has gotten off to a great start, and that things are running smoothly. I wish you and your families Happy Holidays, and want to thank you for all you do for children.

I would like to welcome Bel Air Elementary PTA and Oak Grove Middle School PTSA in Mt Diablo Council, El Sobrante Elementary PTA in Bayside Council, and Iron House Elementary School PTA in Delta Council to 32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA.

As 32<sup>nd</sup> District has interacted with units around Contra Costa, we have found that sometimes officers are missing important PTA tools for their units. Every PTA president should have at a minimum:

- ◆ Toolkit
- ◆ Copy of the units bylaws
- ◆ Insurance and Loss Prevention Guide
- ◆ National PTA Quick Guide for Presidents
- ◆ Presidents binder with copies of minutes and financial reports for the last year and helpful hints
- ◆ Parents Empowering Parents Manual (PEP)

If you are missing the Toolkit or the PEP Manual you can download them from [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org), or you may order them from California State PTA. You should have recently received the Finan-

cial Mailing with the Insurance and Loss Prevention Guide. If you can not locate a copy of your unit's bylaws, the council parliamentarian has a copy, as does the district parliamentarian.

January 2007 is likely time for your association to be looking at electing a nominating committee. The job of the nominating committee is to fill the slate of officers defined in your bylaws for next year's executive board. The nominating committee must be elected by the association in time to do their work and give the association 30 days notice before the election meeting (defined in your bylaws, most often March or April). Holding the election at that time enables the board-elect to go to convention and avail themselves of the training opportunities there. Convention 2007 will be in Sacramento.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> District Reflections Awards Ceremony will be February 3. It is a great event, one to look forward to each year. There are very talented kids who create great art in Contra Costa.

Try and get some down time during the holidays to look after yourself.

And THANK YOU for all you do for children.

*Kathy Rabun*  
(925) 349-5772,  
[rrabun@lanset.com](mailto:rrabun@lanset.com)

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**Big Changes Underway for 2007 Convention Registration**  
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## Membership News **By Sue Woodworth-Bennett, 4th VP—Membership**

Every PTA is required to keep a current list of their members. This list should be updated frequently (as soon as new members join). Please include the member's name, address, phone number, and email address if available. Next year, all PTAs will be asked to send their membership lists to councils/or districts, where the data will be compiled and sent to the state and national PTAs. If possible, please create a spreadsheet in Excel. If you are unfamiliar with Excel, let me know and I can email you a spreadsheet that you may simply fill in.

A copy of the membership list should be given to the president, secretary, treasurer, and of course the membership chair. The secretary needs this list to verify who is eligible to vote during Association meetings. The nominating committee may also request a copy of the list as they consider candidates for PTA offices.

If you have any questions, please call me at 925-964-0491 or email me at [bennetela@aol.com](mailto:bennetela@aol.com).

*Sue Woodworth-Bennett*  
4<sup>th</sup> VP Membership



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## American Cancer Society Greater Bay Area offers Education Program Grants to 32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA Units or Councils

**By Aleta Schnaitter, VP Parent & Community Involvement**

The American Cancer Society (ACS) advocates that saving lives means starting early. Research shows that lifestyle choices-- what you eat, how much you exercise, how much sun exposure you get, and whether you use tobacco-- impact your risk for cancer. In fact, more than 60% of cancers are linked to these health choices. Helping young people develop healthy habits translates into reducing their cancer risk and saving lives tomorrow.

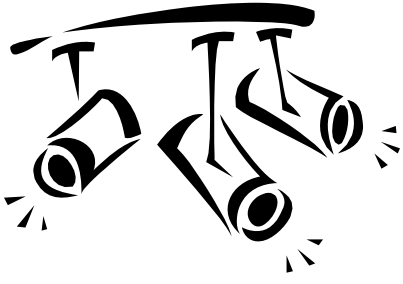
The **Coordinated School Health Programs**, a partnership of public schools, educators, PTA, public health organizations and the ACS, has awarded a total of \$500 to the 32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA to distribute to Units or Councils who would like to sponsor a school health program on their school sites. Any PTA Unit or Council with an idea for a health related project that they would like to implement, should submit a proposal to the 32<sup>nd</sup> District president, Kathy Rabun (contact: [rrabun@lanset.com](mailto:rrabun@lanset.com) or (925) 349-5772). Proposals will be forwarded to Lillie Kocher at the American Cancer Society for her approval.

Submitted proposals should include:

1. A description of the project/program and how it relates to health.
2. Description of how and when it will be implemented.
3. How many students or parents the message will reach.
4. Expected cost of program and amount requested.
5. What the expected results will be.

A “wrap-up report of the project/program is also requested by the sponsor, so they can document the success of their Grant program.

The deadline for the receipt of proposals is January 22, 2007. Funding for approved proposals will be received by Units/Councils by February 12, 2007. Projects should be implemented by May 4, 2007.



# Announcing Major Changes to State PTA Convention Registration Coming February 1, 2007

... It's now online!

By Maureen Chang, VP Programs & Convention

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to attend the 2007 California State PTA Convention. It will take place from May 3-6, 2007. This year's location will be the Sacramento Convention Center.

If you have never attended Convention before please be aware that this is a legitimate PTA expense. This is NOT a vacation or a fun-trip. It is, however, a wonderful opportunity to get training, interact with your fellow PTA members, and improve your leadership skills. The ultimate goal of Convention is to help you make your PTA unit/council stronger and more responsive to your parent community's needs. Voting delegates to Convention also help determine State PTA policies and positions on issues that affect children. I urge to you ask your unit/council to approve sending you to the Convention. Please note that the Basic Training classes will be offered on Thursday afternoon, May 3 and are FREE with your convention registration.

## **Beginning this year registration for the State PTA Convention will be handled individually.**

The preferred method of registration will be on-line. There will still be fax and mail options available, but all registrations will be handled by the individual. Early-bird registration will take place February 1- March 31, 2007 with special reduced fees for early-birds. Advance registration will be available April 1-27. After that all registrations will need to be on-site. PLEASE NOTE: Because conference attendees are registering themselves, there will be no way to check membership cards at the time of registration. Therefore all conference attendees will be **REQUIRED TO SHOW A VALID PTA MEMBERSHIP CARD WHEN THEY CHECK-IN ON-SITE**. Anyone who does not have a card will need to pay the non-member registration differential. Also, because registration is staying open longer than in the past, there will be less need to submit "Delegate A" or "Delegate B" registrations. Hotel reservations will be accepted beginning February 1, 2007. Reservations must have a name on them, but the name can be changed later. All reservations will be handled through the Sacramento Convention and Visitor's Bureau (SCVB). Rooms will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Not all hotels are within easy walking distance of the Convention Center so make your reservations as early as possible.

Please note that registrations will not be considered complete without the MANDATORY \$20 District Convention Fee. This helps 32<sup>nd</sup> District fund a Hospitality Suite which is open to all Convention delegates from our District. The Hospitality Suite is central meeting place for all District delegates to meet, socialize, and exchange information gathered from conference sessions. It is a source of coffee and comradeship. On Friday night, May 4, 32<sup>nd</sup> District has organized a District dinner. The cost is \$35 and includes tax and tip. This dinner is optional. I would like to urge you attend as the dinner is another wonderful opportunity to interact with your fellow PTA delegates and discuss programs you might want to consider for your unit/council.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. This whole procedure can seem a little daunting at first but the benefits to be gained from Convention are well worth the effort.

I hope to see all of you in Sacramento!

Maureen Chang  
VP Programs & Convention  
925-743-0464  
chngng@aol.com

# Convention Housing Reservation Form

**1.) RESERVATION INFORMATION:** Use only one form per room reserved!! (Please mail to the address above or FAX the completed application to SCVB Housing at 916.808.8414. All confirmations will be sent to Guest Name #1 within 48 hours of receipt.

GUEST NAME #1: \_\_\_\_\_

District Number/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

SHARING WITH: GUEST #2: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST #3: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST #4: \_\_\_\_\_

**2.) DATES OF STAY:** (FYI: Check in time is at 3:00PM and check out is at 11:00AM)

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**3.) HOTEL CHOICES AND PACKAGE RATES\*\*** Place the number 1 – 7 in your order of preference beside the following hotels, #1 being your first choice; (SCVB will honor preferred choice based on hotel availability.)

_____	SHERATON GRAND 1230 J Street		\$165 SGL	\$165 DBL	\$190 TPL	\$215 QUAD
_____	HYATT REGENCY 1209 J Street		\$152 SGL	\$152 DBL	\$177 TPL	\$202 QUAD
_____	HOLIDAY INN CAPITOL PLAZA 300 J Street		\$140 SGL	\$140 DBL	\$150 TPL	\$160 QUAD
_____	EMBASSY SUITES 100 Capitol Mall		\$179 SGL	\$179 DBL	\$194 TPL	\$209 QUAD
_____	BEST WESTERN SUTTER HOUSE 1100 H Street		\$109 SGL	\$109 DBL	\$119 TPL	\$129 QUAD
_____	HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS 728 16 <sup>th</sup> Street		\$119 SGL	\$119 DBL	\$129 TRL	\$129 QUAD
_____	CLARION HOTEL MANSION INN 700 16 <sup>th</sup> Street		\$109 SGL	\$109 DBL	\$119 TPL	\$119 QUAD

\*\* Rates listed do NOT include 12% Occupancy Tax or hotel service charges.

**4.) PAYMENT:** Payment by check or credit card must accompany this form. Registration forms sent without payment information will not be processed. All check deposits must be in the amount of \$150.00.

Please make checks payable to SCVB Housing: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

American Express     Visa     MasterCard     Discover     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATION INFORMATION:**

All changes and cancellations must be made through SCVB Housing until April 2, 2007. Changes made on or after April 2, 2007 must be made directly with the hotel. All changes should be made in writing via email or FAX to SCVB at the number and address listed above. For any cancellations made on or after March 1, 2007 (60 days before your arrival date), your deposit will be refunded less a \$50.00 processing fee. Cancellations made within 72 hours of arrival will be charged one night's room and tax and will be billed to your credit card or deducted from your deposit. If you have any questions, you can email your question to Julie jreilly@cityofsacramento.org or Lisa lwiley@cityofsacramento.org

# Convention Registration Time-line



January 2	Convention Book mailed by State PTA
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

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Everyone attending Convention will be **REQUIRED** to show a **VALID PTA MEMBERSHIP CARD** when they check-in at Convention. If you do not have a card then you will be required to pay the non-member fee

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*Just a reminder about a Parent Program idea for your unit or council (reprinted from The Contra Coaster, July/August, 2006)*

## Keeping our Kids 'Internet Safe and Smart' is up to us

**By Aleta Schnaitter, VP Parent & Community Involvement**

**32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA has purchased *Raising Media Savvy Kids: A Common Sense Toolkit*.** With the resources found in this toolkit, any PTA unit or council can lead a one hour, interactive parent education workshop. Step-by-step instructions, promotional materials, workshop script, PowerPoint slides, educational DVD, and handouts are included. All you would need to add are the parents! This toolkit was used in October by one of our units to lead a parent education workshop, *and the response from parents and school administrators was very positive.*

The Common Sense Toolkit can be borrowed from 32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA so that your PTA can coordinate and lead a parent education workshop on media awareness. If interested, contact Aleta Schnaitter, VP of Parent/Community Outreach, at [aschnaitter@hotmail.com](mailto:aschnaitter@hotmail.com) or call (925)244-1106.

You can also visit [www.commonsemmedia.org](http://www.commonsemmedia.org) for more information on this program or contact Rebecca Randall, Director of Outreach, at [rebecca@commonsemmedia.org](mailto:rebecca@commonsemmedia.org) or call (415)553-6708.

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## Reflections Program Update

**By Denise Elskens, Reflections Chairman**



We have completed another successful year for the Reflections program.

Thank you to all of the participants for sharing your wonderful Reflections entries with us. The 32<sup>nd</sup> District Showcase, where the entries going on to the State level will be announced, will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2007, at the Alhambra High School Performing Arts Center.

# A Night to Remember...

By Aleta Schnaitter, VP Parent & Community Involvement

The 32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA General Meeting on October 16 was just that. Delaine Eastin delivered a powerful message on the state of children and education in California and the U.S., one that was inspiring and frightening at the same time. She provided listeners with facts about the globalization of education, and how the United States is falling behind. Her travels and visits to many foreign schools make it clear that the U.S. is unwilling to make the commitment and investment in our children and their education, that other countries so willingly do. She urged pre-school for all children, completely funded so all children get the same head-start. She wants educators to focus on childhood obesity, an epidemic among our children. She urges a comprehensive education plan and national standards so there is coherence when children move from one state to another. She thinks there should be more support and training for school administrators so they can focus on instructional issues at their schools and support for their teachers, rather than the everyday issues of running a facility. Statistics indicate that most teachers leave the profession in under five years because of lack of administrative support. California is not tracking students, resulting in an extreme under-accounting of the numbers of students who drop out of school. Some CA cities are losing 1/3 or more of their high school students before graduation. The problem is disguised, and therefore is not being addressed. These are a sampling of the topics she tackled.

Delaine's ideas flowed furiously, backed up by facts, statistics, and Delaine's long history of experiences and service in public office. Her enthusiasm and passion is contagious! As one attendee wrote, "Delaine for Governor!" I think everyone left with a renewed commitment to make a difference for California's children.

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## Shorter Version of PI Cert Survey Now Available

The PTA Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification (PI Cert) survey process provides schools with a framework for evaluating their commitment to and level of parent involvement. Schools that participate in this process learn where their strengths lie and where improvements to increase and strengthen parent involvement need to be made. Certification helps schools show their community their commitment to working in partnership with parents to help ensure student success.



PTA has introduced a second, shorter version of the PI Cert survey in response to local leader concerns regarding the length of the original survey. Local leaders will now be able to choose either version of the survey. Both surveys are available in English or Spanish.

1. Form an action team that represents the key stakeholders in your school and community.
2. Register online at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).
3. Provide opportunities to share the National Standards with the school community.
4. Decide which survey will be used and survey the school community.
5. Record survey results online.
6. Share survey results with the school community.
7. Create a parent involvement plan that builds on your strengths and addresses your areas for need improvement.
8. Gather supporting documentation and submit your application and processing fee to the PTA's national office.
9. Celebrate your success.

Parent Involvement Certification Process at-a-Glance (go to National PTA website, [www.pta.org/picert](http://www.pta.org/picert))

- Reprinted from the National PTA Local Leader News, October 4, 2006

# Join Us In Celebrating 32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA's Founders Day

Celebrate 110 years of volunteer service to children  
as we mark the founding of PTA.

Join in honoring PTA advocacy for children with the presentation of this year's Honorary Service Awards, 32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA's Student Scholarship winners, and performances by Reflections Program participants.

Date: Thursday, February 22, 2007

Time: 6:15 pm Registration and Social    6:45 – 8:45 pm Dinner and Program

Place: Zio Fraedo's – 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill

Cost: \$33 per Person

Appetizers: Fried Calamari, Toasted Raviolis, Fried Zucchini  
Garden Salad w/ Vinaigrette

Entree Choices: Chicken or Vegetarian

Chicken Piccata w/ Mashed Potatoes and Vegetables  
Or

Pasta Primavera w/ Fresh Vegetables in White Sauce

Dessert: Chocolate Mousse

Questions? Please call Melanie Miller (925) 933-8319  
(This event is a legitimate PTA expense)

**\*\*\* Please carpool if you can as parking is limited \*\*\***



Reservation Deadline is Monday, February 12, 2007

Mail reservations to:

Melanie Miller – 3048 Vessing Road, Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523

Name/Title/School

Phone#

Entrée Choice

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Total # of reservations at \$33 each \_\_\_\_\_. Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make checks payable to 32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA.

Cancellations will not be refundable.

# Get Your Child Engaged in Science Fair 2007

Do you have a budding scientist in your family? Want your child to learn more about pursuing a career in science or engineering? Consider encouraging your middle or high schooler to get involved in the 2007 Intel-affiliated Contra Costa Science & Engineering Fair (CCSEF), March 22, 23 & 24 at Heald Conference Center in Concord!

What is CCSEF? It is about imagination, creativity, and scientific thought. It is about experimentation, exploration, invention and fun!

Only in its second year, Contra Costa businesses have joined with K-12 educators to establish an Intel-affiliated Science Fair right here in our local area. Being Intel-affiliated allows student competitors to win some great prizes and compete at the international level.

Last March, Contra Costa held its first fair with over 100 students from 15 middle and high schools. Over 85 industry representatives supported the Science Fair and over \$10,000 in prizes were awarded. Two high school students went on to compete in the International Science & Engineering Fair and 9 students were invited to compete in the California State Science Fair--one won 3rd place!



Parents can encourage their 7th through 12th grader to compete for some great prizes including cash awards, scholarships, tuition grants, internships, summer jobs, and all-expense paid trips to the Intel-affiliated International Science & Engineering Fair being held in Albuquerque next May.

Science fairs can actually be an enjoyable experience. It is in the practice of science that students learn to approach challenges in a systematic way. Here are some parent tips to guide students through the process:

1. Begin with a supportive attitude.
2. Help students discover their own interests.
3. Encourage students to focus.
4. Be an enthusiastic, interested listener-even when your child practices his/her presentation for the 100th time!
5. Provide logistical support including transportation to and from the science fair.
6. Be your child's cheerleader. All things are possible with focus, hard work and encouragement.

Becoming involved in the 2007 Science Fair not only helps stimulate interest and enthusiasm in science and engineering, it also provides the opportunity to give public recognition to students for their achievements. The Awards Ceremony and Project Exhibition (scheduled for Saturday, March 24) also affords parents and the community an opportunity to examine the products of scientific investigation and the communication skills of students in our schools today.

The window for project submissions is open now through February 1, 2007. Be sure your student reads the rules and regulations before commencing the project and submits all the paperwork appropriately. The official website of the Contra Costa Science & Engineering Fair contains all the information needed to be a part of the competition in 2007!

Go to: <http://cceconptnr.org/ScienceFair/>

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## 32nd District PTA Nominating Committee

The 32nd District Nominating Committee is looking for qualified candidates for next year's board. To be eligible for an elected board office, a person must have served on the district board for one year, or a council board for two years, including the year of nomination. Please contact one of the committee members if you are interested.

Sue Woodworth-Bennett	925-964-0491	bennettela@aol.com
Kathy Coppersmith	925-930-8289	fivecops@aol.com
Christina Reich	925-370- 1255	creich@ccccsd.org
Robert Studdiford	510-527-9704	robert@twofish.biz
Wanda Waltman	925-685-3483	wandawalt@astound.net

*Come meet with your fellow PTA board members for a fun, friendly, informative evening  
Everyone is invited. Dinner is provided.*

## 32nd District PTA General Meeting

~ March 19, 2007 ~

6:15 – 9:00 p.m.

At the Contra Costa County Office of Education  
77 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill

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### **Discover Contra Costa County 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.

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*

Speakers will include:

- ♦ 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

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**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](mailto:aschnaitter@hotmail.com)

## 32nd District PTA Calendar

Date	Time	Place	Event/Deadline
January 1			Liability & Workman's Compensation Insurance Due Workman's Compensation Form Due Mandatory 2nd Per Capita Remittance Due
January 15			High School Scholarship Applications due Honorary Service Award Nominations due
January 22	9:30 AM - Noon	CCCOE	District Board Meeting
February 1			MY PTSA Award applications received by State
February 3	2:00 p.m.	Alhambra High School	Reflections Awards Ceremony
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 ROP
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

We're on the Web!  
[www.32ndpta.org](http://www.32ndpta.org)

Kathy Rabun, President  
 3641 San Lisa Court  
 Concord, CA 94520

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**PTA**

32nd District PTA

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