

Area7 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1, January 2011

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Welcome All PTAs!

Area 7's Commitment to You:

To strengthen the partnership between Area, Council and Local PTAs; To build the relationship by being accessible and respectful; To communicate effectively and collaborate with our members; To increase visibility and resources within Area 7 PTA; To exemplify Integrity!



School systems around the world rely heavily on volunteers and donations in order to run effectively. In some countries, whenever the economy is down, the need for volunteers and resources increases greatly. There are many opportunities available in the school system for volunteers to take advantage of, especially if you have a special skill or trade. There are not many requirements in order to become a volunteer in the school system. Whether you are a parent, grandparent or just a community member most schools just require a volunteer

form be completed. Much like the benefits of any type of volunteering there are great rewards for the volunteer, student, and school. These benefits include but are not limited to:

School Benefits – Provided with additional service without having to have added costs; Teachers are given extra time for educational purposes and planning; a positive relationship between the community and the school.

Volunteer Benefits – Parents become involved in their child's school and education; New talents that one never knew they had are discovered; A sense of personal satisfaction; Ability to meet new people and develop new friendships.

Student Benefits – Students are given a positive role model; Educational success is encouraged and improved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Even though the school year is only half over, it's time to look ahead to the elections for the 2011-2012 school year. One key preparation is the election of a Nominating Committee. According to Local PTA bylaws Article VIII, Section 3.a, "There shall be a Nominating Committee elected by the general body at a regular meeting at least one month prior to the election of officers."

Forming your Nominating Committee

- ✓ Refer to Article X, Section 1.b to see which month is designated as the election month for your PTA to ensure you elect your Nominating Committee within the required time period.
- ✓ Check your bylaws, Article VIII, Section 3.a, to see how many members and alternates need to be on the Nominating Committee.
- ✓ At the Nominating Committee election meeting, call for nominees (volunteers). Elect them as a committee. The newly elected Nominating Committee should meet immediately following the meeting to elect its own chairman and alternate chairman and set the date, time, and location of the first Committee meeting. Be sure to exchange contact information and give it to the PTA secretary!
- ✓ If a member of the Committee will not be able to make the first meeting, the first alternate takes that person's place at that and all other subsequent meetings.

Nominating Committee Duties and Guidelines Prior to the Election Meeting

- ✓ The Committee solicits suggested nominees for each bylaws-indicated *elected* office. (Each Local PTA will have different officers listed. Check out Article IX in your Local bylaws for your list of officers.) Remember, the Parliamentarian and Historian are NOT elected positions, even though they are officers. *Also note, the Nominating Committee does not find people to fill the positions of chairmen of standing committees. Parliamentarian, Historian, and Chairmen are appointed by the President.*
- ✓ The chairman of the Nominating Committee is responsible for calling the nominees or should assign a Committee member to help with the calling.
- ✓ The Committee is responsible for finding one person for each office. (Don't just look for "warm bodies" to fill the positions, though!)
- ✓ If a nominee is not found for a position, then nominations are taken from the floor at the election meeting.
- ✓ Each member of the Committee may submit names for consideration.
- ✓ Members of the Nominating Committee may be nominated for a position on the Board without having to step down from the Committee.
- ✓ Make sure the nominee understands the duties of the office and has time to devote to them. *Don't tell them, "Oh, it's not much work at all.!"* Be honest!
- ✓ Nominees should be members of the Local PTA for whose board they are being nominated.
- ✓ If a nominee resigns before the election, then the Nominating Committee meets again to try to name a nominee for the position.
- ✓ A majority of the Nominating Committee need to agree on the slate. If a person does not agree with the slate, he/she should not sign the Nominating Committee report (sample report-page 224 in 2009 PTA Handbook).
- ✓ The Nominating Committee report should be presented to the Executive Board prior to presenting it to the general membership. The Board does not *approve* the slate of officers, they simply *accept* the report.
- ✓ The deliberations of the Nominating Committee are confidential!
- ✓ The slate of officers is *not* confidential. According to Article VIII, Section 3.b, "The report shall be publicized to the Local PTA membership through regular publicity channels at least seven (7) days before the election meeting." It is a courtesy to let the president know the slate before it is posted.

Duties and Guidelines at the Election Meeting

- ✓ The Nominating Committee Chairman reads the report and hands the report to the president who reads the report again and conducts the election. (But that's another article!)
- ✓ A member of the Nominating Committee may not nominate someone from the floor at the general meeting if he/she signed the Committee report, which meant that they agreed with the slate of officers the Committee recommended.
- ✓ After the election, the Nominating Committee's duties are over.

If you need more information and guidelines on Nominating Committees, feel free to contact your Council President or Jody Weitman, Area 7 Field Representative.



NEWS FROM NORTHSIDE ISD COUNCIL OF PTAs

Title 1 Project

Last fall the NISD Council of PTAs launched a community service project called the Title 1 Project. The goal of this project was to help the 46 Title 1 schools within our district by adopting them in some form. We sent out information explaining the project and coordinated setting up schools with partners so that we could cover as many schools as possible. Our district is large and very diverse. Children in one area have needs different from those in another and we are thankful that so many of you were able to help. Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the schools who participated in adopting a school for the Title 1 Project.

State PTA suggests a 3-to-1 guideline for program-to-fundraiser ratio. The Title 1 Project can fulfill the requirements for one of these programs while benefiting schools in our district that are low income schools. This program does not require you to amend your budget, does not require a lot of time and is a program that helps many children. The steps in doing this project are simple:

1. Adopt a school or schools. (You can choose more than one and spread the community service.)
2. Discuss with the adopted school what their needs are and select dates for a donation drive. You can do more than one type of drive throughout the year if you choose.
3. Send home flyers explaining the project. Be sure to include the type of items requested, due date, and any other pertinent information. We can provide you sample letters.
4. Have a secure place to store the items until you arrange for transfer between the schools when the drive is over.
5. The receiving school should have counselors and/or administrators give out the items instead of parents handing them out. Some families are embarrassed asking for help if they know that other parents at the school are aware of their situation.

Not all of our Title 1 schools were adopted last year. This year we will be adding an additional school as a Title 1 school which brings our total to 47. If you participated last year we hope you are able to continue to support the school you adopted and that this program will build relationships between schools that continue from year to year. If you were unable to participate last year we ask that you look at the possibility of trying to participate this year. Some secondary schools had NHS, GT or other organizations within the schools also participate with exciting results. The Jay High School National Honor Society supported a Prom Dress Drive for students from Holmes and Jay who could not afford to buy a dress on their own. This allowed many girls the opportunity to attend their senior prom that otherwise would not have been able to go.

Examples of donation drives are food, backpacks, school supplies, warm clothes, shoes, and/or socks/gloves. No matter what type of donation drive it is, we know it will make a difference in the life of a child. Both the children at the receiving schools and the giving schools will learn the importance of community and helping those who may be less fortunate. Helping every child is part of PTA's mission. This program enables us to do so. For additional information or copies of sample letters please contact Northside Council PTA.

Thank you for all you do!

Donna Smith
President
Northside ISD Council of PTAs
www.nisdpta.org
drsmith9219@sbcglobal.net





VERA BULLION MEMORIAL AWARD

The Vera Bullion Memorial Award is presented at the Area 7 Spring Conference to a local unit or council PTA for an outstanding program or project that implements the Objects of PTA. Entries will be judged by the Vera Bullion Award Committee.

The Vera Bullion Memorial Award was established to honor a wonderful woman. Vera was an active member of PTA and served in many capacities, including San Antonio Council of PTAs President, District 20 (now our Area 7) PTA President, and Texas Regional Vice President. She is best remembered for her kind words, gentle nature, warm smile, and a saying or quotation for any occasion. She treated everyone with respect and practiced inclusivity before it became an issue. Vera is no longer with us, but we will continue to honor her memory with the Vera Bullion Memorial Award.

Guidelines for Presentation of Entry:

1. The entry will be composed of three sections:
 - a. A statement that discusses how the program or project implemented one or more of the Objects of PTA. This statement will be no more than 2 pages long, double spaced. [Front and back will be counted as one page.]
 - b. Any Photographs of the program or project. The photographs may include captions. You may include up to 10 pages of pictures. [Front and back will be counted as one page. Two (2) pages (back to back) in a sleeve will be counted as one page.]
 - c. [Supplemental materials should be placed in one sleeve.] This may include programs, brochures, fliers, etc.
2. The program or project must have been presented and/or implemented by your PTA. It must have been or will be completed by the end of the current school year.
3. The entry shall not exceed 12 pages plus the one sleeve.
4. The entry form must be included but will not be counted as one of the 12 pages. The backside of the form should be left blank.
5. Entry shall be submitted in a folder or emailed. [Folder may have an identifying sheet on the outside pocket, which will not count toward the 10 pages.]
6. Entry may be mailed or emailed to the committee member listed below or may be given to council president, if in a council. If given to council president, they will be responsible for turning in the entry by the deadline. The deadline for mailed entries is below.
7. All entries must be picked up by Council President or designated person by the end of the Spring Conference. Projects not picked up may be discarded.

*Items in brackets [] pertain to entries submitted via regular mail. Electronic nominations may include scanned supplemental materials.

Entries may be submitted to:

Jody Weitman 11235 Hunters Path, Helotes 78023 Email – sjweit@aol.com

Entries must be e-mailed or postmarked by March 1, 2011



VERA BULLION MEMORIAL AWARD
ENTRY FORM

PTA/PTSA Name _____

Council Name (if in a council) _____

School District _____

City _____

Person submitting entry _____

Position in your PTA _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Entries must be e-mailed or postmarked by March 1, 2011

For Area 7 Records: Date received: _____ By: _____
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UPCOMING STATE AND AREA PTA EVENTS

Texas PTA Rally Day at the Capitol

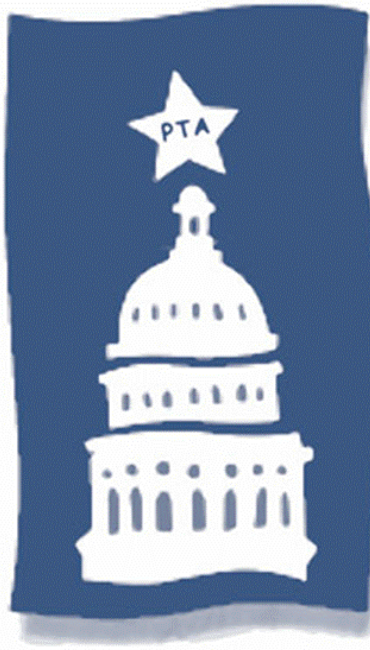
Austin
February 3, 2011

Annual Convention

Austin
February 4 – 6, 2011

Texas PTA Rally Day at the Capitol February 3, 2011

Come be part of history on February 3, 2011 as we all meet at the Capitol in Austin. Area 7 PTA is selling Rally Day t-shirts for \$7.00 each. Please send shirt size(s) needed and check (made out to Kim DeCock) to:
Kim DeCock, 5094 Prue Rd,
San Antonio, TX 78240. If you are placing an order, please email the sizes to me at f4k@aol.com by Jan 22. The shirts will have the picture at the right on them and will be white.



EVERY CHILD'S
POTENTIAL IS
a REALITY
AREA 7
RALLY
DAY
AT THE
CAPITOL
2011

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## **Annual Spring Meeting April 6, 2011**

Spring is just around the corner, and it seems odd to be thinking about Spring already, but.....*Mark your calendars now* for the **Area 7 PTA Annual Spring Meeting** to be held Wednesday, **April 6, 2011**, 6:30pm, hosted by Area 7 and its 9 Councils. What is Spring Meeting you say? This is our annual meeting where you will elect 2011-2012 officers to the Area 7 PTA Board, attend workshops and network with leaders from all over Area 7. Why should you go? Get a jump start on getting ready for the next year. It is an affordable training that is close to home. The following workshops will be offered: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Financial Reconciliation (formally called "the audit"), Membership and Reflections.



## Texas PTA SPRING MEMBERSHIP AWARD

- **Spring Membership Increase**  
Presented to each local PTA whose fall membership total for this year met or exceeded the membership total for the previous fall and who submitted dues and a membership roster for at least 25 additional members between the fall deadline (postmark by October 15) and the Spring deadline (postmark by March 15). No form to submit.

### MEMBERSHIP YEAR ROUND AWARDS (Submit by March 15 please)

- **Golden Apple Award**  
Presented to each local PTA that recruits 100% of school faculty. Texas PTA's definition of faculty is: principals, assistant principals, teachers, counselors, and aides employed at the campus full time. Appropriate award form must be submitted.
- **Individual Hero Award**  
Presented to any member who recruits 10 or more members. Appropriate award form must be submitted.
- **Student Membership Achievement**  
Presented to each local PTA that recruits 25 or more student members. Appropriate award form must be submitted.
- **Membership Chair's Challenge for December-January**  
**Ring in 2011 with 11 New Members**  
11 for '11 – Recruit and submit a roster for 11 new members by January 31 to ring in the new year! Take this chance to promote membership to families, community members and faculty who haven't yet joined your PTA this school year. Don't forget students in 9th grade and above can join any PTA! 11 for '11 gets you almost halfway to the Spring Increase award of 25 members! Complete the Membership Chairman's Challenge coupon and attach to your membership roster and report postmarked by February 5.  
Attach the [Membership Chair's Challenge "Family Recruiting" coupon](#) to the top of the dues report.

*Any due dates falling on a holiday or weekend will be extended to the next business day.*



## Texas PTA Web site

[www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org)

As the official Web site for the Texas PTA this can be a great source of information for you and your Area PTA.

All the major forms for awards and officer submissions are available. Many are in a PDF format, which requires Adobe Acrobat to view. Instructions are available on the Web site for downloading the free program. Local and Council officers can submit their information through an online submission form. *The Voice* subscriptions and donations can also be placed online. As the Web site is constantly changing, make it your homepage or bookmark it so that you can check it often.



## Local PTA Awards

This a list of Awards local PTAs can enter. All awards entries must be submitted electronically via the Texas PTA website no later than **Saturday, May 15, 2011**. Each award recognizes PTAs at either the Bronze, Silver, or Gold level.

Please review the criteria completely before making your awards submission. The submission forms do not represent all criteria that is necessary for recognition. Some required criteria will be verified independently by Texas PTA.



Local PTA Awards Submission Form (*Available April 1*)

- [Arts in Education Award](#)  
Recognizes participation in the advancement of the arts in schools and communities through education and enrichment activities.
- [Electronic Newsletter Award](#)  
Recognizes the creation of newsletters in an electronic format that keep their members informed about school and PTA issues in a clear, accessible and inviting style.
- [Environmental Award](#)  
Recognizes participation in environmental projects, programs and education.
- [Healthy Lifestyles Achievement Award](#)  
Recognizes participation in health and wellness related activities that place an emphasis on health and wellness issues affecting schools, students and their families.
- [Legislative Action Award](#)  
Recognizes advocacy for the enactment of legislation on behalf of Texas children and families.
- [Newsletter Award](#)  
Recognizes the creation of newsletters in a traditional printed format that keep their members informed about school and PTA issues in a clear, accessible and inviting style.
- [Parent Education Programming Award](#)  
This award recognizes Local PTAs/PTSAs who use timely, useful programs to help educate their members about topics that relate to their children.
- [Student Involvement Award](#)  
Recognizes significant student contributions in areas of leadership, membership and project participation.
- [Website Award](#)  
Recognizes the creation of dynamic, exciting websites to disseminate PTA and Council PTA news and information in a clear, accessible and inviting style.

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**For help organizing your volunteers,
check out volunteerspot.com**

Area 7 PTA Nominating Committee Announces 2011-2012 Slate



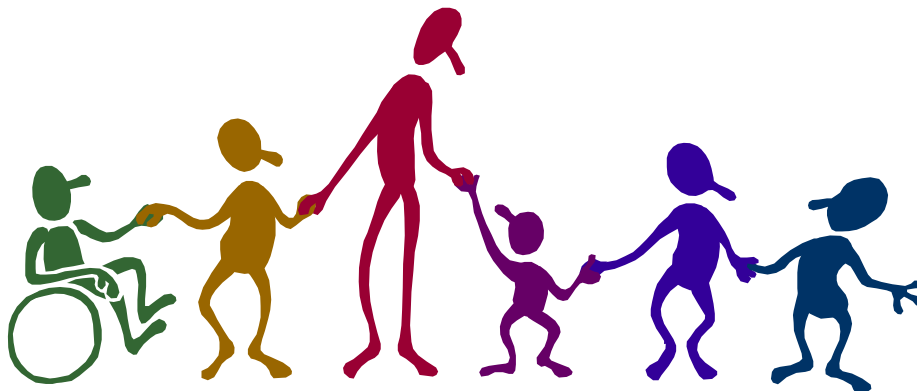
The Area 7 PTA Nominating Committee announces the following slate of officers for the 2011-2012 school year:

- President – Kaye Lucas
- Vice-president – Jody Weitman
- Secretary – Emily DeLeon

The 2011-2012 Area 7 PTA Officers will be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting on Saturday April 6, 2011.

Nominating Committee members:
Cathy Lathrop
Elaine Mahler
Jody Weitman

The 2011-2012 Reflections Theme will be “Diversity Means.”



EIN Verification Forms Due By January 31, 2011

In order for the Local PTA to be covered by the Texas PTA group exemption, Texas PTA must submit current information on each PTA's behalf to the IRS annually. In order for the Local PTA to be included on their list of subordinate PTAs covered by their group ruling, the form must be completed and returned by **January 31, 2011**. PTAs **not** responding will be subject to income tax, and their donations can not be considered charitable contributions by donors. If you have any questions, contact the Member Services Department at 1-800-TALKPTA. Find the link on the homepage of Texas PTA.



Area 7 2010-2011 Board of Directors

President: Kim De Cock f4k@aol.com
 Vice President: Kaye Lucas Virginia.Lucas@harlandale.net
 Secretary: Emily De Leon emily.deleon@fc.ecisd.net
 Area Field Service Representative:
 Jody Weitman sjweit@aol.com
 Parliamentarian: Margaret Placek wowi_placek@att.net

Council Presidents

Council	Presidents Name	Email
Comal ISD	Cathy Lathrop	Cathy.Lathrop@satx.rr.com
East Central ISD	Jeanne Rizzo	jeanne.rizzo@yahoo.com
Edgewood ISD	Daniel Guzman	dguzman@eisd.net
Harlandale ISD	Josie Scales	jscales@catto.com
North East ISD	Shonna Jones	shonnajones@me.com
New Braunfels	Lisa Williams	LisaGW1@aol.com
Northside ISD	Donna Smith	Drsmith9219@sbcglobal.net
San Antonio ISD	Elaine Mahler	elainemahler@yahoo.com
Southwest ISD	Gloria Munoz	rmunoz22@satx.rr.com

Communication is stitched together with Inspiration and Action in Area 7

AREA 7 Founders Day Dates: NISD – Feb 5, EISD & NEISD – Feb 13, HISD – Feb 14
 SAISD – Feb 18, ECISD – March 25.

We are here to help with whatever needs you have. Please feel free to contact us.