

THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

Valley Views

Volume 54 | Issue 5 | May 2020



THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA
be the change you want to see in the world

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2019-2021 VISION FOR THE 31ST DISTRICT

"I am really excited for our next two years together. We are going to work together to build stronger units, start new ones and implement changes as they come at us. Together, we will take on the challenges that will come our way. We will support our schools' goals and missions. We will support programs that will benefit all of the kids in the 31st District."

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Submitted by Barbara Smith, President

So much has happened over the past six weeks. This was not the year we expected it to be. The anticipated stress of Graduation, End of Year Activities, and elections, all replaced with losing income, fear of loved ones getting sick, and homeschooling your children.

31st District and California State PTA, all made up of parents who are dealing with the same things, understand and are here for you. Drastic changes have been made in a short amount of time; on-line meetings have replaced in-person meetings, deadlines have been adjusted, support for your elections and Association meetings from your Council Presidents and District representatives have expanded as they never have before.

Our message to you is that we are here. We care about what is happening to you. All you have to do is reach out to us and let us know that you need support with on-line meeting protocols, policy and procedures. If this is beyond overwhelming to you and your school - we can help you re-group in the Fall. Just let us know. You know your school, your Administration and your membership better than anyone and we trust your judgement.

While we are facing unexpected, unknown challenges, we are also looking back at the work 31st District has done over the years, and the question remains - Why PTA? Instead of getting caught up in the busy work of fundraisers and events, we need to remember the importance of supporting the goals and mission of each of our schools. We can't forget - Why PTA?

When the 31st District was founded in 1953, we had 88 units that represented 87,161 members in the San Fernando, Sunland and Tujunga area. We ran the Lunch and Milk Programs and three Health Clinics that provided dental, vision, and some health care services to children attending LAUSD. There was a District Clothes Closet to aid needy children with clothing. We had a Music Festival which provided music scholarships, which we still host today. We now call it the Darlene Panfill Music Scholarship Program. It is in its 67th year! We had an Arts and Crafts show which provided funds for arts scholarships. We ran a survey in the district and received 13,000 replies to help obtain better radio programs for our children. We published a newsletter "Valley Views" which, as you can see, is still in print. We sponsored the Future Teachers of America



Sent by Julie London: "I grew up in Reseda and Sepulveda. My mother was on the PTA at Bertrand Ave. School in the 1950's. I am attaching a photo that I thought you would get a kick out of seeing"

clubs, the formation of a Mothersingers Chorus, district-wide Parent Education series, Health Leadership Training and so much more.

We advocated for our kids. We spoke to each other. We had conversations with our teachers and administrators. We attended School Board Meetings. We spoke to our local Radio stations about programing. We made a difference. We can still do that today!

MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

Submitted by Colleen Ross, Vice President Membership and Organization

The 31st District Membership and Organization department sure has been busy. We held a marvelous Reflections Gala on February 18.

The Darlene Panfill Music Scholarship auditions were held February 29. According to Heidi Gilles, 31st District Fundraising Chair, the 2nd Annual Bunco Night was a fantastic night of fun and giving back. Over \$600 was raised to support Music Scholarship. A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in this fun filled evening.



DARLENE PANFILL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Submitted by Houri Khatchadorian, Music Scholarship Chair

For the past 67 years, the 31st District PTSA Music Scholarship Program offers musical students of all abilities the opportunity to audition in front of judges in the categories of Brass, Woodwinds, Piano, Strings, and Voice. The local professional musicians give the students critical feedback, suggestions and even impromptu lessons. The judges choose 8-12 students to receive \$300 scholarships, to continue or start private music lessons.

We are grateful to the many professional musicians who donated their time to judge the student's auditions. Scholarship winners have gone on to become professional musicians. Others have developed a deeper appreciation for music. All have benefited from the opportunity to perform.

Voice Nathan Schinnerer Walter Reed Middle School, grade 8	W I N N E R S	Brass/Percussion Luca Diaz Walter Reed Middle School, grade 7
Strings Brian Sang Walter Reed Middle School, grade 8		Strings Sienna Cercado Milikan Middle School, grade 6
Piano Francesco Severino North Hollywood High School, grade 9		Piano Alina Yang Robert Frost Middle School, grade 8
Woodwinds Serena Lee Robert Frost Middle School, grade 8		Woodwinds Hayley Yoon Walter Reed Middle School, grade 8

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS AND DINNER

It is with much sadness that 31st District announces the cancelation of our End of the Year Awards Dinner. With the governor's Shelter in Place order we are unable to hold any functions. Let's focus on our units who are supporting their schools and transitioning their meetings to on-line formats.

This year, we cannot be together to celebrate each other's successful events and endeavors. We do celebrate all of the commitment and dedication that our units have put into this extraordinary school year and we look forward to once again being back together again next year.

THE ARTS

From California State PTA

WHY WE NEED THE ARTS NOW MORE THAN EVER

As students transition to learning at home, participating in arts education is clearly as vital as ever. It fosters critical thinking, improves wellbeing,



and positively impacts learning across the board. Art can also be a powerful force in this time of social distancing. As we all struggle to redefine not just "community," but also ourselves, creativity can help us find a path forward.

These resources offer "virtual" social experiences to lessen the loneliness, or allow you to feel heard by letting you make art with a meaningful message.

- **[The Social Distancing Festival](#)**: Celebrate art as part of a global community. Every day, the Social Distancing Festival gathers art exhibits, musical and theatrical performances, and so much more from some of the most exciting artists working.
- **[Amplifier's Global Open Call for Art](#)**: Make art with a message! Submit work you've done that messages public health and safety in response to COVID-19, or stands as a symbol to promote mental health and wellbeing. (You can also sign up to receive free socially-engaged artwork and digital learning tools by grade level.)
- **[TeachRock's Celebrating Community with Art Lesson](#)**: Meant for 3rd-6th graders, this lesson from TeachRock celebrates and defines community. As students feel isolated from their friends and schools, defining and creating ties to community is more important than ever.

You can find additional creative distance-learning resources on California State PTA's [COVID-19 Resources for Parents and Families page](#). To join the Create CA movement to bring more arts education to public schools, [click here](#).

DISTANCE LEARNING RESOURCES FROM OUR EDUCATION PARTNERS

Our partner **Create CA** has curated an amazing list of free resources to help your family be creative at home while school is remote, and also through the summer. Create At Home has something for everyone – whether you're a homeschooling mom or dad, a bored student stuck at home, or just a frazzled parent looking for a creative outlet for your stress.



The [#CreateAtHome website](#) offers a comprehensive – but not overwhelming – array of collections and activities split into six categories, with at least four resources per section. Some of the ideas include:

- [Khan Academy's Imagineering Course](#): Do you love theme parks? Build a virtual theme park of your own through videos and activities, while learning from Disney's own Imagineers about character, rides, and more.
- [The Social Distancing Festival](#): Celebrate art as part of a global community. Every day, the Social Distancing Festival gathers art exhibits, musical and theatrical performances, and so much more from some of the most exciting artists working.



As students move to digital and distance learning, **ETS** has developed a tool that parents and students can use at home to gauge a child's familiarity with using technology.

The “**Technology Readiness Checker for Students**” is an engaging, game-like tool allows students to create a storyboard by navigating through a variety of screens and using different functions, such as selecting menu options and using drag-and-drop features.

The tool is not a test and does not provide a score, however, it generates a chart showing parents their child's skill level. The goal is to allow parents to engage with their child as they learn simple functions, so they can comfortably continue their education online during this difficult time.

Accessibility supports are available so that all students can use the technology readiness checker.

The Technology Readiness Checker for Students can be found at <https://trcs.ets.org/> and instructions on how to use it can be found at <https://elpac.org/s/pdf/ELPAC--How-to-Use-the-Technology-Readiness-Checker-for-Students.pdf>.



Learning Heroes, a National PTA education partner, offers an excellent collection of distance learning resources to help families stay on track during school closures. [Click here](#) to start with their five-tip overview titled "Keep Calm, Learning is On!", which is available in both English and Spanish.

You can find additional distance learning resources on California State PTA's [COVID-19 Resources for Parents and Families page](#).

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMS

Submitted by Ira Weinreb, Treasurer

For years, every PTA Unit, Council and District has been required to file an Annual Registration Renewal Form RRF-1 with the Attorney General's Office when filing the also-required federal and state annual tax returns. Failure to properly file the required forms will lead to being in "delinquent" status, can jeopardize your tax-exemption, and will cause the LAUSD to deny your requests to hold events. That is why it is so important that you be aware that as of February 1, 2020, the Attorney General's Office has CHANGED the RRF-1 and added a NEW Form CT-TR-1 for certain charities:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA CT-TR-1 (Orig. 09/2017) MAIL TO: Registry of Charitable Trusts P.O. Box 903447 Sacramento, CA 94203-4470 STREET ADDRESS: 1300 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 210-6400 WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.oag.ca.gov/charities	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PAGE 1 of 4 (For Registry Use Only)																																
ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CALIFORNIA Section 12586, California Government Code 11 Cal. Code Regs., Section 301 (FORM CT-TR-1)																																	
Name of Organization _____ State Charity Registration Number _____ Address (Number and Street) _____ Corporation or Organization No. _____ City or Town, State and ZIP Code _____ Federal Employer I.D. No. _____																																	
For annual accounting period (beginning ____ / ____ / ____ ending ____ / ____ / ____)																																	
BALANCE SHEET																																	
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I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that I have examined this report, including accompanying documents, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the content is true, correct and complete and I am authorized to sign.																																	
Signature of Authorized Agent _____ Printed Name _____ Title _____ Date _____																																	

1) Form CT-TR-1:

In the past, any nonprofit with annual revenue normally \$50,000 or more was required to include a copy of their 990-EZ federal tax return with their RRF-1 filing, while those whose annual revenue is normally less than \$50,000 were not required to include ANY tax return with their RRF-1 filing. This is because \$50,000 is the dividing line between having to use the detailed 990-EZ as the federal tax return, and being able to use the vastly shorter and easier 990N "postcard" federal return. Because the 990N contains no financial information that would be useful to members of the public researching a charity, it was not required to include a copy with the RRF-1. In contrast, the 990-EZ is full of detailed financial information that could be useful to the public, so the Attorney General's (AG) Office required a copy be filed with the RRF-1.

For California charities normally receiving less than \$50,000 in revenues, the CT-TR-1, MUST be completed and filed WITH the RRF-1. The CT-TR-1 is essentially a "mini-tax return." It is not nearly as detailed (or complicated) as the 990-EZ, but it does require the reporting of various types of revenues and expenses, which will require more work than filing the 990N and old RRF-1.

Continue on next page

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL FORMS

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For Units that file the 990-EZ because their annual revenues normally exceed \$50,000, the CT-TR-1 is NOT required. Instead, just like before, you include a copy of your 990-EZ with your RRF-1.

2) Non-Cash Contributions:

The other major change to the AG's reporting requirements, is that the new RRF-1 now requires the separate reporting of "non-cash contributions" for the year. That means that Units (and Councils) must keep track of the value of all non-cash donations that they receive during each fiscal year; donated gift cards/certificates, items donated for raffles and silent auctions, donated equipment and supplies. "Non-cash" essentially means "non-monetary" – it does NOT literally mean "cash" – so donations made by check, PayPal, credit card, and other transfer applications are all "cash donations." They would NOT be included with "non-cash" donations, which can be thought of as donations of "stuff" as opposed to donations of money.

While monetary donations generally always come to the attention of Treasurers, since they have to be deposited into the bank account, that is not necessarily the case for donations of "stuff." So Units and Councils need to implement procedures to ensure that the Treasurer is aware of all such donations, and can keep track of their value for the preparation of the required reports each year.

3) When Do the New Forms Apply:

Although the new forms became effective on February 1, 2020, the AG Office has advised that they will continue to accept the OLD forms (including NOT having to submit a CT-TR-1) for fiscal years prior to 2019-20. So for Units that received the automatic 6-month extension by filing IRS Form 8868 by November 15, 2019, and whose tax returns and RRF-1 for 2018-19 are thus due by May 15, 2020, the OLD forms can still be used. The **CT-TR-1 is NOT** required. For any delinquent Units that still owe RRF-1's for prior fiscal years, the OLD forms can still be used. But when it is time to file for the 2019-20 fiscal year, by November 15, 2020, the NEW forms (including the CT-TR-1 if applicable) will need to be used. That means that Units will need to report the **total value of all non-cash contributions** for this year, even though this year is more than half over.

The new forms can be obtained from the AG's website at any time:

<https://www.oag.ca.gov/charities/forms> The old RRF-1 form is no longer available on the AG's website. Anyone needing a copy can get one from their Council or District Treasurer.

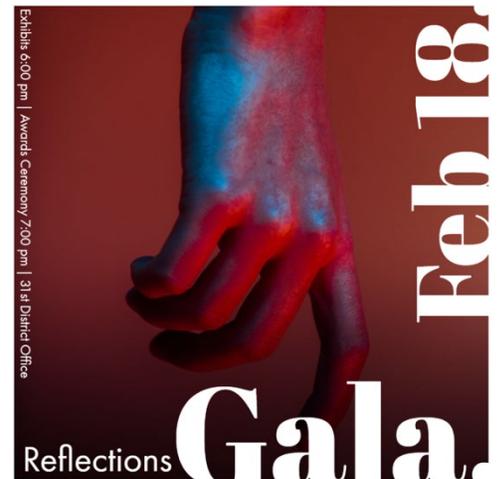
As was the case this year, the 31st District PTSA will offer tax training to Unit/Council Treasurers, and other interested Officers, in October. The training will cover these new requirements, along with all of the ins and outs of doing federal and state nonprofit tax returns. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to ask!

REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Andrea Stuckey, Reflections Chair

The Reflections submissions were judged and the winning entries sent to Sacramento to compete at the State level. 31st District PTSA awarded a total of 64 medals; 22 of those winners moved on to compete at the California state level.

Thirty-first District hosted our annual Reflections Gala on Tuesday February 18, 2020 at the 31st District Office, where over 200 entries were on display. Family and friends stood shoulder to shoulder and cheered for the young artists as they won awards in Visual Arts, Photography, Literature, Dance Choreography, Film Production, and Music Composition.



California State PTA gave an Award of Merit to the following students:

Category: Literature

- Mina Adachi, 2nd Grade, Beckford Charter Elementary
- Yohann Lee, 3rd Grade, Carpenter Community
- Chole Zitsow, 10th Grade Granada Hills Charter High School

Category: Music Composition

- Logan Jover, 1st Grade Rio Vista Elementary

Category: Film Production

- Bo Downey, 8th Grade Robert A. Millikan Middle School
- Samantha Umbay, 12th Grade, Granada Hills Charter High School

Category: Visual Arts

- Isabel Song, 8th Grade Walter Reed Middle School
- Madison Davis, 12th Grade Granada Hills Charter High School

Category: Photography

- Alison Damaso, 2nd Grade Dearborn Elementary
- ML Wilmering, 10th Grade Champs Charter High School

Category: Dance Choreography

- Meline Kirakosyan, 7th Grade Nobel Charter Middle School



NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

From California State PTA



January was designated as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, but the California State PTA feels that the topic is so important that we shouldn't limit our awareness to one month. A recent edition of the Pulse produced by the Health and Community Concerns Commission, the focus is on helping families understand how to keep your children safe and spot trafficking victims.

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people — including children — for exploitation or commercial gain. It can take the form of forced prostitution, forced marriage, domestic servitude, forced labor, organ harvesting, child soldiers, drug trade or forced criminality. California is one of the nation's top destination states for trafficking human beings. Approximately 300,000 children are lured into commercial sexual exploitation annually within the United States, on average by the age of 12. From the time of recruitment, life expectancy of that child is a mere seven years. Foster and runaway children are the most vulnerable; however, traffickers do not discriminate and actively target across all social and economic boundaries.

HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

Recruitment is occurring via certain apps/social media, gaming sites, and — most eerily — by peers. We as parents and guardians need to have frank discussions regarding this topic with our children. We need to educate ourselves on how to recognize the signs of sexual exploitation, and we need to stay actively involved in our children's lives through the tween and teen years by not only paying attention to them, but also to all those who come in contact with them.

The following are some of the indicators that a child is being exploited:

- A significant change in behavior, including increased online behavior, or associating with a new group of friends
- Presence of an overly controlling or abusive “boyfriend” or older female
- Has multiple cell phones or electronic devices
- Carries large amounts of cash or prepaid credit cards
- Has a name or a symbol tattooed, burned, or branded on his or her body
- Has hotel keys, hotel receipts, or other items from a hotel/motel

What are some signs that a child may be trafficked?

- They are dressed inappropriately for the travel destination
- They are traveling with someone dressed more appropriately for the destination
- They are carrying very little luggage or no luggage at all
- They show signs of malnourishment, bruises, or have an unusually large appetite
- They are unable to provide information about their destination or flight
- They give ‘rehearsed’ answers to questions, or ones lacking consistency
- They avoid answering questions altogether, and let their companion speak for them
- They are accompanied by someone who has no obvious relationship to them

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE NEWS

VALLEY HILLS COUNCIL

Submitted by Brigid Ryan, Valley Hills Council President

The year seems to be flying by! Valley Hills Council had a wonderful time getting together for our Holiday dinner and December meeting at Agave Bar and Grill at the beautiful Angeles National golf course in Sunland. We would like to welcome a new school to our council as Sun Valley High School has become Valley Oaks Center for enriched studies. We are enjoying our monthly meetings and are proud to say that we have new members joining everyday as our council grows.



I'm excited to report that Apperson Elementary School in Sunland received a gift of a native Butterfly Garden from The Theodore Payne Foundation and is working with their students to learn the benefits of planting native plants in our ecosystem. The whole school is benefiting from this wonderful gift.

The planting of Apperson's native butterfly garden for Beautification Day

Valley Hills Council has students whose Reflections entries are moving on to the California State PTA level for judging. Congratulations to:

Apperson Elementary School

Daniel Tang: Film Production (Intermediate level)

Chloe Phan: Photography (Intermediate level)

Mount Gleason Middle School

Daniel Stanfill: Film Production (Middle level)

Ethan Cordier: Photography (Middle level)

Jory Lewis: Photography (Middle level)

LOS AMIGOS COUNCIL

Vintage Science Tech Magnet



Continue on next page

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE NEWS

Continued from previous page

NORTH WEST VALLEY COUNCIL

Submitted by Kelly Mattinson, Northwest Valley Council President

Our schools are doing an amazing job of keeping their families informed and engaged. This is a unique time, but I am proud to say you have stepped up and as always impress us with your creativity and dedication to ALL children.

Here are a few highlights:

Granada Hills Charter TK-8 Showed Appreciation for Teachers

- What a GREAT way to celebrate your teachers! Our newest PTSA is celebrating their first Teacher Appreciation week in style! So proud of this amazing team.

Granada Hills Charter High School is keeping their students engaged through having students post fun activities and how they pass the time!

Darby Elementary School Hosted a SPIRIT WEEK!

This was great for the kids and the parents and can be adapted to specific curriculum if you choose. Darby Dolphins keep the fun coming



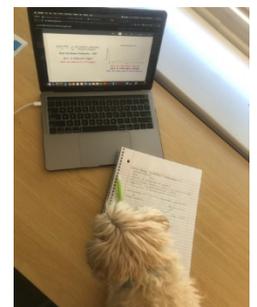
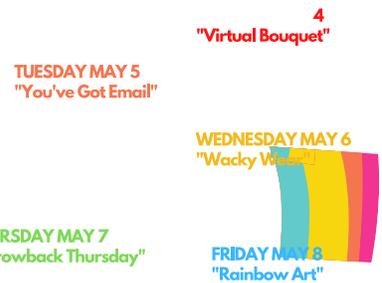
during this unique time: Photos of Spirit Day, Read a Book, and at home PE! Their social media is filled with fun family ideas and keeps everyone connected and active.

May 1st is college decision day. Post your Senior in their College SWAG!

Thank you to ALL our families and teachers/administrators for keeping up with Social Media, PTA tasks and homeschooling! You are all HEROES!

We are available to answer questions, guide you and help you with ideas if you need.

Email us at NWVC.PTSA@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook at North West Valley Council PTA.



Distance Learning - a new normal

Continue on next page

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE NEWS

Continued from previous page

VALLEY GATEWAY COUNCIL

Submitted by Jen Foriano, Valley Gateway Council President

TOLUCA LAKE ELEMENTARY had a virtual spirit week the 2nd week of school closure. They also had a virtual spring break, posting destinations daily. They are doing birthday shout outs to their students who have birthdays in April, May and June.

Photos/Images/Posts: <https://www.facebook.com/TolucaLakePTA/>



Last week **CARPENTER ELEMENTARY** celebrated Every Kid Counts week. They spent the week celebrating inclusivity and focusing on a different theme each day. They made a video for the students about being in a rock band and being blind. They sent virtual kindness grams home so the kids could send words of kindness and encouragement to one another. They also sent home a video in sign language so the kids could learn **Me!** By Taylor Swift and it included several current students and families.

<https://youtu.be/sIL2ZiDu0LI>

RIVERSIDE DRIVE CHARTER ELEMETNARY did a virtual spirit week.

Photos/Images/Posts: <https://www.facebook.com/RiversideDriveCharterPTA/>

VALLEY WEST COUNCIL

Submitted by Tali Lerea, Council Roundtable Chair and Valley West Council President

In just a short time, the Coronavirus has made a major impact on our world, our schools and our PTA's. We've had to stop everything and make quick adjustments to support our schools, communities and our PTA units. Our meetings and elections are all now through Zoom, The Valley West Council and our 10 schools have bonded over this Pandemic to share ideas of how each school can continue celebrate our kids.

If you drive by **Justice Street Academy Charter**, you'll find 5 banners hanging around campus celebrating their 5th graders, showing their kids and teachers love. The PTA Pride Drive has raised \$20,000!



Woodlake Elementary Community Charter has art lessons through Zoom.

Pomelo Community Charter organized a car parade for the kid and teachers to see one another from their cars.

**TEAM
POMELO**



Lanai Elementary has created lawn signs for their 5th graders.

Valley West Council schools are working hard to create a unique and memorable way to celebrate their 5th graders in culminating this year. We're all missing one another, and slowly trying to adapt to our "new normal"

LEADERSHIP

Submitted by Kimberly Amado, Vice President for Leadership



To all of you hanging in there with PTA during this unprecedented time...Thank you! I know PTA may be the last thing on your mind right now, but the actions you take, or don't, will have an impact on your unit going forward.

You have all seen the correspondence that you can hold meetings and your board election electronically until June 30, 2020. What happens if you wait and hold your election in the fall?

Your board does not automatically carry over if you do not hold elections. As of July 1st you will have no current officers.

Since there will be no officers in place, the 31st District will need to facilitate the election. Please contact us to schedule a date **before** confirming the date with your school. Please give us three options so we can coordinate our schedules. We will have a lot of units that we will be working with at that time.

If you need assistance, we are still here to support you; just reach out.

I hope you are safe and well. We will all get through this together.



<https://capta.org/pta-leaders/run-your-pta/leadership-made-easy/>

An infographic for the 2020 Census. At the top left, it says 'COUNT ME IN CENSUS 2020' with a checkmark icon. The main headline is 'WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHILE SHELTERED-IN-PLACE?'. Below this are three bullet points, each with a checkmark icon: 1. 'TAKING THE CENSUS ENSURES YOUR COMMUNITY HAS ACCESS TO EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HEALTH PROGRAMS' with a yellow heart icon containing a red cross. 2. 'IT ONLY TAKES 10 MINUTES & YOU CAN DO IT FROM HOME AT WWW.MY2020CENSUS.GOV' with an icon of a smartphone and a computer monitor displaying a bar chart. 3. 'CENSUS NOTICES HAVE AND ARRIVED BY MAIL. CHECK YOUR MAILBOX FOR INSTRUCTIONS.' with an icon of a blue mailbox. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a town skyline and the text 'OUR COMMUNITY COUNTS. OUR COMMUNITY BELONGS.'.

EXPANDED CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES ON CAPTA.ORG

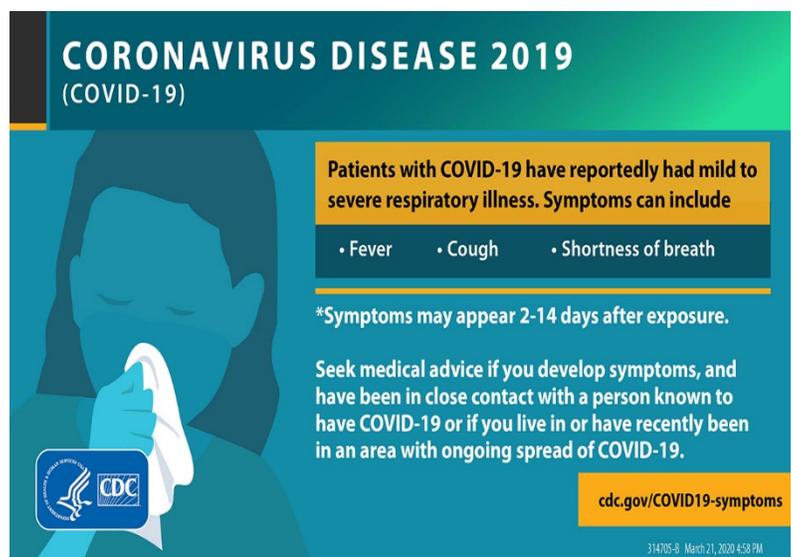
We have expanded and updated the [COVID-19 pages](#) on our website with more information and resources that are relevant to you. For example, you can find out how to talk to your children about the outbreak; learn strategies for staying healthy and busy while confined to your house; browse distance-learning resources; read frequently asked questions for running your PTA without holding in-person meetings or events; and get summaries of the latest COVID-19-related legislation.

Visit the [main COVID-19 page](#) for:

- Answers to frequently asked questions shared by families and communities navigating the pandemic
- School closure resources, including where to find school meal services
- How COVID-19 has impacted the U.S. Census

Visit the [Resources for PTA Leaders page](#) for:

- General guidelines for holding PTA meetings and events during the coronavirus outbreak
- How to hold teleconferences or video conferences, including suggested tools and link to our recent [webinar](#)
- Answers to your frequently asked questions about meetings, elections, audits and financial transactions during the outbreak



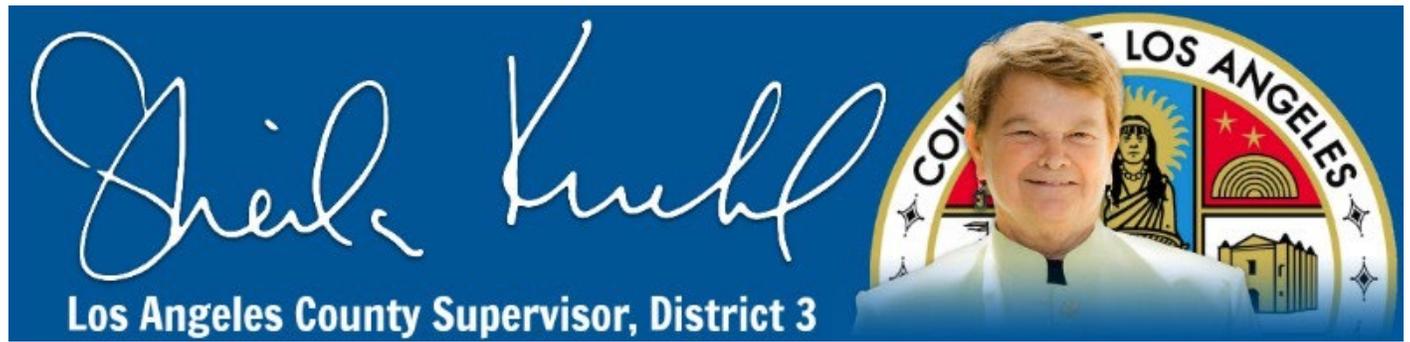
Visit the [Resources for Parents and Families page](#) for:

- Tips for emotional and social well-being
- Learning at home and distance-learning resources for parents and children
- How to maintain healthy habits such as eating well and getting exercise

Visit the [Enacted Legislation page](#) for:

- Summaries of the three COVID-19 relief packages that have been passed by the U.S. Congress so far
- State legislation that affects children, families and schools impacted by coronavirus

Don't forget to follow our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts too, so you can find out when we've updated or added more information.



Dear Community Partners,
I hope that you and your loved ones are in good health.

The County Task Force on Food Security has launched their food security portal page. This portal connects those in need with a selection of food-insecure meal and voucher programs and a variety of resources.

<https://covid19.lacounty.gov/food/>

The County of Los Angeles is committed to feeding our most vulnerable population during the Coronavirus pandemic. Please share this information to help those in need find free pantry locations, food delivery assistance and resources throughout Los Angeles County. *Let's feed LA!*

COVID-19: SAFER AT HOME

<https://covid19.lacounty.gov/covid19-2/safer-at-home-faq/>



Answering your questions about Los Angeles County's **REVISED Safer at Home Order**, which has been extended to May 15, 2020. (And it may be extended past that date too.)

The updated order continues the extensive closures and stay-home requirements now in place, and has new requirements for essential businesses,

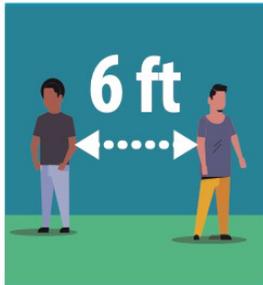
where employees who interact with the public or with each other must wear cloth face coverings starting on April 15. Members of the public must also wear cloth face coverings when visiting essential businesses.

Click: https://covid19.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/HOO_Safer-at-Home-Order-for-Control-of-COVID_04102020.pdf to read the **Revised Safer at Home Order** for Control of COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/fs-Toolkit-Homeless-SocialDistance.pdf>

Social Distancing

Social distancing means that you should **avoid close contact** with healthy people. If you are sick, you can help stop the spread of disease by social distancing. If you are healthy, you can help prevent yourself from getting sick. Social distancing is recommended if Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is spreading in your community. Local news media and your public health department will announce when the disease is spreading locally.



Stay about 6 feet, about two arm lengths, away from other people.

- » Avoid hugging and handshakes during this time.

Avoid big crowds when you can.

- » Sometimes this won't be possible.
- » If you need to be in a line or a group of people, try to keep about 6 feet of distance from them.



Find ways to maintain important connections with friends and family members even while staying physically apart



CS3162488 04/07/2020

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

LEGISLATION

Submitted by Barbara Smith, President

In February, I attended the California State PTA Legislation Conference. I was a “first timer.” I was so excited to listen to the many speakers, from Assembly persons to Senators. I didn’t agree with everything they said, but they came in and opened up conversations so we could find common ground and meet in the middle.

I personally went to my Assembly Member and Senator and talked to them about music in schools. That’s something I am passionate about. I also promoted the California State PTA talking points. Every time you talk to someone you are advocating for something or someone.

In your quest for officers, you should look for the perfect person to be your next Legislation Chair. You need a Legislation Chair, someone who can speak for your students and your community. Someone who can go to your Neighborhood Council Meeting to ask for funds for your Campus Beatification Program. Someone who can go to your Councilmember’s Office and ask for trees to plant on your campus. Someone who can go to your local Assembly member’s office to advocate for crossing guards to protect your students.

When we all work together, we can move mountains. Join my voice and let’s work together.



LEGISLATION UPDATE

Submitted by Heidi Brewington, California State PTA Legislation Advocate

Join California State PTA Director of Legislation Shereen Walter and members of the Legislation Team during our monthly webinar for the latest advocacy information. The webinars take place the first Wednesday of the month from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. You must register for the Webinar in advance.



Webinar registration link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/1383569761862691852>
Webinar ID: 436-971-571. Once registered, click the Go To Webinar link or call 415-655-0052 to hear the discussion. Use attendee PIN number 455-276-312.

Both the California State Senate and Assembly have pushed back the date they will reconvene until Monday, May 4th. This date could be pushed back even further pending the Governor's lifting of the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continue on next page

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Continued from previous page

When they, members will likely see a trimmed bill list with bills in response to the coronavirus holding top priority. Increased unemployment and a crashing economy mean less revenue coming to the state, forcing lawmakers to make hard decisions. To read more, visit <https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2020/04/coronavirus-california-legislature-working-from-home-remote-government/>

According to a letter written by Assembly Budget Chair, Phil Ting, the state's 2020-21 budget will have to adjust to the realities of the impact of COVID-19 on the State of California. Budget priorities will focus on COVID-19 relates costs with the possibility that the legislature may have to revisit reductions to existing state programs depending on the State's fiscal condition.

As noted on the CAPTA website (under Advocacy), There are several ways you can get involved in our advocacy efforts and help make a difference:

Get informed and engaged with CAPTA's [Advocacy Insider](#) e-newsletter and [Legislative Alerts](#)

- Contact your [legislators](#)
- Research current [legislation](#)
- Learn more about [California's state budget](#)
- See California laws by [subject area](#)
- Check out [federal legislation and policy information](#) from National PTA
- Review PTA [position statements](#) and [resolutions](#)
- Read how PTA volunteers are giving [the gift of civic engagement](#)

Recently, at the National PTA Legislation Conference that was held March 10th – 12th, California State PTA received the "Outstanding State PTA Advocacy Award"; additionally, former California State PTA President, and current advocate, Carol Kocivar received the "Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award".

Update concerning California Schools and Communities First campaign: Thank you to those of you who helped gather and submit signatures; this initiative is currently pending signature verification with over 1.7 million signatures gathered and submitted!

California State PTA Legislative Bill Positions

- **Support:** The initiative is considered to be of great importance and beneficial to the welfare of children and youth. Will work actively to seek passage of it.
- **Oppose:** The initiative is considered to be very harmful to the welfare of children and youth and is in conflict with the Purposes of the PTA. Will work actively to seek defeat of the initiative.
- **Neutral:** The initiative may be relevant to the welfare of children and youth, but after careful analysis, California State PTA has chosen to neither support nor oppose this particular initiative due to either lack of existing specific authority or conflicting authorities. Will not support or oppose passage of the initiative.
- **Watch:** Legislation that could be important, but the bill is not complete or the author intends to work further on the bill through amendments. PTA monitors the progress of the bill. Future amendments to the bill could result in PTA taking an active position.

April 30, 2020 California State PTA Advocates will meet with members of the Legislation Action Committee via Zoom to discuss and take position on pieces of legislation; visit <https://capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/> to find out positions taken in February and March; this site will be updated to reflect positions taken on bills discussed on April 30.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

From the California State PTA

It's a great day for parents to try an at-home science activity with their kids – and California State PTA is excited to tell you about our new online [Resource Library](#) that will help you do just that!

The Resource Library offers an easy new way to find great parent resources, including activities to do at home, with many specifically aligned to California's [environmental literacy principles and concepts](#). Using the search function, you'll be able to quickly find all of these, which you can sort by age, topic, and type. Here are some highlights:



- There's a wealth of outdoor activities (and a special page for parents) at **Project Wild**. A project of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Project Wild's goal is to help students think differently about how to protect our waterways and environment through a specific curriculum.

- Search for NASA and you'll find a special **Earth Day 50th Anniversary toolkit** with lots of climate information in both English and Spanish. Important questions are proposed through at-home activities, interactive graphics, and exploratory videos that illuminate the world around us.
- Look up the **Captain Planet Foundation** and you'll find a treasure trove of activities and lessons that parents and young kids can do together, plus grant opportunities for your school. Starter packs allow kids to produce their own garden or create a healthy meal plan. There are also tools to help students learn how to protect threatened animal species and ecosystems.
- Though you may not be able to explore California's national parks right now, you can still bring the scientific wonder of the natural world right into your home. With **Nature Bridge's Outside Still Open** program, your family will discover how fun and stimulating the outdoors can be.



The [Resource Library](#) takes you to trusted sources like these plus many more, all geared to what parents need to take an active role in their kids' learning. So give it a try! To visit the Resource Library, [click here](#).

And don't forget to send this message, or a link to a great resource you discover, to your local PTA members! Be sure to remind them that PTA is still with them during these tough times and also that **Earth Day is every day**, and worth celebrating with their families.

31st DISTRICT PTSA TOOTH FAIRY

Submitted by Carla Niño, Valley Views Editor



The Tooth Fairy presenting to Daisy Troop 3186. They earned a self-esteem badge and a dental health badge attending the Tooth Fairy's educational evening!

Barbara Baker-Ayares is the Tooth Fairy and an active Community Health Chair for 50 years with the Dental Hygiene Society. She has been a member of the Dental Hygiene Society Board since 1970 and held the Office of President 5 times!

Working together with PTA, in 1988, Barbara designed the Dental Hygiene Education and Prevention Program in which she weaved the need for healthy family nutrition as well as preventive dental care in the school, the home and the community. Barbara was struck by the dental health education needs of the children in San Fernando and Pacoima. She saw too much “baby bottle tooth decay” and wondered what she could do. When 31st District PTSA asked her to create an educational program for the students, she eagerly agreed.

The United Way was the first to fund her efforts. And for years 31st District received discretionary funds from Councilmember Tony Cardenas and Councilmember Nuri Martinez.

Bilingual in Spanish and English, Barbara visits classrooms in her Tooth Fairy wings and uses puppets she gathered in her travels around the world, including Carlos the Frog, Piranha Plaque, Cavity Cow, and Super Tooth, to educate children, families, and school staff.

The program started with pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and special needs children, and branched out to early education centers. As word of the success of her program spread throughout the community, Barbara received additional requests from other schools throughout the area, including schools in North Hollywood, Sun Valley, Tujunga, Reseda, Canoga Park, and Sylmar. She made presentations to dental health fairs throughout Los Angeles County, including at annual Career Day events at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center. In 2004, Barbara presented the Tooth Fairy Experience at the African-American Cultural Museum during Black History month, attracting approximately 1000 children.

For the last 32 years, she has educated and entertained thousands. In an average year, Barbara served 5,421 children in 15 elementary schools. In her busiest year, she reached 11,260 children, 1000 parents, and 638 teachers!

All these years later, Barbara is still positively impacting the lives of children and families. She says that ideally, “one must have a love and a passion for what you choose to do in life. Set your goals high. Be all that you can be. Be tenacious. If it doesn’t happen, re-group, be creative, and try again. Give back to the community. “

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR CAMPAIGN - LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

Submitted by Kelly Mattinson, Northwest Valley Council President and Nancy Hofmeister, Membership Chair

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) has a fun and heart-warming Challenge for Students; together with friends, family, student volunteers are raising money for research to fight the never ending battle against cancer.

Nancy Hofmeister's son, Erik, is one of those students who took on the LLS challenge!

"A boy in my class was diagnosed with cancer in March of this year. He cannot attend school this year because of his cancer treatments and has been stuck in the hospital. I didn't know him very well at the time, but it really hit me hard that someone my age could have something go wrong in his life that can make him put his life on hold. I really wanted to do something for him. Then, a few months later, I learned about the *Students of the Year* campaign and thought that this was the perfect opportunity to do something and help make sure that this never happens to anyone again. Currently, the tumor in his body is shrinking and he is going through chemo treatments. He is doing well and is slowly on the way to recovery."



Erik with Madeleine Hamingson, the Senior Director of the Students of the Year Campaign for LLS.

Erik's team had seven weeks to officially raise money for the Students of the Year (SOY) Campaign. The outcome was hugely successful with more than \$23,000 raised by his team. Every dollar raised counted as one vote for his campaign. The entire campaign raised \$1,288,886, proving that the next generation is a shining light of volunteerism and compassion.

Erik is a Sophomore and passionate about helping others. He regularly volunteers to make an impact in his community; agencies include Operation Gratitude, Children's Hunger Fund, For the Troops, as well as local churches. He is excited to make an impact on others through the mission of LLS. Erik wants to provide hope for all those affected by leukemia and lymphoma and be a contributor to the amazing work LLS does for their patients. Erik is an avid sports player at school participating in football, volleyball, and track. Erik wants to attend the Naval Academy, and hopes to be able to proudly serve his country!

Leukemia is the most common childhood cancer, making up about a third of all pediatric cancers. In the United States, about 3,500 children are diagnosed with leukemia each year. LLS is pioneering an unprecedented collaborative clinical trial to fundamentally change the way pediatric blood cancers are treated, while expanding the services and support provided for children and families.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic surfaced, LLS has stepped up with financial assistance and research:

- LLS rolled out a COVID-19 Relief fund for patients with no income threshold.
- Over 9,000 patients have been approved and \$2,300,000 in assistance provided since April 20, 2020.
- LLS researchers have pivoted their antibody and immunosuppressant research to COVID-19.
- A set of drugs used to treat side effects of LLS-funded CAR T-cell immunotherapy is emerging as a treatment for COVID-19 pneumonia.



THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

Valley Views

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Barbara Smith
b.smith.president.31dist@gmail.com

Executive Vice President:

Mireira Moran
mireira.moran@gmail.com

Vice President Leadership:

Kimberly Amado
kamado4pta@gmail.com

Vice President**Membership and Organization:**

Colleen Ross
colleenross4pta@gmail.com

**Vice President Community
Involvement and Education:**

Alice Orchanian
alice_laff78@msn.com

Secretary:

Andrea Pichler
pta31stdistrict2019@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Ira Weinreb
ira@fosterparents.com

Council Roundtable Chair:

Tali Lerea
tlerea@gmail.com

31st District PTSA Office

Address:

17445 Cantlay St.,
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Business Hours:

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone:

Office: (818) 344-3581
Fax: (818) 344-7230

STAFF:**Marilyn Ickes**

Office Manager/ Bookkeeper
pta31dist@aol.com
(818) 344-3581 ext. 3

Anna Ruth Hernandez

Office Secretary
Secretary.31dist@gmail.com
(818) 344-3518 ext. 5

Valley Views Editor:

Carla Niño
cnino710@gmail.com



@31stdistpta



@31stdistpta



@31stdistpta