



THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

Valley Views

Volume 54 | Issue 2 | September 2019

"be the change you want to see in the world"

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2019-2021 VISION FOR 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

Welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year. I am Barbara Smith, your 31st District PTA President and I am really excited about the next two years. I can't wait to meet all of you.

The 31st District represents all of San Fernando Valley and parts of Sunland and Tujunga. We are 111 units strong!

I am thrilled to report we have 70 of our units on-line with Totem, the electronic Membership platform. Now that Totem has completed their beta testing year, this platform is part of the PTA Membership Program. Having activated your Totem Membership will be part of your January audit to be in good standing, so we are going to work hard to get all of the units on-line before December. Remember, if you are not a "tech" savvy kind of PTA unit, your Council and District are here to help you activate your Totem account. Just reach out and let us know, we would be happy to meet up with you and get you on-line.



Remember Totem is just a tool in your Membership Toolbox. Nothing beats the Fall Membership drive with contests, prizes, posters, and flyers. Nothing beats the personal ask. But when the Fall Drive is put away, you have to remember that Membership is a year round activity and Totem is a great way to keep those members rolling in. Print up your newsletters and event flyers with the QR code asking everyone to join. Every month use the electronic link in your social media asking your community to join. Just keep asking.

Success Story #1

Totem Membership

One of our High Schools went to an online registration system. On the same page as pictures and gym clothes, they included the Totem link and asked everyone to join PTA.

385 ACTIVE MEMBERS
\$568.50 REVENUE YTD
54 ACTIVE ASSOCIATIONS
379 ONLINE MEMBERS

Check out our newly designed and updated 31st District website 31stdistptsa.org. It is filled with everything you need to run your PTA. Can't find something there, let us know and we will add it. In the meantime, check out CAPTA.org for full access to the online Toolkit. Just type in any PTA word and it will take you to those pages. Want to know what your job is? CAPTA.org. Want to know what form to use? CAPTA.org.

Continue on Page 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT

(continued from page 2)

Now that you have the tools to run your PTA, check out the 31st District Social Media sites. We are on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). At the membership dinner, if you have liked or followed us, you will get a free raffle ticket for our Raffle Basket Opportunity Drawing. So Like us and Follow us! And invite your friends to Like and Follow us too!

Since you have a copy of the Valley Views in front of you and you are reading this article. I don't have to tell you what a wealth of information and what a valuable resource this is for your PTA. Remember we are not just a fund raising program. We are here to advocate for our kids. That is the mission and goal of PTA.

"PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."

So the next time, you have a meeting, don't forget that your job is to inform and empower your parents, so that they can enrich and invest in all of the children of their community, as well as host bake sales.

It takes a village... Such a simple statement. We all buckled under the fees and costs, LAUSD was imposing on our events. Over the past two years, without much explanation, we quietly handed over thousands of dollars. Knowing there was a better way, as a PTA, we collected stories of cancelled events, costs of facility and permits, and unending reams of applications. We approached our State PTA Leadership with our situation and asked for their support. Then we started talking to everyone at LAUSD and Scott Schmerelson, our local School Board Member. Together we have worked on a solution. *This summer the LAUSD Board unanimously voted to lift the fees for 2019-2020 school year. Yea!!!!*

Now, you still have to fill out the forms. You still have to get permission to host events. You still have to be a unit in good standing. But they have waived all of the fees.

Regarding the paperwork, it is now online. Go to fundraising.lausd.net to register a unit leader to submit the paperwork. All the deadlines still exist. You need to get everything to LAUSD in a timely manner, don't submit something two days before the event. It won't get approved. Be a unit in good standing (activate your Totem account, do your taxes, RRF, send in membership, etc.) or you won't get approved. Don't go underground and not tell us, you are hosting an event - that is a good way to lose your insurance coverage and put your board at risk for full liability of any incidents. LAUSD waived the fees in order to make it financially possible for all units to host events and be fully covered for liability. Be good stewards and submit your paperwork on time.

It is going to be a busy and fast next two years and I am here for all of you. Please reach out to your Council Presidents. Go to your meetings, host your meetings, and don't forget to have some fun along the way.

LEADERSHIP

Submitted by Kimberly Amado

OFFICERS TRAINING	31 ST DISTRICT PTA/PTSA
September 25th 2019 6:00 pm Registration Anatola Elementary 7364 Anatola Avenue Van Nuys, CA 91406 <small>(a clase en español será una sesión general que entrenará todos las posiciones) If you have further questions please email Kimberly Amado karnado4pt@ptsa.com</small>	Training is mandatory for all new officers \$5 Per person if paid by September 13th, after this date price will go up to \$10. \$15 at the door (to cover administrative fees and supplies) Light snacks will be served Cash and check payments only. Make checks payable to the 31st District PTSA

Welcome back PTA leaders! One of the things that sets us apart from other parent groups is our people.

When you have questions or need support, you have someone to turn to.

New to your PTA position or need a refresher?

Join us for **officer training at Anatola Elementary School on September 25!** Registration begins at 6:00 p.m.

Look for details at Council Roundtable, go to 31st District web site, and RSVP today! <http://31stdistptsa.org/>

-----TEAR OFF-----
Mail to 31st District PTSA, 17445 Canyon Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406

School _____ Council _____
Name _____ Phone Number _____
Email _____

Positions Needing Training (select all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> President	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Park/mentoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/> Reflections	<input type="checkbox"/> Audit

YOUR STARTER GUIDE TO PTA SUCCESS

from California State PTA

To help you in your mission of running a successful PTA, California State PTA is sending leaders our summer service mailing, which should be arriving in your mailboxes shortly.

"Leadership Made Easy" is your starter guide to PTA success. The packet provides practical tips for running the association, resources for your PTA membership campaign, leadership tips and information to help make your PTA job easier! You'll also find a variety of information on children's issues, advocacy, family engagement and PTA programs and services.

Your "Leadership Made Easy" packet includes:

- Welcome letter from California State PTA President Celia Jaffe
- Calendar reminders and due dates
- Electronic membership system FAQs
- Member Perks flier
- Information on membership, arts education, advocacy and much more!



California State PTA offers presidents the opportunity to order a FREE printed copy of the *Toolkit* or a copy of the bylaws, plus additional resources in Spanish. An order form is included in your hard copy "Leadership Made Easy" service mailing, or you can [order online here](#). **Orders must be received by October 1, 2019.**

You can download a digital copy of the entire summer service mailing packet [here](#), and find lots of great resources and information on the California State PTA website at www.capta.org/leadership-made-easy.

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Submitted by Tali Lerea

The school year has begun and we're in full throttle mode! We've had our first Council Roundtable Meeting on August 21 with all 6 districts represented. The Council Presidents include Tali Lerea, Valley West Council, Kelly Mattinson, North West Valley Council, Jennifer Anderson, Los Amigos Council, Angela Karhvan, Los Robles Council, Jennifer Forlano, Valley Gateway Council, and Jennifer Jones, Valley Hills Council. Barbara Smith, Kimberly Amado, Colleen Ross and Mireira Moran were also present.

By the time you read this all of our councils will have had their first meeting, welcoming the new Unit Presidents and as well as the returning Presidents. We're excited for this new school year to do what we do best. We have great ideas and will share our successes and challenges with everyone to make this school year the best yet!



Totem (e-membership), a new electronic membership opportunity, is available for all units to access. We thank all our units that have joined electronically. Congratulations to Valley West Council for becoming the 1st Council to get 100% participation from all of their units. Northwest Valley is a close second and almost at 100% as well. Remember, all units must activate Totem Membership in order to be considered in good standing by your January audit.

Our councils had the opportunity to meet one another at our Council Vs Council gathering on September 5 for friendly competitive games, light snacks, and fun! Bring it on! Who's going to be the winning council this year?

MEMBERSHIP & ASSOCIATION DINNER



State Center PTSA
"Every Member Matters"
Membership and Association Dinner Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2019
Airtel Plaza Hotel
7277 Wilbur Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91410



6:00 pm Registration
6:50 pm Seating
4:45 Pre Payson

Early Bird Tickets purchased before October 4 at 4:00 pm are \$48 per person.
Tickets purchased between October 7 - October 1 are \$58 per person.
The tickets are available to purchase through October 1, 2019 at 4:00 pm.
No tickets will be sold after that date.
All PTA's will payment must be received in the district office by the deadline!

Invite Board Members, Administrators, Teachers and Student Representatives
"This is a legitimate PTA Expense"

BRING YOUR 2018-2019 OR 2019-2020 MEMBERSHIP CARD!

INVITATION DUE NOT LATER THAN

Friday, October 11, 2019

School _____ Council _____
Name _____ Phone _____

Total Number of Tickets: _____ @ \$48 each or \$58 each - # _____ total amount

Manuscript _____
Please mark the money of cash _____
Rooming and Sleep Roomed Chilton _____ Date Received _____

Please return form with a check payable to
State Center PTSA

17445 Canby Street, Van Nuys, CA 91410

If you would like your tickets mailed to you, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

"Every Member Matters"
Monday October 21, 2019

Airtel Plaza Hotel

6:00 pm Registration

Early Bird Tickets, Administrators, Teachers and Student Representatives purchased before October 4 at 4:00 pm are \$48 per person.

Invite Board Members, Administrators, Teachers and Student Representatives.

This is a legitimate PTA Expense

YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

from California State PTA

Welcome to Membership Mondays. We want to help you make the most of your PTA membership campaign. Every Monday during the back-to-school season, California State PTA will share helpful tips, resources, training and marketing ideas to make your PTA/PTSA membership campaign successful.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

California State PTA has surveyed units who had a successful membership campaign and found that they have these five things in common:

- 1) A supportive principal. Schedule a meeting with your principal to discuss your plans for the upcoming school year, a mutual relationship and good communication is key to a positive partnership
- 2) Consistent presence in the community. Have a membership table at all of your events and be sure you are asking everyone to join PTA
- 3) Use local incentives in addition to National and State perks. You can work with a local business to provide coupons or benefits for those who join your PTA
- 4) Have a dedicated membership chair. Having someone on your board who is focused solely on your membership will help focus the campaign and make you more successful
- 5) Be persistent. Have a membership campaign that lasts all year.



MEMBERSHIP TOOLBOX: NEXT IDEAS TO BUILD MEMBERSHIP

Reach out to the California State PTA Membership Commission at membership@capta.org and use the membership tools available to you at www.capta.org/building-membership/



Find resources online at www.capta.org/building-membership – from customizable fliers, to logos and graphics to use online, to training videos and webinars. Let us know what you think and what works for you by emailing socialmedia@capta.org. And be on the lookout for your Membership Monday every week!

ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM - TOTEM

from California State PTA

California State PTA's online membership system makes joining and renewing PTA membership at the local level easier for parents, families and community members. With more than 90 percent of our local PTA leaders asking for a simplified electronic membership system, we heard you loud and clear!



We are pleased to announce that California State PTA has partnered with TOTEM to design and develop an electronic membership system specifically for PTAs in California.

The electronic membership system, powered by TOTEM, is an additional way to collect memberships and all PTAs continue to collect and remit membership as you always have. Units, councils and districts are not required to use the new system, but we encourage you to check it out.

STEPS FOR COUNCIL SET-UP:

- 1. Invite your leaders** — you can request your invitation using this link – <https://bit.ly/totemsignup> – or accept the invitation that has been sent to you
 - Once on the platform you can invite other leaders (at any level) – <http://bit.ly/eMembershipInvite>
 - You can also deactivate any leaders who are not current – <http://bit.ly/eMembershipManage>
- 2. Confirm your PTA/PTSA information specifically your Dues amount** (prefilled information is from California State PTA records, but should be confirmed by local leaders)
- 3. Connect your bank account** – <http://bit.ly/eMembershipBanking>
- 4. Authenticate your bank account** (If the treasurer signed your PTA up then the President authenticates, if the President signed up then the Treasurer authenticates — or other two officers)
- 5. Invite local PTA leaders to participate**
 - You can hold a local meeting District or Council
 - You can also request assistance from the Electronic Membership Task Force – we're happy to come out to your district to get you set up.

STEPS FOR UNITS SET-UP:

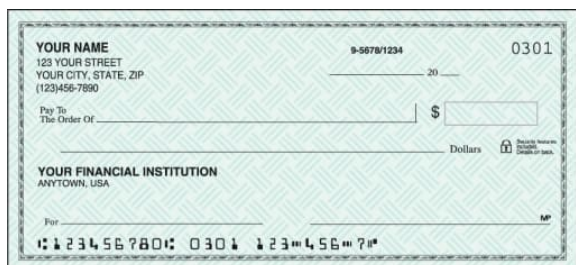
- 1. Invite your leaders**—you can request your invitation using this link – <https://bit.ly/totemsignup>
 - Once on the platform you can invite other leaders – <http://bit.ly/eMembershipInvite>
 - You can also deactivate any leaders who are not current leaders – <http://bit.ly/eMembershipManage>
- 2. Confirm your PTA/PTSA information specifically your Dues amount** (pre filled information is from California State PTA records, but should be confirmed by local leaders)
- 3. Connect your bank account** – <http://bit.ly/eMembershipBanking>
- 4. Authenticate the bank account** (If the treasurer signed your PTA up then the President authenticates, if the President signed up then the Treasurer authenticates — or other two officers)
- 5. Personalize your site** – <http://bit.ly/eMembershipBranding>

Once these steps are completed, the PTA is activated and receives an email and so does the council (if in council), the district and the e-membership team at California State PTA.

WHAT IS NEEDED BEFORE I WRITE A CHECK?

Submitted by Ira Weinreb

You are now the Treasurer of your PTA/PTSA Unit, and people are asking you for money. Perhaps your President asked you to reimburse her for money she spent on a PTA expense. Perhaps an Officer asked you for cash to purchase something. Perhaps one of your Chairs asked you to pay a bill.



Can you pay? The answer is: "maybe."

A good starting point is your Unit's money is NOT your money! it's not the President's money! it's not the Board's money! It is the Association's money! You and the rest of the Board have been entrusted with protecting this money.

There are several rules and requirements that must be met before the money can be spent. Remembered if you or the Board spend money improperly, your Association can require you and the Board to repay the money. So it is always in your interest to follow the rules.



Before Association money can be spent, it MUST be properly authorized. Your Annual Budget, even after it has been adopted by the Association, is NOT authorization to spend any money. There are generally two ways that spending money can be authorized.

1) By the Association itself. Since it is the Association's money, the Association itself can authorize spending money (this is how most spending should be authorized). This is done at an Association meeting with a quorum present (a quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present to conduct business, and is specified in your Bylaws). You or someone else makes a motion to authorize spending some amount of money for a particular purpose. For example, "I move to authorize spending up to \$100 to provide refreshments at our Association meetings for the year." After a second and any discussion, a vote is held. If a majority of those present vote in favor of the motion, that spending has been authorized by the Association.



2) By the Board (subject to certain limits). The Board can authorize spending, using the same motion procedure described above (a majority vote of Board members present at a meeting with a quorum). However, the Board is limited to authorizing spending that is included in your annual budget that has been adopted by the Association, OR a cumulative unbudgeted amount between

Association meetings that is no more than the limit set forth in your Bylaws (often \$500). So, if your Budget contains \$1,000 to spend on buying a computer for your school, the Board can authorize that expenditure (with an adopted motion to ratify the action at a meeting with a quorum present). If your Budget does not contain that line item, then your Board could authorize a total unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$500 (if that is the limit specified in your Bylaws), but no more.

WRITING A CHECK

Continued from page 8

Payment Authorization Request for Reimbursement



PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION/REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT ATTACH ALL RECEIPTS TO THIS EXPENSE STATEMENT

Name of Player: _____
PTA Position: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Telephone: () _____ Email: _____

Expenses were for:

List Expenses: _____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
TOTAL EXPENSE: \$ _____

Total Amount Claimed From Above: \$ _____
Minus Advances Received: \$ _____
Reimbursement Claimed: \$ _____
Not claimed - donate to PTA: \$ _____
Return to PTA (Enclose Check): \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature of VEP/Chairman for Program/Event: _____

For PTA Use Only use:

- Member/dues-approved activity
- Funds advanced by membership
- Executive Board-approved expenditure

Unit Number	Category	Amount/Amount	Expense	Amount Paid to Date

President's signature: _____ Date: _____

Date approved in minutes: _____ Secretary's signature: _____

California State PTA Toolkit - December 2018 FGB Form

There is an exception to the above authorization methods. Paying your per capita dues to your Council does not require authorization, because that money is not your Unit's property – you are simply collecting and holding it for the higher levels of PTA (Council, District, State and National).

Once spending has been authorized as described above, you may write a check after a Payment Authorization/Request for Reimbursement form has been completed (with receipts attached). Remember, checks ALWAYS require TWO signatures. Also, cash may NEVER be used to pay bills – all expenses must be paid via check. If you're having a Movie Night and you run low on popcorn, you can't take \$20 out of the cash box and run to the store with it. Someone must use their personal funds (such as a personal credit card) to make the purchase, and then request reimbursement following the above procedures. Similarly, Units may NOT have a petty cash fund.

The only acceptable use of cash is if you need some cash to use for making change at an event. To do that, write a check for the amount needed (following authorization by motion as described above), cash it at your Unit's bank, and use the cash for change. At the end of that event, deposit the full amount of the change fund, thereby making it clear that the change has been returned – separately from the sales from the event (so that it is clear what the revenue from the event was).

Remember help is available to you if you have any questions. Your Council Treasurers are available to answer your questions, as am I after you've tried them. I will be presenting trainings during the year, and your Council Treasurers may also do so. The State PTA website (www.capta.org) contains a lot of useful information. Please make use of these resources. Thank you for your service and have a fantastic year!

CALIFORNIA STATE PTA 2020 CONVENTION

MAY 15 – 17, 2020

RIVERSIDE, CA

Budget Now and Attend!

DISTRICT AWARDS

Submitted by Kirstin Foster



Each year PTA/PTSA units and councils in good standing can apply to be considered for District awards including Unit of the Year, Health & Safety, and Newsletter. Units may also nominate a teacher to be considered for Teacher of the Year.

The applications, with criteria and deadlines will be available to the Council and Unit President's in September via email as well as at the Council meetings. They be accessed at 31stdistptsa.org under the "resources" tab.

Although these are "end of year" awards, please be sure to read through the criteria so you meet all of the deadlines, which are extremely important! The criteria may even give you an idea for creating a new event, program, or service at you school, and schools definitely appreciate that.

APPLY APPLY APPLY!!! "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take". ~Wayne Gretzky

BYLAWS

Submitted by Linda Ross

For your information: The length of time between required bylaws submittal HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM 3 YEARS TO 5 YEARS. Presidents will be receiving the current bylaws sheet through their council presidents. The sheet will reflect the **new due dates**.

If the current bylaws sheet indicates NEED NOW by your unit's name, it means the bylaws are overdue and must be revised and submitted ASAP through channels (through council) who will then submit them to Linda Ross, Parliamentarian.

Remember changes made to the bylaws cannot be instituted until they have been signed by the state parliamentarian and then voted on by your association and signed by the unit president and secretary.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Linda Ross at 818 800-0846 or lrosspta@hotmail.com

California State
PTA
everychild.onevoice.
23271 Street, Swanscomb, CA 95816-5014 916.440.1986 • FAX 916.440.1986 • info@capta.org • capta.org

Exhibit 01
Reprinted as ALI

BYLAWS SUBMITTAL FORM FOR UNITS AND COUNCILS

INSTRUCTIONS – To submit updated bylaws for review and approval:

- Complete this form, listing proposed bylaws amendments on page 2
- Send form and three (3) double-sided copies of updated Bylaws and Standing Rules plus four (4) extra Signature Pages to your council PTA, if in council, or your district PTA

1. PTA INFORMATION:

Unit: _____
 Council: _____
 District PTA: _____
 Organization Date: _____
 California State PTA ID#: _____
 National PTA ID#: _____
 Employer Identification #: _____
 Franchise Tax Board #: _____
 Registry of Charitable Trust #: _____
 Incorporation #: _____
 Grade Levels: _____
 Fiscal Year: _____

2. THE ENCLOSED BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES (Check all that apply):

- New Unit New Council Organization Date:
Update to current standard bylaws with no changes
- Change of State Fiscal Year (District PTA to attach original COS form signed by district president)
- Proposed amendments as listed on page 2
- Additional Standing Rules attached No additional Standing Rules

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY – DISTRICT PTA OFFICER/CHAIRPERSON TO COMPLETE:

Name: _____
 District Position: President Parliamentarian Other
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Date Submitted to District PTA: _____ Date Submitted to State PTA: _____

BOARD OF MANAGERS RETREAT

On August 24, the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs met for the first time for a Board retreat to ensure that these leaders were informed of their responsibilities and obligations to 31st District PTSA. The first Board of Managers (BOM) meeting of the term was also held with officers, committee chairs, and committee members in attendance. Everyone received information on the bylaws, District processes and procedures, important dates, treasurer's report, treasurer's timeline, and an overview of the newly designed District web site.

THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA RULES OF ORDER: APPROPRIATE BOARD BEHAVIOR

PTA's mission is to positively impact the lives of all children and families

PTA VALUES

- **Collaboration:** We will work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to broaden and enhance our ability to serve and advocate for all children and families
- **Commitment:** We are dedicated to children's educational success, health, and well-being through strong family and community engagement, while remaining accountable to the principles upon which our association was founded.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** We acknowledge the potential of everyone without regard, including but not limited to: age, culture, economic status, educational background, ethnicity, gender, geographic location, legal status, marital status, mental ability, national origin, organizational position, parental status, physical ability, political philosophy, race, religion, sexual orientation, and work experience.
- **Respect:** We value individual contributions of members, employees, volunteers, and partners as we work collaboratively to achieve our association's goals.
- **Accountability:** All members, employees, volunteers, and partners have a shared responsibility to align their efforts toward the achievement of our association's strategic initiatives.

DURING PTA MEETINGS

- Be respectful
- Focus on the issue of the moment
- Keep an open mind
- Keep confidential matters **CONFIDENTIAL**
- Listen
- No side conversations
- Observe the rules of decorum
- One person speaks at a time
- Right of minority to be heard
- Right of majority to decide
- Stay on task

Remember: The objectives, the goals, and the mission of the association



PROMOTING A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

from California State PTA

California State PTA partnered with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and eight other California civil rights and education organizations in the release of the [California LGBTQ Youth Report](#), detailing the challenges faced by LGBTQ youth in California.

For gender-expansive youth and their families, mental health professionals have an exceptionally important role helping them in navigating their experiences. Gender-expansive is an umbrella term used for individuals that broaden their own culture's commonly held definitions of gender.

Despite state laws protecting LGBTQ students, research found that only 32% of LGBTQ youth in California always feel safe in the classroom and half of those surveyed had been teased or bullied because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Gender affirmative care acknowledges the child's own perceptions of gender as being real and genuinely held. A hallmark of gender affirmative practice is the notion of following the child's lead. Rather than assuming you know the correct way for the gender to unfold, create space in which the child's own experiences of self are valued as authentic and real.

PTA has long believed that every child deserves to go to school excited to learn in a safe and nurturing environment, without the fear of bullying, violence or discrimination. What can your school do to promote a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment?

Share Your Story

Speaking for yourself means describing how you feel, how you think, and how you consider gender personally. It means describing how gender has had an impact on your life and the lives of others.

Here are a few suggestions from the Welcoming Schools checklist, downloadable at www.welcomingschools.org.

- Do books in your school reflect your students' lives?
- Do they feature single parent families, adoptive or foster families, two-mom or two-dad families, grandparent-headed families, multiracial or multiethnic families?
- Do classroom and hallway images show diverse family structures, people of different races, gender expressions, ethnicities and abilities?
- Do the displays encourage respect for all people?
- Do teachers and staff interrupt mean teasing or put-downs about a child's identity or their family?
- When someone walks into your school, can they tell that all students and their families are welcome?
- Have you held events recognizing and celebrating family diversity that welcome all children and their families to your school community?
- Do teachers, staff members and other adults know how to respond to anti-LGBTQ comments?

Learn more and view more resources at California State PTA: www.capta.org/lgbtqia

Human Rights Campaign: <https://hrc.org>.

Gender Spectrum: www.genderspectrum.org

TAKING ACTION TO PREVENT HUNGRY PRESCHOOLERS

from California State PTA

Contact the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee today to guarantee access to meals for our youngest students!

[AB 842](#) needs your support to clear its next legislative hurdle, the Senate Appropriations Committee. AB 842 is a state bill authored by Assembly members Limón and Eggman that, if passed, would increase access to healthy meals for low-income children in preschool and childcare.

California State PTA has a long history of supporting the nutrition of children.

- In the 1930s, PTA created a special nutrition project and emergency services to prevent children from suffering during the Great Depression
- In the 1940s, PTA launched a nationwide school lunch program
 - In the 1990s, PTA passed a resolution urging all school districts to establish and promote school breakfast and lunch programs that provide balanced, nutritious meals
 - In 2010, child advocates – including PTA members across the country – recognized the grave need to align nutrition guidelines with the most updated nutrition science and pressured Congress to pass the bipartisan Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act.



Research shows that properly nourished children are better able to achieve their full potential in growth, physical development, and academic and athletic performance.

Schools provide meals for low income students in K-12, but there is no guarantee that our smallest children receive the same benefits of good nutrition while they are attending preschool or daycare.



Please contact the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee today and tell them you support feeding our youngest children. Ask them to support AB 842 Limon and Eggman.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING ACTION TO END GUN VIOLENCE

from California State PTA

On March 14, PTA members and leaders from across the state – and throughout the nation – made their voices heard. Phone calls, social media posts and emails flooded the inboxes of federal lawmakers to demand an end to gun violence. In addition, California State PTA leaders addressed gun violence, school safety and mental health issues with legislators in Washington D.C. as part of the 2018 National PTA Legislation Conference. The power of PTA was heard loud and clear – thank you!

Gun violence is a public-health crisis that affects us all – most of all, our children and youth. And, it's preventable. California State PTA will be addressing gun violence, school safety and mental health issues with federal lawmakers in Washington D.C. on March 13-15 during the 2018 National PTA Legislation Conference. We are also asking for your help to “call out” your federal legislators to demand stronger gun-violence prevention legislation. [View the action alert.](#)

California State PTA supports the rights of students to express themselves on campus through organized demonstrations but believes that care must be taken to ensure the orderly operation of the school is not disrupted and the physical safety of students is not threatened. Leaving during school hours to attend an off-campus demonstration places the student outside the safety zone of the school and unnecessarily jeopardizes that school's education funding. We are aware of several student demonstrations scheduled in the coming days and weeks and have provided guidance for local PTAs that wish to support student voices. [View guidance information.](#)



31ST DISTRICT PTSA REPRESENTS YOU ON THE CALIFORNIA STATE PTA BOARD OF MANAGERS

Eight 31st District leaders gather at Hollywood Burbank airport to catch a flight to the Summer California State PTA Board of Managers Meeting in Sacramento.

They serve on the Communications, Convention, Legislative Team, Health and Community Concerns, Membership and Reflections.

(From Left to Right) Mireira Moran, Colleen Ross, Kimberly Amato, Barbara Smith, Heidi Brewington, Kelly Mattinson, Carla Niño, Hourí Khatchadorian



PTA SUPPORTS IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

from California State PTA

Contact federal legislators today to improve conditions at detention centers!

California State PTA recognizes that the United States has a long history of immigrants coming to this country in search of a better life for themselves and their families and that the resulting blend of cultures enriches our nation.



California State PTA believes that all children are entitled to live and grow in an atmosphere of love and respect, and that no child should be subjected to physical, psychological, verbal or sexual abuse. We are appalled at the recent report from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Inspector General indicating conditions and treatment of undocumented youth and families at border control facilities in the Rio Grande Valley are in violation of the Flores Agreement and the National Standards on Transport, Escort, Detention and Search (TEDS).

California State PTA, along with National PTA, believes this situation requires immediate action to address the conditions these children and families are living under. California State PTA is committed to promoting the safety and well-being of all children regardless of their immigration status and as well as protecting undocumented youth from harmful separation from their parents or family members.

We ask that you contact your members of Congress and the White House to ensure the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) comply with federal law and standards and provide children and families access to hot meals, clean drinking water, access to basic hygiene and appropriate supervision.

CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FUNDING ACT

from California State PTA

California State PTA supports [California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act](#).

This initiative will change how commercial and industrial property is taxed and raise between \$6 billion and 10 billion to support our schools (40 percent) and other local governments (60 percent).



On October 15, 2018, Schools and Communities First qualified the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act for the November 2020 ballot, making it the first commercial property tax reform initiative to qualify for the ballot in 40 years.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT BILL AB 2878 SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOVERNOR

from California State PTA

Congratulations PTA – Advocacy in Action!

Assembly Bill 2878, sponsored by California State PTA and co-authored by Assembly member Rocky Chavez and Assembly member Kevin McCarty, has been signed into law by Governor Brown.

This legislation will add research-based family engagement guidance and practice into the California Education Code. It will provide schools, districts and parents access to research-based best practices for family engagement and involvement. Research demonstrates that when schools practice authentic family engagement, absenteeism is reduced, dropout rates decrease, and student achievement and graduation rates go up.

ADVOCACY

Submitted by Heidi Brewington

Next March, Los Angeles will be making a number of changes to the voting system in order to make it easier and more convenient to vote. You will be able to vote at any one of many locations across the County. However, your traditional polling place may no longer be open. The changes will also allow you to vote on any day during an 11-day window. We are excited about making voting easier, and we want you and your neighbors to understand and take advantage of this new flexibility.



Please join the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and Sheila Kuehl's office for a voter education workshop to discuss these changes. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Vote Center Placement Project (VCP) and to be sure, come Election Day, that you know your options.

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Cal State University, Northridge, CSUN
1811 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Thursday, September 26, 2019

6:30 pm-8:00 pm

Laborers Local 300
14800 Devonshire Street (Woodman Ave),
Mission Hills, CA 91345
Free parking on premises

[RSVP here](#)

[Click here for the event flyer.](#)

If you are unable to make the event, please review the changes at the [Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk website](#).

You may have received an email appearing to be from someone on you know asking for a financial transaction. It may even use the friend's actual email address. As a non-profit association, PTA can be vulnerable to these types of cybercrimes at all levels.

The goal of these emails is to gain access to your information, often for financial gain.

NEVER SHARE FINANCIAL INFORMATION IN AN EMAIL

There are two main ways these emails occur:

1. **Email Phishing** – Fraudulent or spoofed email messages appearing to come from legitimate sources, usually direct you to a spoofed website or otherwise get you to divulge private information such as bank account information or account passwords or even ask you to purchase gift cards. The perpetrators then use this private information to commit identity theft or trick you into sending money in some form.
2. **Ransomware/Malware** - A virus that installs covertly on the victim's computer system and encrypts the victim's files, making them inaccessible, and demands a ransom payment to decrypt them. Often malware is triggered by downloading files or clicking links from untrustworthy sources which appear to be legitimate.

How do they access your email addresses?

1. **Spoofing** – This usually occurs when spammers gain access to another user's data and clone their contact list. From there they can replicate any of the contacts' email addresses. These email address will appear to be legitimate. This does not necessarily mean that their email has not been "hacked."
2. **Fraudulent emails** – This is when spammers have access to names but are not able to access accounts. Often you will see the person's name but when you look at their email address it will be different (example: John Smith <1615168@nonsenseemail.bs>).



So how should you handle this sort of situation?

1. If you receive an email from a fraudulent email address, please **report it to your email provider immediately** and delete the email. This process differs depending on your email provider.
2. If you receive an email from an email address but you suspect it is not the actual person: **do not click on any of the links, do not forward to anyone, do not reply to the email**. Doing so, just increases the likelihood that someone will click on the link or divulge financial information. Please delete immediately. This is likely email spoofing.

How can I prevent this from happening?

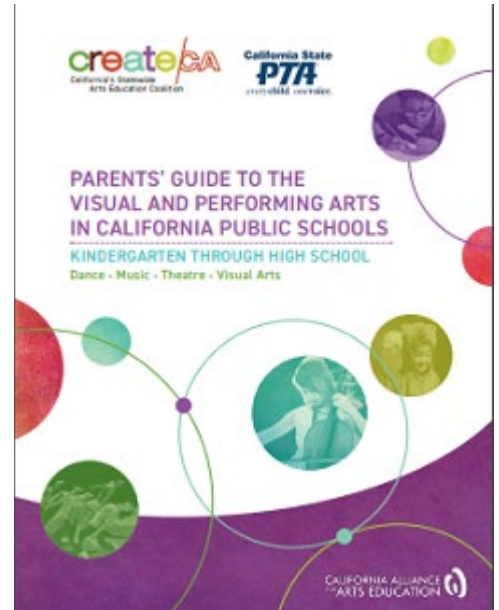
1. Use anti-virus software on all your devices
2. Run regular updates on your devices
3. Establish 2-factor authentication whenever possible
4. Do not connect to unfamiliar or unsecure Wi-Fi
5. Do not use the same password for multiple accounts
6. Do not click any links or download any attachments in the suspicious email

HOW TO SUPPORT THE ARTS THIS BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON

from California State PTA

Kick off your school year supporting the arts! Show the parents and students at your school that you value arts education by following these three simple steps:

- **Host an arts night.** An arts night is a wonderful way to kick off your Reflections program and to get families excited about the arts. Have a photo scavenger hunt on campus, invite a local dance team to do a short performance and teach you a dance, or make a creation station full of art supplies for families to use. This is an easy family engagement night with a ton of impact!
- **Share the VAPA Guide.** Share the Parents Guide to Visual and Performing Arts in California Public Schools with the families in your school. Help parents to understand arts education is the core part of education (as evidenced by its inclusion in the Education Code) and not an extra that is optional. Post the guide on your social media, have a brief parent education explanation at a school meeting, and share it with your school board.



- **Use the Arts Education Data Project.** Did you know that you can see what arts classes are offered in your local middle and high schools? Or that you can compare your arts offerings to other districts across the state? The Arts Education Data Project is a highly interactive tool that can help you see the gaps as well as the strengths of the arts in your community.

Don't forget that Arts in Education Week is **September 8-14, 2019!** This is a great time to kick-start your arts programs and events in your school community.





THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

Valley Views

"be the change you want to see in the world"

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
ptsa31stdistrict2019@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



@31stdistptsa



@31stdistptsa



@31stdistptsa