

From CT PTSA State President– *Marne Usher*

It's back-to-school and that means back-to-PTA. Our children are so excited, nervous, happy – for their first day of school and so are we. Hopefully you had some time over the summer to plan for your 2010-2011 PTA/PTSA year. Whether you had formal meetings, informal gatherings at the pool or ball field, phone calls or chains of emails; I'm sure you have thought about what you want to accomplish this year. As you finalize your plans and put them in motion, take a minute to remember our mission. The overall purpose of PTA is to be:

- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Notice that no where in there does it say fundraising. We all recognize that fundraising is usually necessary to bring in the kind of programs and events that we want for our parents and our children but sometimes we are so busy finding the money that we forget that we are the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy group in the nation. We are the group that can build partnerships and bring families, schools and communities together. We have the tools to enrich our children's education, increase their chances for success and help our communities understand the impact of high quality education on all of us. For more information on how build these very important partnerships go to www.pta.org/partnerships.

Also as you start your new PTA/PTSA year I would like to share with you the Paradoxical Commandments. So often in our volunteer lives we assume that everyone is involved for the same reasons that we are and therefore that we will always be on the same page. Not True! We are all involved in PTA/PTSA because we care about our students and our school but we are otherwise a very diverse group with different backgrounds, different skills and different expectations. We always need to remember that in the end, it's always about the kids. With that in mind....

THE PARADOXICAL COMMANDMENTS

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.

CT PTSA
60 Connolly Parkway
Building 12, Suite 103
Hamden, CT 06514
203-281-6617
203-281-6749
connecticut.pta@snet.net
www.ctpta.org



Wishing you a great 2010-2011 school year!

A Message from the National PTA President

My friends, August 10, 2010 marked a proud day in National PTA history. It is the day our association began moving into our new headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia near Washington, D.C. For our voice of five million, this is a return home; to the area where PTA was founded 114 years ago -- and a new opportunity for us to help every member improve education and wellness for every child.

Here at our new building, there will be space for member training, a center for conducting research on the benefits of parental engagement, and new capacity for PTA in helping improve our schools and communities. It is also a prudent financial move. We no longer rent space in two different cities, and we now have an appreciable asset we can use for future growth and activities.

As our partners in leadership, please join us in celebrating this important step in PTA's transformation to better serve our children and families.

Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor
National PTA President



Please update your address book with the new address listed below.

**National PTA®
1250 N. Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314**

Phone: (800) 307-4PTA(4782)

Email: info@pta.org





About PTA

The Best Resource for Parents

As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) reminds our country of its obligations to children and 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.

PTA does not act alone. Working in cooperation with many national education, health, safety, and child advocacy groups and federal agencies, the national PTA organization collaborates on projects that benefit children and that bring valuable resources to its members.

Mission, Vision & Values

The Parent Teacher Association

Membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission and purposes of Parent Teacher Association. Individual members may belong to any number of PTAs and pay dues in each. Every person who joins a local PTA automatically becomes a member of both the state and national PTAs.

Together we are a powerful voice for children. With your help, we can continue to work toward PTA's goal of a quality education and nurturing environment for every child.

PTA Vision: What the future will look like if PTA accomplishes its mission.
Making every child's potential a reality.

PTA Mission: The overall purpose of PTA

- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

PTA Values: What PTA stands for

Collaboration: We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.

Commitment: We are dedicated to promoting children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family, and community involvement.

Accountability: We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.

Respect: We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.

Inclusivity: We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.

Integrity: We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.



Attention PTA Presidents and Treasurers

Local, council, district, and state PTAs are required to file an IRS 990 annual tax return. The type of tax return form depends on the gross receipts of the PTA. Please refer to the 2010-2011 PTA Money Matters for all IRS requirements. All tax forms are due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of the PTA's fiscal year. Remember to keep a copy for the PTA's permanent records and send the original to the area IRS service center by registered mail.

Please note:

The IRS will revoke your PTA's tax-exempt status if you fail to file the required tax forms for three consecutive years.

Money Matters Quick-Reference Guide Correction

A correction has been made to the *PTA Money Matters Quick-Reference Guide* regarding the requirements for filing Form 990/990-EZ.

As of the 2010 tax year, for returns filed in 2011 or later, PTAs with an annual gross income of more than \$50,000 (formerly \$25,000) must file Form 990 and Schedule A. If a PTA's gross receipts are less than \$200,000 and total assets are less than \$500,000, the PTA may file Form 990-EZ instead of Form 990. If gross receipts are \$50,000 or less, the PTA must electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard.

This correction replaces language currently found on page 24 of the hard copy *PTA Money Matters Quick Reference Guide* included in the PTA Official Kit.

Download the updated PTA Money Matters Quick-Reference Guide online version, as well as updated pages to insert into the print version of the guide.



OUTSTANDING SUPERINTENDENT AND PRINCIPAL PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AWARD



The Connecticut PTSA would like to help you recognize a superintendent or a principal that demonstrates the importance of parent involvement. Research shows that *family involvement* promotes student success. Students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and pass their classes
- Attend school regularly and have better social skills
- Go on the postsecondary education

When families, schools and communities work together:

- Student achievement improves,
- Teacher morale rises,
- Communication increases,
- Family, school and community connections multiply.

One Principal and one Superintendent will be chosen each year for awards from CT PTSA Executive Committee. For more information on this award or to nominate a Principal or Superintendent please go to www.ctpta.org or email us at connecticut.pta@snet.net

From the Executive Director– *Sally Boske*



Dear PTA Leaders and Friends of PTA,

Well, school is now underway and some of you may even have had your first PTA meeting! How did it go? Were you nervous giving your reports and being up in front of people? Did you remember everything we taught you or do you wish you had listened more (or even had come to the training)?

Don't worry, you are not alone, I can almost guarantee that every single PTA leader, new or experienced felt the same way. And it is okay; that is where we come in,. We are here to help answer your questions, hold your hand, give you ideas or just listen to you vent. We are your state office and we are here to serve you.

The officers, region directors and other members of the Board of Directors are also here to help you. They have planned some additional training for the fall for some specific topics. They are:

Workshop on IRS 990 forms and other budgeting issues

If you are nervous about filling out your 990 form (due by Nov. 15th), come to this workshop and our state treasurer, Mary Pisani will go through the form line by line and explain it all to you. She will also be talking about budgets, fundraising and other issues pertaining to finances.

Webinar by “Just Between Friends”

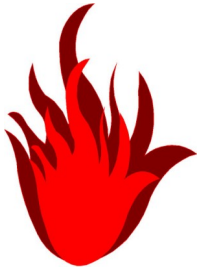
Just Between Friends is a no cost solution for PTA Unit challenges!

The Connecticut PTSA has partnered with Just Between Friends to help you communicate with your members. It provides you with a powerful suite of tools to help you run your PTA while it assists the parents in your community balance the activities and connections in their daily lives. Fun and easy-to-use, time saving modules and capabilities include:

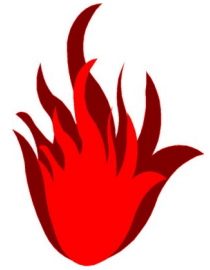
- ▯ Member Attraction, Retention & Management
- ▯ Communications
- ▯ Directory Creation and Update
- ▯ Parental Community Building / Social Networking
- ▯ Volunteer Recruitment & Management
- ▯ Just Between Friends also helps you grow your membership and reach your fund-raising goals.
- ▯ Safe and secure tool
- ▯ An environmentally green approach to unit communication and management

Finally we are having a webinar or a conference call session where you can ask any question you want and we will try to answer it or maybe someone on the call can share their experiences with that particular subject.

Times and dates for these events are in this newsletter, mark your calendars and join us. Remember training is ongoing and you always will have something more to learn in life.



HOT TOPICS
Free Training at CT PTSA



MARK YOUR CALENDAR-2010

Tuesday, October 5th 990/IRS help and Correct financial procedures

Location: CT PTSA Office
60 Connolly Parkway, Building 12, Suite 103, Hamden

Time: 6:00PM

Presenter: Mary Pisani- State PTSA Secretary/Treasurer

The following 2 Hot Topics are Webinars:
Take part in the comfort of your own home.

Tuesday, October 19th Just Between Friends
Start JBF for your School and start communicating now!

Wednesday, November 3rd Open for all PTA Questions

For Presidents, Vice Presidents, Membership, Treasurers, Secretaries & Reflection Chairs

Both Webinars will begin at 7:00PM

Once registered you will be sent an email with instructions.

Reservations for all 3 Hot Topics:
email connecticut.pta@snet.net or



Reflections Chair or PTA/PTSA President,

Reflections 2010-2011 Documents are now available!

Please visit our website at www.ctpta.org

Go to Reflections and download Reflection Documents
to get started in

2010-2011 Reflections "Together We Can"

If you are not able to print, please call your state office,
we will make sure you receive what you
need to run your program efficiently.

For additional information contact the CT PTSA Office at 203-281-6617 –

Email ab_connecticut.pta@snet.net

or visit our website at www.ctpta.org