



12th District PTA The Poinsettia

February 2012

"The mission of the Board of Managers of 12th District PTA is to serve, train, strengthen and empower its councils and units."



Don't Forget the Business of PTA!

President's Message...

We are definitely back in full swing after the holiday! I look forward to seeing all of our unit and council officers at our Annual Meeting and Founders Day celebration on February 23rd.

Now that you are looking at your budgets and planning your spring programs such as Reading Nights, Science Fairs, Career Nights and more, remember the business end of PTA. Most units should be working on their first six month audit and mid-year budget revisions. Remember your council is there for help if you need it. Let us know how we can help.



Kids First

Sue Wells, 12th District PTA President
president@12thdistrictpta.org

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TREASURERS...

Have you sent your books out for their mid-year audit yet?

You are required to be audited twice a year. The first audit covers the period between July 1st and December 31st. It is a necessary part of protecting the assets of your organization. All audits must be presented to your association and copies must be sent up through channels to 12th District.



We are still missing proof of tax filings from a number of schools. Both the state and federal taxes were due in November. If you didn't do them, you need to do it **NOW!** Do not let your PTA lose its non-profit status. It is an expensive and lengthy process to get it back. You need to send a copy of your completed tax forms to 12th district every year.

Now is a good time to review your budget.



Did you budget adequately for your events? Are you over budget? Did your fundraising go well? Do you need to make changes? Remember that any major changes to the budget (adding fundraisers, redirecting funds from one line item to another...) need to be brought to the full association for a vote.

[Click here](#) to visit the Finance page of the 12th District website. We have added more items, including the PowerPoint from our financial evening in November. More info will be added as available.

If you have any questions, please contact your council treasurer or me at the address listed below.

Laura Ann Hawk-Loya, 12th District PTA Treasurer
treasurer@12thdistrictpta.org

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MEMBERSHIP...

Two Mid-Year Membership Challenges for 2012

National PTA statistics show that units that hold a mid-year membership campaign boost their membership numbers by 20%.

Take these challenges and watch the magic!



On your mark, get set... GO!

Plan a short mid-year push for membership. Repurpose your fall membership campaign theme, or create a new idea for this mid-year membership campaign.

- **Jump** into action! Double-check to make sure that all teachers at your school are members of your PTA.
- **Bounce** to staff members
- **Bound** into 2012 by again asking parents and community members to join.
- **Plunge** into new territory—ask your city councilmen, local businesses, service club members (such as Rotary or Lions Clubs), grandparents, school site neighbors, after-school care providers.
- **Leap** into a new way of thinking about PTA membership. Like a valuable product, PTA membership should be regularly advertised. Membership is a yearlong pursuit.

Before March 1, 2012, let us know about your accomplishments by completing a short online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/januarychallenge>.



Receive one free registration to the 2012 California State PTA Convention in Anaheim on May 9-12—if 100 percent of your full-time credentialed teachers join your PTA before March 1, 2012!

How does my unit qualify?

- [Click here](#) to download the application.
- Verify your application with the signatures of both your principal and your PTA president.
- Attach a list of the full-time teachers based at your school.
- Send your completed application through channels to your district PTA.

Your PTA District will forward your application to the CAPTA office no later than close of business Thursday, March 15, 2012.

California State PTA, Membership Commission

January 2012

Randi Denning, 12th District Membership Chair
membership@12thdistrictpta.org

LEADERSHIP TRAINING...

Save the Date: June 2nd is the date for our Leadership Conference, formerly known as Mini-Convention. Join us for a great day with classes and a vendor fair. More details to come so check your inbox and the 12th District website.

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PARLIAMENTARIANS...

It's Time to Conduct Our Election!

What am I supposed to SAY!?!

In the next couple of months, all our 12th District PTA Presidents will be conducting elections at their Association meetings for next year's leadership. Please consider using the link provided here to access a script to help you conduct a smooth and stress-free election.

[PTA Elections Script](#)

Wendy Laufer, 12th District Parliamentarian
parliamentarian@12districtpta.org



REFLECTIONS...



Thank you to everyone that helped with the 12th District Reflections Show held on January 11. We had a full house and the kids were excited to receive their awards.

Congratulations to the 95 students that were honored for being the top 4 entries in Ventura County. The Award of Excellence winners (24 entries) were forwarded on to the CA State PTA to compete at the next level. All other entries will be returned soon; either to the council presidents or Reflections Chairs.

The theme for next year is:
"The magic of a moment"

Thanks again!
Rose Hoberg, 12th District PTA
Reflections Chair
reflections@12thdistrictpta.org



Hats Off To Our Founders

12th District PTA

Cordially invites you to attend
our annual

Founders Day &

Honorary Service Awards

Celebration and Reception

Honoring those who have demonstrated
an extraordinary commitment to the
children, youth and families
of Ventura County

February 23, 2012
6:30 p.m.

The Orchard
816 Camarillo Springs Road
Camarillo, CA

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CAPTA STATE CONVENTION...



113th Annual Convention of the California State PTA May 9-12, 2012

What are the benefits of attending convention?
Training, Training, Training!

Convention is an opportunity to take workshops relevant to your position in PTA whether basic or advanced, crossing a broad range of topics to suit your needs.

As a voting delegate, you also have the opportunity to be actively involved in the business of the California State PTA. The daily general meetings are captivating, as resolutions are debated, voted upon and adopted, and legislative policies are approved. You have the opportunity to influence the direction of CAPTA for the next year. The general meetings are also full of dynamic, well-known speakers, student entertainment, award presentations, and more.

The Exhibit Hall will give you an opportunity to source a large array of exhibitors, and the PTA store will have an abundance of PTA merchandise for you to choose from.

Our 12th District dinner/bowling event the evening of May 9th gives you the chance to get to know the other delegates from 12th District PTA, share ideas, and make new friends (see pg. 5).

You should have already received your registration booklet from CAPTA. If not, it is available on-line at www.capta.org.

Here are more important facts:

Convention registration opens February 1, 2012.

(Please read registration procedures in your booklet or on-line carefully as the price for registration goes up the closer we get to convention.)

- You can register on-line, by mail, or in person.

- Each unit in good standing is entitled to be represented at convention by the president or president-elect and one additional elected delegate. If your unit has:

- 250-500 members, you may be represented by a third elected delegate;
- 501-750 members, you may be represented by a fourth elected delegate;
- 751 or more members, you may be represented by a fifth elected delegate.

- A delegate shall not represent more than one unit and must have been a member of the unit at least 30 days prior to convention. This does not apply to units organized within 90 days prior to convention. ***(Council and District delegates, please refer to your registration materials for representation information.)***

- Student delegates and registrants under the age of 18 must present a current PTA membership card and a ***Parent/Guardian Approval and Consent to Treatment Form*** signed by parents(s) or guardians(s). This form is available at www.capta.org and will be included in your 12th District PTA delegate booklet you will receive at convention orientation.

- You may send as many non-voting delegates to convention as you wish. Non-voting registrants will have all the privileges of an elected voting delegate except the right to make motions, debate, vote, or speak at the microphone.

Hotel registration begins February 1, 2012

- The official hotel for convention is the Anaheim Hilton Resort and Spa which is next-door to the Anaheim Convention Center.
- Convention activities will be held in *both* locations.
- CAPTA is providing a great incentive:
 - When two delegates from your unit register and spend three nights at the Hilton, the third delegate will be entitled to a free registration (it will be reimbursed by CAPTA). That's up to a \$199.00 savings!
 - Plus, CAPTA has negotiated a great hotel rates starting at \$189.00 per night.
 - Make sure you check out the hotel planning page in the registration materials.

There will be a 12th District convention orientation in mid-April. It is important that you plan to attend. It is there that you will learn the ins and outs of convention. We will cover everything from what to wear, to the 12th District Hospitality Suite - your special place to unwind when convention isn't in session!

Your attendance benefits all our children!

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have!

Mary Benton
12th district PTA Convention Chairman
vpprograms@12thdistrictpta.org

12th DISTRICT CONVENTION EVENT...



**Join 12th District PTA for our
2012 Convention Event!**

May 9, 2012 7:00 PM

12th District PTA has teamed up with 300 Anaheim
for an evening of friends, food, and fun!

What is Anaheim 300? It's an "Ultra" bowling and entertainment center with state-of-the-art lanes and plush seating. Dinner will be delivered right to our lanes! Be pampered with gourmet pizzas, Caesar salad, and sodas while we laugh, mingle, and let go after our first action-packed day at convention.

It will be a perfect way to unwind and meet the corps of
12th District PTA delegates.

Anaheim 300 is a short walk from the Hilton Resort and Spa. It is located on the Anaheim Garden Walk, 321 W. Katella Avenue, Anaheim.

\$30.00 covers dinner, your bowling shoes and ball,
and two hours of non-stop fun!

How Do I Sign-Up?

Make sure you sign-up and pay for our 12th District PTA Event when you register for convention on-line. If you register by mail, please send your \$30.00 check made payable to 12th District PTA to:

12th District PTA c/o Mary Benton
3317 Sunset Hills, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362-1192
805-523-0415

bentonbits@sbcglobal.net

Payment for this event must be received by CAPTA or Mary Benton by April 30, 2012. Please note refunds will not be available.

Next, send me an e-mail with your shoe size and tell me if you are male or female.

That's it! This is going to be a ball!

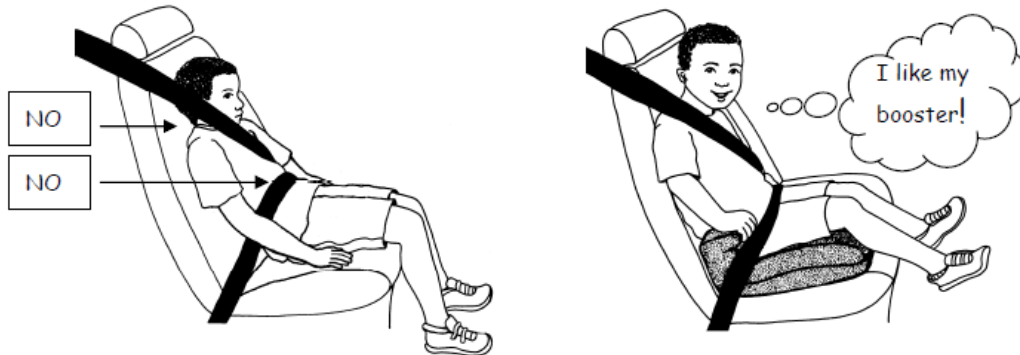
After all, isn't dinner more fun in bowling shoes?

HEALTH & WELLBEING...

NEW LAW PROTECTS CALIFORNIA KIDS!

Effective January 1, 2012

- **Children under age 8** must be properly buckled into a car seat or booster in the back seat.
- **Children age 8 or older** may use the vehicle seat belt if it fits properly with the lap belt low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest. If children are not tall enough for proper belt fit, they must ride in a booster or car seat.
- **Everyone in the car** must be properly buckled up. For each child under 16 who is not properly secured, parents (if in the car) or drivers can be fined more than \$475 and get a point on their driving records.



Most kids need to ride in a booster seat until age 10 to 12.

If your child isn't using a booster, try the simple test below the next time you ride together in the car. You may find that your child is not yet ready to use a safety belt without a booster.

The 5-Step Test

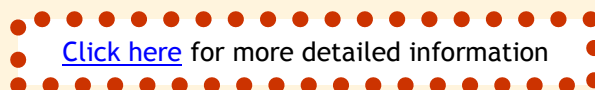
1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to make both the shoulder belt and the lap belt fit right for the best crash protection. Your child will be more comfortable, too.

For best protection, all children should ride in the back. It's twice as safe as the front!

For a list of programs with low-cost car seat, call your local health department at (805) 981-5101 – Ventura PH
For other information: SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. www.carseat.org 800-745-SAFE (English) 800-747-SANO (Spanish)
Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

#630CA Pg. 1, 12-12-11



[Click here](#) for more detailed information