

# NISD COUNCIL OF PTAS NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2009

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, everyone! And welcome to another school year-a year in which we are getting back to basics! The emphasis this year is keeping the mission of PTA forefront in what programs and events we plan and implement. PTA is a powerful voice and advocate for *all* children and a relevant resource for families and communities. Take a look at the *Purposes of PTA* listed elsewhere in the newsletter. Are your PTA's activities staying true to these Purposes?

Council hit the ground running this year by offering a number of different training sessions. Our role as Council is to be sure you all have the tools and information you need to be successful. One tool we offer to help your board be successful is Local Board Orientations. If you ask, a PTA officer will come to your school, sit down with your board, and go through the best practices for your PTA. This allows everyone to hear the same message at the same

time by the same person. We've done several LBOs in the last few months and the response to them has been overwhelmingly positive. Contact Michelle Levell, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP of Training, to schedule one. Council also offers Leader Orientation Training courses and position specific trainings and roundtables for different positions. In addition, we host roundtables for various events and programs (ie planning a walk-a-thon, conducting audits, etc) when we hear there is an interest for them.

I have sent out e-mails to all the presidents on audits, proper procedures for opening bank statements, PTA financial paperwork that should be sent to Central Office, things to do at your first board and general meetings, and a sample meeting script. If you are a president and are not getting my e-mails, please let me know. I know there are a few of you who do not have an e-mail address. If you are without access to e-mail it

would be to your advantage to ask a fellow Board member if you can use his/her e-mail as a point of contact. With 92 schools for Council to assist, I'm sure you can appreciate how much easier it is to get out information with just one mass e-mail. ***If you would like to be included in the e-mails I send to the presidents, just let me know. I'll include you in the mailings.***

*Brag time!* At the Council President training I attended in Dallas this summer, Northside Council of PTAs was awarded the Outstanding Council-Silver Level award. This award was based on set criteria that had to be accomplished. I am very proud of and grateful to the 2008-09 Council Board members and all of you who helped us earn this honor. Our website, [www.nisdpta.org](http://www.nisdpta.org), is an award winner as well! Thanks to Michelle Levell's efforts last year as Technology Chair, our website was awarded the Outstanding

Website Bronze Level award. Make sure you check it out!

Local Unit PTAs also have the opportunity to earn awards. *Congratulations to Monroe May for earning the 2008-09 Arts in Education Bronze Level award!* Check out <http://www.txpta.org/resources/local-awards> to see the list of award categories for this school year. Anyone can apply; why not *your* PTA? Wouldn't it be cool to be able to tell your school community that you are an award-winning PTA?

Here's hoping the optimism, enthusiasm, and energy of the new school year remains high as you work for the benefit of *all* children. Your work does not go unnoticed!

-Jody Weitman



### High School and Middle School PTAs

Hi, my name is Kim DeCock and I am 2nd VP in charge of High School and Middle School PTAs. I just wanted to take this opportunity to welcome back the brave returning officers and high five the new officers for stepping up. High School and Middle School PTA is very different from Elementary PTA. In some ways it is tougher. but in most ways it is easier. I am here to guide and train you so if you ever have a question or problem, please do not hesitate to contact me at [f4k@aol.com](mailto:f4k@aol.com).

### Your NISD Council of PTAs 2009 - 2010 Executive Board

President - Jody Weitman  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Donna Smith  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Kim De Cock  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President - Michelle Levell  
Secretary - Kristi Loy  
Treasurer - Roland Garza

Historian - Celina Ibarra  
Parliamentarian - open  
Arts in Education - Juliet Ray  
Hospitality - Martha Zamarrippa  
Membership - Deede Goethke  
Ways and Means - Tisha Unger

Publications - Cindy Prichard  
Technology - Liz Kalka  
Aide-to-the-Treasurer - Nikki Brown  
JCJ Scholarship Chair - Mary Hodde  
Founders Day - Jo Ann Johnson  
Legislation - Tracy Stallworth



### Benefitting the NISD Council of PTAs Jack C. Jordan Scholarship Fund

Mark your calendars! Start looking under those sofa cushions! The Jack C. Jordan Scholarship Penny Drive is scheduled to begin on September 14, 2009 and will continue through November 20, 2009. This is a great opportunity for a service project for your groups and clubs.

Look for further details to be provided via your principals and PTA presidents. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [scholarship@nisdpta.org](mailto:scholarship@nisdpta.org).

I look forward to serving as the Jack C. Jordan Scholarship Committee Chair and look forward to a successful Penny Drive.

Mary Hodde  
JCJ Scholarship Chair

## TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Looking for information on Council's volunteer opportunities? Wondering when the next LOT session is scheduled? Need a form for your treasurer? You can find all of this information and more on the Council website, [www.nisdpta.org](http://www.nisdpta.org)!

Our goal is for the Council website to be a valuable resource for you and your PTA board. We offer:

- links to National PTA, Texas PTA, and Local PTAs;
- a calendar with meetings, training sessions, and events;
- form downloads and chairman guides;
- volunteer opportunities;
- newsletters from NISD Council and Area 7;
- legislative news;
- and a contact page listing Council Board members.

Please contact me at [technology@nisdpta.org](mailto:technology@nisdpta.org) if you have comments or suggestions regarding the information available on the website. I would love to hear from you!

-Liz Kalka  
NISD Council of PTAs  
Technology Chair



**GET BACK  
TO BASICS**

## Membership News

**GET BACK  
TO BASICS**

Summer is officially over and now it's time to "Get back to Basics".

This year so many of us are faced with economic challenges and struggles but that just makes us stronger and more determined to pull up our boot straps and work harder than ever.

Here at Council we want to help as much as possible, so I would like to personally invite you to attend the next membership training on September 8th. Also, I can't stress enough the importance of familiarizing yourself with the Texas PTA website [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org). It is full of great ideas, helpful information and provides all the forms you will need throughout the year. At this time, you will need to remember the following dates:

### **September 30, 2009 Early Bird Award Deadline**

Presented to each local PTA that submits membership dues and a membership list of 75 percent of its previous March 15 membership total. No form to submit.

### **October 15, 2009 Fall Membership Drive Ends**

Local PTAs who have not paid dues for at least 20 members by October 15 will be designated as inactive.

If you have any questions or concerns, I would be happy to hear from you. You can call me at 588-9413 or email me at [membership@nisdpta.org](mailto:membership@nisdpta.org).

Your NISD Membership Chair  
Deede Goethke



Greetings Treasurers! Welcome to a brand new school year! If you are new to treasuring or are returning for a second term, I hope each and every one of you has a great year! Right now your PTA should be collecting membership dues. Make sure you deposit those monies promptly and send Texas PTA the State/National portion of those dues. Work with your Membership Chair regarding this process as certain deadlines are in place in order to qualify for membership awards later in the year.



Now is also the time to make sure an IRS 990(N), 990 EZ, or 990 form is being processed for the 2008-09 fiscal year. Your previous treasurer should have done this. If it has not been done, you may have to take on this task. Every PTA must file some sort of 990 and it is due 4 ½ months after the end of your fiscal year. If you had gross receipts of \$25,000 or less, you would file the 990(N) online by going to the IRS website ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)). There is no paper form for the 990(N). If you had gross receipts of more than \$25,000 but less than \$100,000, you would file a 990(EZ) with a Schedule A. If you had gross receipts of more than \$100,000 you would file a 990 with a Schedule A. Texas PTA recommends hiring a professional to prepare this last 990 due to the complexity of the form.

I will be conducting "Basic Treasurer" training Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at NAC, with class starting at 7 pm. This is great class to help you become familiar with your duties and responsibilities.

If you ever have any questions, you can reach me by email at [rgarza@cavenderhill.com](mailto:rgarza@cavenderhill.com) or by phone at 210-288-0929.

Have a great year!

Roland Garza  
NISD Council of PTAs  
Treasurer



## NISD COUNCIL OF PTAS JACK C. JORDAN SCHOLARSHIP

The NISD PTA Council has been in existence and awarding scholarships for over 40 years. 239 graduates of NISD high schools have received PTA scholarships, totaling \$216,600 in financial aid to date.

In order to receive a Jack C. Jordan Scholarship, a student must file the application according to the procedures outlined in the application packet and must be a member, or a parent must be a member, of a local PTA.

Applications are available in high school counselors' offices and are due February 5th. One recipient and an alternate are selected from each NISD high school with a graduating class.

Finalists will be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee in April, and recipients will be announced at the May 2010 PTA Council Meeting.

Criteria for receiving a Jack C. Jordan Scholarship are listed below. The recipient must:

- Be a graduate of a NISD high school
- Attend a regionally accredited two/three/four year college or university (e.g. SAC)
- Exhibit the NISD Pillars of Character
- Need financial assistance
- Have a scholastic record satisfactory to the Committee
- Be a member, or a parent must be a member, of a local PTA

*The monetary value of the scholarship is up to \$2,400.* Payments of \$600 are paid annually in two installments, \$300 for each semester. Checks are mailed directly to the colleges or universities.

Continuance of the scholarship each semester is at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee and is contingent upon the recipient being responsible for the following:

- Requesting renewal in writing to the Committee
- Taking at least 12 course hours each semester
- Maintaining at least a 2.0 GPA each semester
- Maintaining continuous enrollment in the fall and spring semesters
- Submitting copies of grades each semester in a timely manner

For further information about this scholarship, please contact your school counselor or high school career center.

**-Mary Hodde**  
**Scholarship Chairperson**

## NISD COUNCIL OF PTAS FOUNDERS DAY BANQUET

### Event Updates

Date: February 04, 2010

Place: Red Oak Ballroom–Norris Conference Center

Price: \$15.00 per person

### Committee Meeting

September 24

Knowlton ES Cafeteria

7:00pm

\*Each school is asked to send a representative.

Don't forget to add Founders Day to your budget.

### Questions? Contact

Jo Ann Johnson, Founders Day Committee Chair

Ph: 682-3992 E-mail: [Foundersday@nisdpta.org](mailto:Foundersday@nisdpta.org)

## COUNCIL DELEGATE POSITION

According to your bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1a, each local unit PTA is required to have a Council Delegate. The role of Council Delegate is to attend the general Council meetings and report back to your local Board. If the position of Council Delegate is listed in your bylaws as being a member of your Board, then it is a separate position. If it is not listed, then you can have someone already on the Board volunteer to take on that duty.

Each local PTA is expected, as per your bylaws, to have three representatives attend each regular Council meeting: Principal (or alternate); President (or alternate); Council Delegate (or alternate). *Please submit the name of your PTA's Council Delegate and alternate to Mary Hodde, [mhodde@juno.com](mailto:mhodde@juno.com), by October 15<sup>th</sup>.*

## IMPORTANT DATES!



### September 2

7:00pm 990 Training Workshop  
NAC

### September 3

9:30am 990 Training Workshop  
8750 Tesoro Drive, SA  
North East ISD

### September 3

7:00pm NISD Council of PTAs  
Regular/General Meeting  
NAC

### September 8

7:00pm Position Specific Training  
NAC

### September 14

Penny Drive Begins

### September 14

7:00pm Position Specific Training  
NAC

### September 21

9:00am Leader Orientation  
Training  
NAC

### September 24

7:00pm Founders Day Meeting  
Knowlton ES cafeteria

### October 5

7:00pm Leader Orientation  
Training  
NAC

### October 15

Council Dues due to Roland  
Garza, Council Treasurer

### October 15

Membership roster and dues  
report to State PTA

### October 15

990N, 990EZ, or 990 due to  
IRS if end of fiscal year is May  
31<sup>st</sup>

### October 15

Council Delegate name due  
to Council (Mary Hodde)

### November 5

7:00pm NISD Council of PTAs  
Regular/General Meeting

### MARSHALL HS cafeteria

### November 15

990N, 990EZ, or 990 dues to  
IRS if end of fiscal year is June  
30<sup>th</sup>

### November 20

Penny Drive Ends

### December 1

Deadline to turn Reflections  
entries in to Council PTA

### January 7

7:00pm NISD Council of PTAs  
Regular/General Meeting  
NAC



The Reflections Program is underway!  
The Theme this year is "Beauty Is..."

The NISD Council deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup> at  
NAC (Northside Activity Center on Culebra @  
410).

More information will be sent as the Council  
deadline approaches.

Be sure to attend the Reflections training on  
September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at NAC.

For all forms and information, go to Texas PTA  
website [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org). If you have any  
questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Juliet Ray, *Arts in Education Chair*  
[Juliet.Ray@utsa.edu](mailto:Juliet.Ray@utsa.edu)

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



*The success of the PTA* is going to be dependent upon how well trained the leaders are. The Texas PTA has made a lot of updates recently and we want to be sure you have all the information you need to make your year successful! We have scheduled several Position Specific Workshops, Leader Orientation Training, and we have also offered Local Board Orientations. Principals are a part of their Local PTA Board and are welcome to attend all PTA trainings as well. To register for any of the following trainings (see chart below), please contact our 3<sup>rd</sup> VP in charge of training, Michelle Levell, at [Michelle.levell@nisdpta.org](mailto:Michelle.levell@nisdpta.org) with:

1. Your Name
2. Your Email Address
3. Your PTA
4. Your Position
5. Type of Training
6. Which Training Date

## IRS Form 990 Workshop - FREE

NISD Council of PTAs and NEISD Council of PTAs have teamed up to offer our Local PTAs an IRS Form 990 Workshop. IRS Form 990 impacts EVERY PTA and you need to know when and how to file this important document. This workshop will give you a detailed explanation so you can be prepared! *If you previously attended this workshop at Summer Leadership Seminar and walked away with questions, we are hoping to answer those questions at this workshop.*

## Position Specific Workshops - FREE

This training is not required, but we encourage all to attend. This workshop is designed to give you information about your specific position and give you the opportunity to ask questions and network.

## Leader Orientation Training (LOT) – REQUIRED – COST \$6.00

According to your Local Bylaws, all PTA officers are required to take this training by October 15<sup>th</sup>. It is recommended that officers retake the training every five years as information does change. **The cost is \$6.00 per person, checks made payable to NISD Council of PTAs.**

## Local Board Orientation – FREE

This orientation is an opportunity to have a council board member come to your school and meet with you and your PTA Board. At the orientation, we go over the financial do's and don'ts, help your board set your goals for the year, review meeting protocols, and basically go over whatever information your board needs. We tailor our presentation to meet your needs. **This training is scheduled on a first come, first served basis and will be offered for this school year through October.**



## Training Schedule

Sep 2, 7:00p – 8:30p	IRS Form 990 Workshop	Northside Activity Center 7001 Culebra Drive, 78238
Sep 3, 9:00a – 10:30a	IRS Form 990 Workshop	Community Learning Center 8750 Tesoro Drive, 78217
Sep 8, 7:00p – 9:00p	Arts In Education (Reflections) Fundraiser Workshop Membership Workshop President Workshop Treasurer Workshop	Northside Activity Center 7001 Culebra Drive, 78238
Sep 14, 7:00p – 9:00p	Historian Workshop Parliamentarian Workshop Programs Workshop Secretary Workshop	Northside Activity Center 7001 Culebra Drive, 78238
Sep 21, 9:00a – 11:00a	Leader Orientation Training Cost: \$6.00	Northside Activity Center 7001 Culebra Drive, 78238
Oct 5, 7:00p – 9:00p	Leader Orientation Training Cost: \$6.00	Northside Activity Center 7001 Culebra Drive, 78238
First come first served Until Oct 30	Local Board Orientation	Your School

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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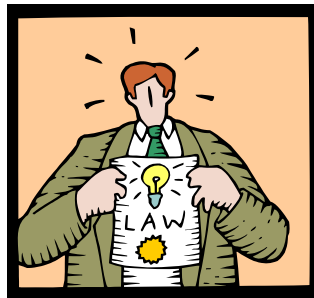
My name is Tracy Aguilar Stallworth. This year my responsibility lies in Legislative Advocacy. By way of introduction, I have been a PTA member since 2001. Last year, I served as a local Arts in Education chair at Scarborough PTA where I am also a member of the board once again. I'm new to Council this year and I'm looking forward to providing you with important legislative information as the year progresses.

As we celebrate our Centennial year this Fall, there is no better time than the present to look back and see for ourselves just how much of an impact PTA has made on the lives of children, of families through advocacy. It all started in 1909 by Ella Caruthers Porter of Dallas, a single parent, divorced and left to raise two daughters on her own while earning a college degree. The biography of Ella Caruthers Porter can be found at the Texas Society Historical Association at <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/PP/fpo42.html>. For a complete timeline of Texas PTA History visit <http://www.txpta.org/about-texas-pta/history/>

One of the primary purposes of PTA is to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth. Recent legislative endeavors have successfully made way for new laws passed regarding teen drivers and child booster seats usage. These new laws went into effect September 1st, 2009.

- HB 339 prohibits teens under 18 from texting or talking on a cell phone while driving.
- HB 537 requires that everyone in the car, regardless of age and regardless of where they are sitting, needs to wear a seatbelt.
- HB 61 requires that all children younger than 8 years and less than four feet nine inches tall be in a child safety seat system.

For expanded reading on the new laws and downloadable fliers for your school visit <http://www.txpta.org/legislative>.



Awareness opens the door for all of us, our PTAs, and our community to make changes when changes are needed or put into place something that is needed for your child, your school, your community. Legislative Advocacy provides a venue for opportunities; for members to have a voice no matter how great or small. To start ask yourself, "What issues are of importance to me in my schools?" Issues of importance run the gamut. Consider health, safety, security, environmental, tests, and arts in education for examples.

Legislative Advocacy needs your voice; strength in numbers because we cannot secure adequate laws without actions. If you are interested in becoming a voice for your local, contact me, Tracy Aguilar Stallworth at [stallworth.tracy@yahoo.com](mailto:stallworth.tracy@yahoo.com) or by cell at 210-787-0231. The Legislative Advocacy committee is presently collecting your feedback and input for position statements and resolutions which are due October 1st.

-Tracy Aguilar Stallworth  
NISD Council of PTAs  
Legislative Chair

### PURPOSES OF THE PTA

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.