

NISD COUNCIL OF PTAS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, everyone-

How quickly the year has gone! Here it is, the beginning of March already. So much has transpired, but there's still so much more to do.

I'd like to start by giving my congratulations and thanks to Jo Ann Johnson and her committee for the *outstanding* job they did in putting together the 2009 Founders Day banquet. Countless hours, and I suppose a few sleepless nights, were involved in planning and implementing this successful event. It was a night of celebration that was made even more special by having Jan Harp Domene, National PTA President, as our guest speaker. Two common sentiments of those who heard her were, "She was incredible!" and "She reenergized me and really opened my eyes about what PTA does." A special thank you to Evelyn Thomas who planned Ms. Domene's day of touring Northside. Based on Ms. Domene's comments, she was quite impressed with our district.

A thank you also to Council's Technology Chair, Michelle Levell. Michelle has diligently

worked at making Council PTA's website more informative, pleasing to the eye, and user friendly. I think the end product is awesome, and I think you'll agree! Be sure to check it out at www.nisdpta.org. The only username and password you need are the ones you find on the back of your PTA membership card.

Our bylaws parties have been quite successful. I congratulate those who have attended and would like to thank my Council Board members who have assisted with the parties. An additional date, March 25th, has been added to accommodate those who were not able to attend one of the first two parties. There's an article elsewhere in this newsletter that contains more details. In addition to working on bylaws at the parties, standing rules were also covered. If your PTA does not have standing rules, I highly encourage you to create and adopt them. They will make your Board's job so much easier! Standing rules cover the day-to-day operations of your PTA, such as committee chair job descriptions, who attends

Founders Day, what expenses are paid for at Summer Seminar, parameters for your benevolence fund, etc. I have samples if you would like to review them. Standing rules may be set aside ("ignored") with a vote, but your bylaws may not. Bylaws *must* be followed.

By now most of you should have had the general meeting at which your nominating committee was elected. The nominating committee is the committee charged with finding the best qualified nominees for the elected offices of your Local Board. This committee is elected at the general meeting held just prior to your Local PTA's election meeting. The Nominating Committee Cheat Sheet is included in this newsletter if you need more information.

Election meetings will begin in March. Check your bylaws to see when your PTA is to have your election meeting. If your nominating committee was not able to identify a nominee for a position, hopefully someone will step forward when you take nominations from the floor during the election meeting.

A sample script for an election meeting may be found in the PTA Handbook on pages 237-39.

As we head into the PTA election season, I am reminded of the following quote by Max DePree, "*The signs of outstanding leadership are found among the followers.*" Who among your volunteers have you seen possessing the qualities of leadership? Your best board members oftentimes will come from your volunteers. It is a rare person that volunteers to be on any PTA board without first being approached. *Do not wait for people to come to you.* If you see the potential in a person, ask them to serve! Tell them you'll be there for them. And tell them Council will be there as well.

Thank you for all your efforts to help make every child's potential a reality!

Jody Weitman
NISD Council of PTAs
President
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Your NISD Council of PTAs 2008 - 2009 Executive Board

President - Jody Weitman
1st Vice President - Donna Smith
2nd Vice President - Kim DeCock
3rd Vice President - (Open)
Secretary - Kristi Loy
Treasurer - Roland Garza

Historian - Evelyn Thomas
Parliamentarian - Julie Eversole
JCJ Scholarship Chair - Melody Kob
Founders Day Chair - Jo Ann Johnson
Membership - Beth Bath
Hospitality - Martha Zamarripa

Arts in Education - Deede Goethke
Ways and Means - Tisha Unger
Publications - Maureen Concklin
Technology - Michelle Levell
New School Liaison - (Open)

Check out the new and improved Council PTA website at www.nisdpta.org !

IMPORTANT DATES!

March 5
Vendor Fair 1-8pm
Northside Activity Center

March 5
Council Election Meeting, 7pm
Northside Activity Center

March 25
Bylaws Party 6:45pm
Zachry Middle School



April 16
Reflections Awards Ceremony
Location TBD, 6:30pm

April 18
Area 7 Spring Conference
Location TBD, 8:00am – 1:00pm

May 7
Jack C Jordan Scholarship
Reception
Northside Activity Center



"100 for 100"

Texas PTA is celebrating its 100th Birthday this year! In honor of this historic event, the NISD Council of PTAs set a goal of having 100 Northside PTA members attend the Texas PTA Convention in Austin, TX, February 27 - March 1, 2009. We called it "100 for 100" fund. While we didn't reach the goal of 100 attendees, we did have a sizable group (second largest from Area 7!).



Thank you to the following schools for donating \$100 to Council's 100 for 100 Fund: Fisher Elementary, Stinson Middle School, and Galm Elementary. Because of their generosity, Scarborough, Powell, and Stevens were able to send delegates to the Texas State Convention. Many, many thanks to these PTAs who assisted their fellow local PTAs!

AREA 7 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Mark your calendars now for the Area 7 PTA Annual Spring Conference to be held Saturday, April 18, 2009, at a location to be determined, hosted by Area 7 and its 9 Councils. This is Area 7's annual meeting where you will learn new things and elect officer to the 2009-2010 Area 7 PTA Board.

In addition to the meeting, *True Colors* will be presented by Sylvia Ostos, Past Texas PTA President; come bring your whole board for a great team building experience and learn how to work together. A representative of Texas PTA will be on hand to present *Road Rules*. Training will be available for first- and second-year Presidents, Treasurers, Secretary/Parliamentarian, and Membership. Presentations on Special Education issues and presentations on Gifted and Talented will also be presented. Lunch will be served.

Come network with leaders from all over Area 7 and Texas PTA. Get a jump start on getting ready for the next year. It is affordable training that is close to home. More details will follow!

BRAG BOARDS:

I read an article in the Fall 2008 edition of the Texas PTA *Voice* about the Brag Boards created by the local PTAs in the Round Rock Council of PTAs that I wanted to share with you. (Perhaps you read it as well.)

As I've state many times, our Northside PTAs do *fantastic* things for our students and schools. You, as members of your schools' PTAs, work very hard for our children, and you should be very proud of what you do and the things you accomplish. In my opinion, there is absolutely nothing wrong with bragging a bit and letting your school community know the positive role your PTA plays.

Brag Boards can help you spread the word! Take a project board and decorate it with pictures and short descriptions of all the projects and programs your local PTA has done during the school year. Place this board in a prominent place in the school to show

your members all that you have accomplished. When the school year ends, you can add your end-of-the-year events and use it next Fall to help jump-start your membership drive. -Jody Weitman

Hints for a Successful Brag Board

- Title of PTA-big and bold
- Keep it simple and easy to read
- List 2-3 recent PTA accomplishments
- List 2-3 goals for the year
- List member benefits
- Consider adding a member testimonial
- Include the year's membership theme graphic

-Larriann Curtis
Texas PTA *The Voice*, Fall 2008

Bylaws Parties!

One of Council PTA's goals this year is to have 100% of NISD's PTAs with up-to-date bylaws. To achieve that goal, we have been holding bylaws parties. Our philosophy was "If you have to do a chore, you might as well have fun doing it!"

A special thank you goes out to Scarborough Elementary and Powell Elementary who graciously offered their computer labs for our first two parties. Party attendees were instructed in the steps to getting their bylaws updated and approved by Texas PTA. They



were able to review their bylaws and then were given time to complete them. Standing rules were also discussed. Many schools collaborated with each other and exchanged ideas as they determined the best choices for their bylaws and standing rules.

Bylaws are to be updated every 5 years, and the presidents of those PTAs needing to update their bylaws were personally invited to attend one of the parties of their choice. Of course, any interested PTA was welcomed to attend, and several did.

While it certainly is not necessary for you to attend one of these parties to update your bylaws, it is a good source for those who are either uncertain or just want to learn more. Those who attended appreciated having someone there to give them an immediate answer to their questions.

The parties have been well attended, and due to popular demand, an additional bylaws party has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th, 6:45pm, at Zachry Middle School. Please let me know if you are planning on attending.

-Jody Weitman



----- MEMBERSHIP -----

Northside's PTAs have seen growth this year in both membership awards and numbers. It just shows the increased involvement in our schools which is what PTA is all about—being a part of students' lives and enhancing their educational experience even more. There are still year-round awards our schools can receive: Spring Membership Increase (no award form to submit) along with the Golden Apple, Individual Hero and Student Membership Achievement (form must be submitted). Forms can be found at the Texas PTA website www.txpta.org. Please always feel free to contact me with your questions.

-Beth Bath
NISD Council of PTAs
Membership Chair
dbbath@earthlink.net



Arts in Education



Environmental Awareness Program

All information regarding the Poster Contest is now available on the Council website www.nisdpta.org. Council deadline is March 15th, 2009. Please pony entries to Stinson Middle School, Attention: Deede Goethke/PTA- Arts in Education.

The Annual Reflections Awards Ceremony will be held at a location to be determined, to allow for the increased size of the event, on Thursday, April 16th at 6:30pm. Invitations will be ponied to the local PTAs in March.

Questions or concerns please contact Deede Goethke, Arts in Education Chair, at kinjo@biochem.uthscsa.edu



Council presented a number of awards at the Founders Day banquet. Congratulations go out to:

- Sharon Browne, Texas Life Membership
- Julie Eversole, National PTA Life Achievement Award
- Andy Kline, Principal of Raba Elementary, Outstanding Principal of the Year
- Kris Cotton, Vice Principal of Colonies North Elementary, Outstanding Vice Principal of the Year

A Special Website Thank You!

We would like to thank Vinny Huckaba with SAWebhosting.com for donating web hosting for the NISD Council of PTAs' website located at www.nisdpta.org. Please visit our BRAND NEW site to get updates, information and form downloads for your local PTAs. We have a lot of information and resources on the website and we are continuously updating it. Our Members Area is password protected with the same username and password on the back of your PTA Membership cards. If your PTA has a web page and you would like us to add your link in our links section, please let our Technology Chairperson, Michelle Levell, know at michelle.levell@nisdpta.org.

Texas State PTA Dues Increase



At the 2009 State PTA Convention, the delegates voted to increase the Texas PTA dues to \$2.25 (up from \$1.25). **This is effective July 1, 2009.** Here's how it affects your school. If you currently collect \$5.00 (\$2.00 local, \$3.00 State and National) dues from your members, you will need to charge \$6.00 next year in order to keep your \$2.00 portion of the dues. Your bylaws do not have to be changed to reflect this increase since the bylaws only indicate your local portion.

Northside Education Foundation Golf Tournament



You are cordially invited to participate in the 2009 Northside "Fore" Education Spring Golf Tournament to be held April 6 at Oak Hills Country Club. Sign up today online at <http://foundation.nisd.net/> as registration is limited to the first 128 golfers. Questions? Call 397-8599. See you on the links! Registration deadline is March 30th 2009.

(The Northside Education Foundation is an independent non-profit corporation promoting quality education in the Northside Independent School District.)

Tournament Schedule

Registration, Driving Range
10:30 a.m.
Lunch, 11:30 a.m.
Putting Contest, 10:30 a.m.
Florida Scramble Start
Shot- Gun Start 12:30 p.m.
Dinner & Awards, 5:30 p.m.

VENDOR FAIR 2009
SPONSORED BY NISD
COUNCIL OF PTAs



**This event is free and open to the public.
Spread the word!**

Looking for ideas for next year's fundraiser?

Then plan on attending Vendor Fair 2009.

Northside Activity Center (NAC)
7001 Culebra Road (Loop 410 and Culebra)
Thursday, March 5th
1:00pm-8:00pm

For more information, contact Tisha Unger, NISD Council of PTAs Ways and Means Chairperson,
tishau@hotmail.com,
705-1898.

This is your chance to get information from a large number of different vendors, sample their wares, pick up some samples, and discuss doing business with them.

(Don't wait until right before the meeting! Council's general meeting begins at 7:00.)

**Vendor Fair 2009
Your one-stop "shopping" destination!**



NOMINATING COMMITTEES



Even though the school year is only half over, it's time to look ahead to the elections for the 2009-2010 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 of your bylaws 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. (It is permissible for people to self-nominate themselves, aka volunteer.) Elect the nominees as a whole 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 VII, Section 2, 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 potential nominees to discuss a nominee's interest and answer questions about the position in question. The chairperson may also assign a Committee member to help with the calling.
- ✓ The Committee is responsible for finding and nominating exactly 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. (Remember, even if a nominee *is* identified by the nominating committee, nominations are still taken from the floor for that position.)
- ✓ 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. However, during the discussion of the nominees for that position, the considered Committee member must leave the room.
- ✓ 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 *prior to taking office*.
- ✓ 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 needs to agree on the slate. If a person does not agree with the slate, he/she should not sign the Nominating Committee report (see sample report-page 241 in PTA Handbook).
- ✓ The Nominating Committee report of the slate of nominees 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! (See page 243 in the PTA Handbook for a sample Confidentiality Agreement.)
- ✓ Once the slate of officers has been approved by the Nominating Committee, the slate is *not* confidential. According to Article VIII, Section 3.b, in your local bylaws, "The report shall be publicized to the Local PTA membership through regular publicity channels at least _____ 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.
- ✓ 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.

—compiled by Jody Weitman

If you need more information and guidelines on Nominating Committees, feel free to contact a Council Board member.

SCHOOL NEWS



Fernandez Elementary Bulldog Day!

Fernandez Elementary PTA would like to invite all schools to its annual Bulldog Day community carnival!

Saturday, March 21, 2009

11am - 4pm

Rain or Shine

6845 Ridgebrook, 78250

Food, music, talent show, rides, face painting, games, prizes and fun for the whole family. Vendors offering jewelry, art, crafts, and bargains. Appearances by SAPD, SAFD, Ballapeno (Missions baseball mascot), HEBuddy, Buster the VIA bus, and more! FREE admission & parking.

Questions? Email chairperson Lynne Davila, fernandezpta@gmail.com
Vendor inquiries welcome.



Jefferson Middle School

Jefferson Middle School had a wonderful Family Week! On Monday, the Board, along with some help from NJHS and AVID volunteers, handed out juice and donuts through the drop off line for Parent Appreciation. On Tuesday, our Advisory Eagles were finished and set out throughout the school for display. PTA purchased plywood for the IT department to cut out 63 Eagles. Each Advisory class was then given an Eagle and asked to "make it their own". Every student participated in this activity and it shows! The Eagles are still on display if you would like to take a tour.

Some will become permanent fixtures on the walls. On Wednesday, we had Family Night with a program on internet safety given by our own CIT and Librarian. The PTA provided dinner for the families. We hope to make Family Week even bigger and better next year.

For more information contact Nikki Brown, President, at eaglespta@yahoo.com or leave a voice mail at 397-3749.

-Nikki Brown, PTA President

