

Palomar Council PTA

Issue #1

www.palomarcouncil.com

July 2011

Welcome to Palomar Council PTA!

I hope this small newsletter finds you well and enjoying your summer. I know mine has been filled with family, fun and friends.

My goal for us this year is to keep us all informed on the major happenings in PTA, in our community, and most importantly, within our school district.

With this goal in mind, please share with us your school events and let us know what's going on so that we can inform the community through our newly-revamped website at www.palomarcouncil.com (thanks to our new website guru Lisa Othmer!) and our listserv (maintained by our fabulously intrepid Palomar Council Corresponding Secretary, Steve Tutunjian).

Along with the newsletter, we will also be giving Palomar Council a permanent “home” via PO Box soon—so look for this important information in the next newsletter!

See you ALL at 6:30 pm at the District Offices for our FIRST Palomar Council meeting on Tuesday, August 9th.

(Remember: ONLY August's meeting is the second Tuesday—all other meetings will be the FIRST Tuesday of the month!)

Lastly, we will be sharing a larger and more comprehensive set of important dates with the PC Directory that is forthcoming. Look for that information to come this fall.

Read on and share the info!

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Palomar Council
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End of Summer Training with Ninth District PTA!

PTAEZ – learn what it is, how to get started and how to use it

When: Friday, August 12, 2011 10:00am – 12:00 noon

Where: San Diego County Office of Education Room 306

Cost: FREE \$0.00

CSM (the one who designed e-Bylaws and PTAEZ) is coming to San Diego at your request to show us all how to use PTAEZ.



The PTAEZ program remains the best for units who have more than \$25,000 in annual income and whose treasurer will be comfortable on a computer.

Following a lunch break (San Diego County Office of Education has a complete cafeteria with inexpensive food):

Unit & Council Treasurer Training – similar to Summer Leadership Conference and CA State PTA workshops

When: Friday, August 12, 2011 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Where: San Diego County Office of Education Room 306

Cost: FREE \$0.00

If you are a Treasurer or Unit President who plans to attend this FREE, timely training through Ninth District please let Ninth District and our Treasurer (Pilar Gross) know ASAP.

Send your RSVPs to:

ninthdistrictpta@sdcoe.net (Ninth District PTA) and pgpta1@yahoo.com (Pilar Gross).

Hope you can all attend—you won't regret it!



NEW DATE for Facilities Use Training at PUSD

In an effort to make planning our events held at Poway Unified Schools and buildings simpler and more time-effective, the PUSD Facilities Use Department has decided to hold a Facilities Use Request Procedure Demonstration at the PUSD offices for Palomar Council PTA folks. Please plan to attend or send someone who can and will spread the word on this VERY important topic:

When: *FRIDAY, September 9th ,*

9 AM – 11 AM

Where: at the District Office, in the Training Room located on the second floor, check in at the front.

Hope to see you there!

National PTA DUES INCREASE of \$.50 EFFECTIVE **JULY 1st!!**

This is an FAQ devised by CAPTA in order to assist you in putting the dues increase in effect immediately for all units:

1. What is the increase, and when does it go into effect?

National PTA Convention delegates recently approved a fifty cents (\$.50) per member increase to National PTA's portion of the dues, from \$1.75 to \$2.25 per member. This increase is effective July 1, 2011. California State PTA dues remain at \$1.25. The total State and National dues are now \$3.50.

2. How are local PTA unit leaders being informed about the dues increase?

We are using a variety of methods to get the word out: blast e-mails from both California State PTA and National PTA, postcards, FAQs, website postings, and the service mailing. District and council PTA leaders are also being encouraged to share the information right away with all of their units.

3. Why didn't we receive word of the National PTA dues increase earlier?

The dues increase was first proposed in March 2011, but it was not approved until the National PTA convention in June.

(For more detailed information, visit <http://www.pta.org/4669.htm>.)

Dues increases at the state or national level are rare and usually come with more lead time. This is the first dues increase since 2001. We fully recognize the challenge of immediately implementing it. In the weeks following the

convention, California State PTA leaders discussed with National PTA ways to address some of the unique challenges that California might face.

Unfortunately, we were not able to work out a way to delay the effective date in California. We must move forward to implement the dues increase immediately, as approved by the National PTA convention delegates.

4. Will this dues increase require a change in our local bylaws?

Yes, but it is NOT necessary to send your PTA bylaws through channels for approval before making this change. Article IV, Section 4-a, should be amended by writing in \$2.25 instead of \$1.75. Units should make this change immediately.

5. What are the best options for units to collect the additional 50 cents per member?

The sooner we get the word out about the increased dues amount, the easier it will be.

a. One option available for your PTA unit, if possible, is to begin collecting an additional 50 cents per member (to cover the increase in National PTA dues ONLY). To make this change, it is NOT necessary to send your PTA bylaws through channels for approval. The unit may add \$.50 to whatever is now being collected from each member. For example, a unit that collects \$5.00 would now collect \$5.50 per member. The unit would write in the increased total collected at the beginning of Article IV Section 4, and would make the necessary change to Section 4-a described above in question No. #4 – but again, the unit would not need to send up the bylaws through channels for approval.

b. If units are having difficulty making the shift to the new dues amount, another option is to cover the shortfall from their PTA budgets. This does not require a vote of the association.

6. What about units that cannot afford to cover the shortfall with monies from their unit budget?

Each case is different, and California State PTA will put in place a process to handle special circumstances, with the possibility for requesting a hardship waiver. Our goal is to support our units, councils and districts as they successfully make the change to the new dues amount. Additional guidelines will be provided soon.

7. Do you expect PTA unit leaders to go back to members who have already purchased membership during July at the old \$1.75 amount and collect an extra 50 cents?

We urge unit leaders to collect the correct amount. It is our obligation to pass along the new dues amount of \$2.25 per member to National PTA.

8. What is the best way to approach the National PTA dues increase?

We encourage you to approach the dues increase with a positive attitude. PTA is an amazing organization whose focus is to support the lives and education of children ... all children.

PTA membership continues to be an excellent value. And, after all, we are in this for the kids! Now more than ever ... we need PTA!

9. Where can I turn for help?

We know the immediate timeline may be challenging. We encourage you to communicate with your council or district membership chairmen or vice presidents to share ideas, strategies, questions or comments.

Check the California State PTA website at www.capta.org for additional updates.

We will continue to provide information and guidance. Together we'll do all that we can to successfully make the change.

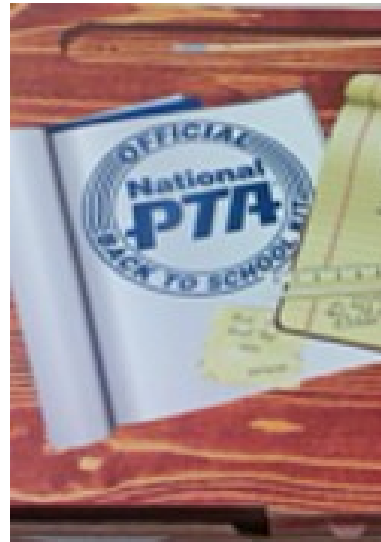
(adapted from communique from CAPTA sent via email earlier this month)

Amending local unit bylaws to incorporate National PTA dues increase—please go to this link for easy instructions:

<http://www.capta.org/assets/managed/whatsnew-pdf/DuesIncreaseBylawsInstructionsForUnits.pdf>

This FAQ is available as a pdf here:

<http://www.capta.org/assets/managed/whatsnew-pdf/DuesIncreaseFAQs.pdf>



Have you signed up for your Back to School mailing yet?

Follow this link to sign up to get your National PTA Back to School kit—Last day to do so is September 16th! www.pta.org/officialkit

District-wide Middle School Students College Readiness Night

Palomar Council is planning two District-wide College Readiness Nights for Middle School students and parents. The proposed plan is to have two nights as follows:

March 7 - Eastside - Twin Peaks Middle School

March 14 - Westside - Black Mountain Middle School

To make this a meaningful experience for both students and parents, I am asking for your thoughts and suggestions as to what topics should be considered for inclusion in the symposium content.

I believe the focus should be on what middle schoolers and their parents can work on now in middle school years to help them better prepare for high school and beyond ... tutorial help, mentorship, service opportunities, leadership opportunities, music, athletics, academic standards, well rounded education, and personal goal-setting to name a few.

The following are examples of workshop topics, some of which were in prior college readiness symposiums, that might fit into our upcoming College Readiness Nights:

- Is my student on track in school?
- How to help your child succeed without holding his hand (goal setting and educational planning).
- Why Middle School Matters - What it means to students to take responsibility for their own success and how parents can spark a love of learning in their middle school children and help them establish high standards that will serve them well throughout their lives.

- Dollars and Sense - Answers to questions about what to expect for college expenses, financial aid opportunities, and how to plan for what's to come, tips for helping the student be financially responsible at an early age.
- Simple steps - Start NOW to begin preparation for high school and beyond; a "To Do List" and various career & college websites that will benefit Middle School parents and students alike.
- Executive Skills – A new approach, with specific strategies, to help “coach” the student in the skills needed for college success.
- What admissions committees look for in extracurriculars:
http://www.admissionsconsultants.com/college/ak_extracurriculars.asp, Admissions Consultant, July 15, 2011.
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/high-school/113.html>
- Self-inventory of interests matched with career possibilities.
- Academic track for those college-bound. College funding and professional mentoring early-on (i.e., Celtic College Consultants, etc.).
- Music and arts advantage both in the College selection process and scholarships.

I am looking for your thoughts and suggestions both on the above and any additional content you feel might be appropriate for the College Readiness Night. To allow sufficient time to arrange workshop and keynote speakers, please forward your inputs and thoughts by August 15 to me, Lorna Reese, Middle School College Readiness Chair, at johnlorna@cox.net. Thank you!



Reflections: “Diversity Means”

Start creating your entries this summer. You can enter as many pieces in any of the six categories as you would like: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Visual Arts, Photography, Literature and Musical Composition.

The official forms are not available yet. The rules and criteria remain the same as last year. Once school starts the Reflections Chair at your unit will have the entry and consent forms for you to complete along with the deadline for your school.

More information can be found at <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm>, which is also available in Spanish.

Unit Chairperson Reflections Training:

Sept. 13 9:30-11 & 12pm-1:30 in Room 307 or

Sept. 14 6:30pm-8pm in Room 306

San Diego County Office of Education
6401 Linda Vista Road
San Diego, CA 92111-7319

If you have questions, please contact Gail Matson, Palomar Council PTA Reflections Chair (matsonsouth@cox.net).

List of Important Dates for You to Note and Share

July—Membership fliers/bylaws updated to reflect National dues increase of \$.50; send roster changes to Steve Tutunjian, PC Corresponding Secretary (mrpta@earthlink.net).

August 9—First Palomar Council meeting of the year; Officer & Chair meeting at 6:15 pm, all others arrive by 6:30 pm, bring roster changes to meeting if not sent via email.

August 12—Ninth District PTA training at SDCOE; PTAEZ and Treasurer training offered, 10 am to 3 pm.

August 15—PUSD Board of Education meeting, 6pm at PUSD offices; suggestions for MS College Fair due to Lorna Reese.

August 16—Ninth District Board Meeting, 9:30 am SDCOE.

August 24—**First Day of School.**

September 2—Healthy Lifestyle Grants due to National PTA,

September 6—Second monthly Palomar Council meeting—Officer & Chair meeting at 6:15, NEW unit presidents meet at 6:30, all others arrive at 6:45 pm, bring end of year financial reports 2010-11 if not yet submitted, bring DUES.

September 12—PUSD Board of Ed meeting, 6pm, PUSD offices.

September 20—Ninth District Board meeting, 9:30 am, SDCOE.

September 22—Financial Reports from end-of-year 2010-11 due to Ninth District.

October 1—Last day to submit “Revised June 2010” bylaws to Ninth District PTA.

Important Dates At-a-Glance

August 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Palomar Council meeting 6:30 pm PUSD Offices	10	11	12	13
14	15 Bd of Ed mtg, at 6 pm PUSD offices; MS College Fair suggs due to Lorna	16 9 th D Board mtg 9:30 am SDCOE	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 First Day of School	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
September 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Healthy Lifestyle Grant Applications Due	3
4	5	6 Palomar Council meeting 6:30 pm PUSD Offices, DUES /Reports	7	8	9	10
11	12 Bd of Ed mtg, 6 pm PUSD offices	13 Reflections training SDCOE Rm 307 in a.m.	14 Reflections training SDCOE Rm 306 in p.m.	15	16 Last day to register for National PTA Back to School Kit	17
18	19	20 9 th D Board mtg 9:30 am SDCOE	21	22 End of Year 2010-11 Financial Reports Due to Ninth	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Have you...?

- Sent out your updated roster to the PC Corresponding Secretary?
- Updated your Membership fliers to reflect the dues increase?
- Contacted your Treasurer about the upcoming Ninth District training?
- Filled your calendar with the important PC meeting and other due dates for the year?
- Shared the good info you found here with your board members?
- Given yourself a pat on the back?

See you in August!!



IMPORTANT INFO AND LINKS:

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