

Winter 2012
Volume 2, Issue 2

Important Dates:

JANUARY

- 17 - 9th District Council Ofc training
- 19 - PCC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 24 - 9th District Report Writing 10:30 am
- 26 - MCC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 31 - DCC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 31 - ECCC Reflections Recp 6:30 pm

FEBRUARY

- 7 - ECCC Meeting 9:30 am
- 7 - JCC Meeting 11:30 am
- 9 - PTSA Day at Capitol (students)
- 16-18 - FE Conference, Athens, GA
- 17 - PTA Founder's Day
- 21 - TMC Meeting 10:00 am
- 28 - Ga PTA "PTA Day at Capitol"

MARCH

- 1 - Ga PTA Incorporation Fee deadline
- 9 - Reports deadline to state office
- 13 - 9th District Board of Directors mtg
- 25 - Ga PTA State Reflections Reception
- 27 - 9th District Spring Conference (day)
- 27 - ECCC Honoring Heroes 6:30 pm
- 29 - PCC Reflections Ceremony 6:30 pm

APRIL

- 12 - ECCC Meeting 9:30 am
- 19 - PCC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 21 - TMC Meeting 10:00 am
- 26 - MCC Meeting 6:30 pm

MAY

- 1 - DCC Meeting 6:00 pm
- 7 - JCC Meeting 6:30 pm
- 10 - 9th District Council Ofc Training

For a complete calendar, please check your 9th District handbook or contact your Council President for details.

For PTA Universities, please check the Georgia PTA calendar online at www.georgiapta.org.

News from the 9th



From the District Director...

Happy New Year from 9th District!

We have some awesome things going on in our District thanks to all of our wonderful PTAs and our Councils. As of the publication of this newsletter, 9th District is just shy of meeting last year's membership numbers. Please help us rally our parents, teachers, and community members to help us obtain our goal of a 2% membership increase. Our District is running a membership campaign for the month of February and those details have been distributed, but a reminder is contained in this newsletter. Please share this newsletter with your fellow officers and committee chairs so that all of the news is shared.

We encourage everyone to submit reports this year. We want to know what you are doing and welcome all of you to submit a copy to the District for spring awards. We have overhauled our awards this year and are very excited what is being offered. More details on this are included in this publication.

We thank you for your service and dedication to the children, parents and teachers. Together, we will achieve great things!

My warmest regards to all,

Lori Sweet
Director



Mark your Calendar ...

9TH DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
(morning conference)

Join us for our conference, awards ceremony, and vendor fair.

Our formal "Call to Conference" with details will be distributed early March.

Please join us and celebrate all the great work this year!

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9th District Executive Committee:

Lori Sweet, District Director
sweetgapta@bellsouth.net

Kiddada Grey, 1st Asst. Director
kg2educate@gmail.com

Jeri Godhigh, 2nd Asst. Director
sisterjeri@msn.com

Irene Barton, Secretary
irenebarto@gmail.com

Marlene Henderson,
Parliamentarian
mswannhe@bellsouth.net



Check out our new Facebook Page, 9th District, Georgia PTA. "Like" us and join our group!



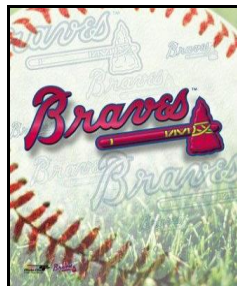
This year's District awards will include the following categories:

- Outstanding Local Unit Elementary PTA <750
- Outstanding Local Unit Elementary PTA >751
- Outstanding Local Unit Middle School PTSA
- Outstanding Local Unit High School PTSA
- Visionary Award
- Outstanding Nurse
- Outstanding Educator
- Best Idea (3 total – one per level) – Elementary, Middle, High
- Local Unit Membership (highest percentage increase)
- Council Membership (highest percentage increase)
- Outstanding Council recognition
- Model PTA recognition

Make sure to submit your reports and have them postmarked or delivered by Friday, March 9, 2012. Remember, your original report goes to Georgia PTA at the state office, and your second copy comes to 9th District for our awards. The state office DOES NOT make copies for 9th District, so this is a separate copy you must submit.

Questions? Please contact Lori Sweet, Director at sweetgapta@bellsouth.net .

February Membership Drive... **“JOIN US!”**



9th District is running a Membership Drive for the month of February! Please help us obtain our goal of a 2% membership increase this year and ask your parents, teachers, bus drivers, community businesses and area neighbors to support your school's PTA.

The local unit that submits the highest number of memberships by February 28, 2012 to the state office will win 4 Braves tickets for a Sunday afternoon game this spring. The winning PTA will be announced at 9th District's Spring Conference on March 27, 2012. Specific details are included on the separate document distributed for this promotion.



*Congratulations
to our Councils
with a Membership
Increase!*

**Paulding County Council
Up 16%**

**Douglas County Council
Up 10%**

**Marietta City Council
Up 2%**

**South Cobb Council
Up by 21 members**

**Stay tuned for final figures at the
end of the Membership year!**

Keep up the GREAT work!

**Way to go,
9th District!**



Taking the Stress out of Election Meetings

Conducting Officer Election meetings is often a stressful event for local unit officers. Spending time to become familiar with PTA policies and procedures, reviewing scripts and asking for guidance if unsure will go a long way to help ensure the meeting is efficient, stress-free and that your membership is well-served. We hope that reviewing these steps will help you feel more confident about the process as your association moves through the Nominating Committee process towards its annual election meeting for officers.

For background information on the Nominating Committee process, leaders are encouraged to visit the Georgia PTA website under Leadership Resources and read the Nominating Committee and Elections Guide ([http://www.georgiapta.org/documents/Nominating Committee and Elections Guide.pdf](http://www.georgiapta.org/documents/Nominating_Committee_and_Elections_Guide.pdf)). Because the Nominating Committee process is a highly confidential matter, current officers or other PTA members should not ask inappropriate questions of members of the Nominating Committee or ask to be made privy to discussions or decisions.

The **Slate of Officers** needs to be posted in the school office, or other visible location, at least **10 days prior to the election meeting**. (Note: If the Nominating Committee was unable to find a viable candidate for a position, the slate should be posted with that position left open.)

Advertise the time and location of your Election meeting. You must have a quorum at the meeting in order to conduct business and advertising it will help ensure that. Use electronic blasts, your website, school newsletter and the front office of your school to advertise. Don't know what your quorum is?

Upcoming Georgia PTA Events...

Family Engagement Conference – Athens, GA February 16-18, 2012 at the Classic Center

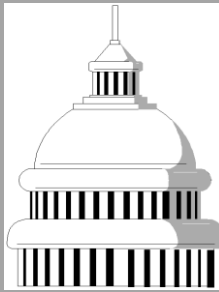


This conference is a partnership of the Georgia DOE, Title I, Part A, and Georgia PTA.

For conference details or to register, please go to www.doe.k12.ga.us/tss_title.aspx?Pagereq=StatewideConference.

Early registration has closed, so for more information please contact Patty Yohn, Family Engagement Chair at pattyjohn@bellsouth.net.

PTA Day at the Capitol Tuesday, February 28, 2012



Join PTA leaders, members and supporters and become more familiar with the legislative process and actively speak with legislators about education and children's issues. For more information, please go to www.georgiapta.org.

Don't forget to sign up for "Capitol Watch"! For the latest info at the Capitol, sign up today!

Check your bylaws! Article 13, Section 6 contains quorum information.

On the night of your election meeting, have either a paper copy or electronic version of your most recent membership list. Only members of your PTA/PTSA are allowed to vote.

The election will be conducted under **New Business** at the meeting. Refer to **Quick Tips about Elections** (http://www.georgiapta.org/documents/Quick_Tips_about_Elections_Revised_March_2008.pdf) for scripts and steps for both non-contested and contested elections. Always be prepared for a contested election with ballots, tellers, and a script. Work with your parliamentarian to make sure that you understand what should and should not transpire. If you know or sense that

there will be a contested election and want additional guidance, contact your Council President with questions and feel free to ask that a representative from your Council's Executive Committee be in attendance.

The results of the election must be recorded in the minutes; these will be needed after the last day of school when the new officers assume their offices and updated signature cards are signed at the bank.

It's exciting to welcome new leadership to your PTA Executive Committee and these tips will hopefully get the transition off to a smooth start!

Irene M. Barton
District Secretary

Treasurer's Resources ...



Did you know that the President has to sign off on the monthly bank statement? This not only fulfills PTA's "checks and balances", but is also a stipulation in your coverage with AIM insurance. Make sure another officer that's not a check signer also signs off monthly.

For a detailed Treasurer's Guide, please go to www.georgiatpta.org.

Quick Tips for Secretaries...



The PTA Secretary should have a notebook that includes several sections. The following should be included in this book:

- General Meeting Minutes
- Board of Director Minutes
- Executive Committee Minutes
- Current copy of By-Laws
- Current PTA Membership Roster
- Any communications sent or received by the PTA that are kept as a record
- Copies of contracts signed by the President
- Copies of newsletters & flyers distributed

If your Secretary's notebook is not up to par, now's the time to get things in order. The Secretary's book is a legal record of your official PTA business and needs to be kept every year as part of your archives.

The Business of PTA ...



As we move forward into election season for our Local Units and Councils, I would like to encourage everyone to remember to disclose the hidden secrets of PTA; which is the business side of PTA. It is important to share with all nominees the reality of the work we do. There are meetings to attend, treasurer documents to be audited, membership monies turned in monthly, and secretary minutes that must be taken, then reviewed and completed. These are compliance issues that all officers must understand to be in good standing with the state, IRS, AIM Insurance and build trust with the Parent voting body.

There is a belief out there that if we tell the volunteers **all** the job duties, then they won't join, no one will volunteer. My answer is then two-fold. Do we want that type of volunteer? Or are we the type of people and organizations that can steer volunteers into the positions that are the best fit for their personalities and lifestyles? I hope that we are the later. There should not be an expectation of success of our leaders when they have not been given the true details of how to manage the PTA. It is not enough to say it is in the handbook, when we don't share things like legislative issues or attending school board meetings. Information is power... So empower our next round of leaders with the best information as possible.

Kiddada Grey
1st Assistant Director



9th District

Board of Directors:

- Lori Sweet, Director
- Kiddada Grey, 1st Asst. Director
- Jeri Godhigh, 2nd Asst. Director
- Irene Barton, Secretary
- Marlene Henderson, Parliamentarian
- Virginia Ackley, Leadership & Resource Dev.
- Terry Fast, Conference Committee
- Tyler Barr, DCC President
- Irene Barton ECCC Co-President
- Rhonda Byrnes, JCC Co-President
- Denise Terrell, JCC Co-President
- Teri Ault, MCC President
- Annissa Katzman, PCC President
- Angel Little, SCC President
- Lisa Laposata, TMC President
- Rita Erves, Ga PTA President-Elect*
- Patty Yohn, Ga PTA Family Engagement*
- Karen Hallacy, Ga PTA Legislative*
- Lisa Richardson, Ga PTA Technology*
- Wendy Stewart, Ga PTA Diversity*
- Dewanna King, Ga PTA Resource Dev.*
- Otha Thornton, NPTA President-Elect*

*These individuals serve on the Georgia PTA and/or National PTA Board of Directors and reside in 9th District, therefore they are a member of our Board of Directors.

**Stand together.
Power up.
Reach out.**

In Memory of Two of our PTA Founders:

Georgia is now home to not one, but two, very special PTA venues. They are both dedicated to the memory of two of our PTA founders --- Alice McClellan Birney and Selena Sloan Butler, both Georgia natives. Unveiled in 1942, the breathtaking Birney Memorial is located in mighty District 9 in Marietta, Georgia (Mrs. Birney’s home). It serves as a perpetual vision of a most remarkable parent-teacher visionary.

We are proud of the fact that for her contributions, the Selena Sloan Butler Park was named in her honor and dedicated to her memory. She organized the first National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT) and was one of the founders of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, now known as the National PTA. Butler believed that all children should have the opportunity to succeed and learn, regardless of their race or background. Approximately two months ago on November 2, 2011, the Selena Sloan Butler Park Revitalization Dedication was held. It was a very emotional day for me and one that I had been highly anticipating for some time. The City of Atlanta, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association and America's Backyard, hosted this glorious event. Dignitaries, elected officials, Butler Park supporters and special guests from throughout the area were present. This ceremony was very special to PTA leaders, and many came from 'far and wide' to be in attendance. Included among those on hand were: National PTA President, Betsy Landers (who was also one of the speakers); National PTA President Elect, Otha Thornton; National PTA Board Member/2007-2009 Georgia PTA President, Leslie Cushman; 2011-2013 Georgia PTA President, Donna Kosicki and Georgia PTA President Elect, Rita Erves.

Georgia PTA has been involved with the Park since 2007. A tornado swept through Atlanta and destroyed much of the Park. Georgia PTA, spearheaded by Leslie Cushman, along with the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation, kicked off the renovation of the Park in 2009. In charge of overseeing the project was the Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation. The National Recreation and Park Association chose the Park as their annual project and coordinated the \$300,000.00 revitalization.

We encourage those of you who were unable to be a part of this joyous occasion to take your families to visit both of these memorial venues, including this beautiful new Selena Butler Park (98 William Holmes Borders Drive, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30312). Please share with them the significant role that this remarkable woman played in the history of PTA.

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