

Special points of interest:

- Why join PTA? Page 4
- Healthful lunch tips, page 6
- Photos from the Leadership Training Conference! Page 7

Free Grant Writing Workshop Offered to SCPTA Members!

Presented By:

Deborah Maynard

School Principal and Certified Grant Writer

Saturday, November 6

10 AM

Rock Hill High School

Rock Hill, SC

Approximately 2 hours

To help PTAs generate funds for their school or district, South Carolina PTA is offering our members a *free* grant writing workshop. This workshop is especially geared towards educational grants. Our presenter, Deborah Maynard, is researching current grants for education and will have up-to-date information to guide you in the grant writing process.

Space is limited to the first 65 people who register at our SCPTA office at 800-743-3782 or office@scpta.org. Registered attendees must present a current 2010/2011 SCPTA completed membership card upon arrival to attend or pay \$40 at the door. We look forward to a successful workshop that will benefit South Carolina students!

You would normally pay \$90 or more to attend this type of workshop. We hope you will take advantage of this rare opportunity offered to PTA members!

Lee Ann Harris
SCPTA District 7 President

Many South Carolina schools have drastically cut their budgets and are now requesting even more aid from local PTA units. PTA funding helps keep many important programs in our schools.

Inside this issue:

National PTA President's Message	2
SCPTA President's Message	3
Membership	4
Financial	4
Legislative	5
Health And Wellness	6
Leadership Training Recap	7
Important Dates	8

File Your PTA Taxes Annually or Lose Your Tax-Exempt Status!

Federal legislation was passed in 2006 that began requiring most non-profits, regardless of gross income, to file at minimum a 990-N (e-postcard) annually. The law provides that any organization not filing for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax exempt status.

The IRS will soon begin revoking the tax exempt status of all organizations required to file that have not filed for the past

three years. This could significantly impact PTAs. We know many states work very hard annually to ensure local units are filing. Now is a time to intensify those efforts.

Loss of exempt status means an organization must file income tax returns and pay income tax, and its contributors will not be able to deduct their donations.

If your PTA's gross receipts are normally less than or equal to

\$25,000 then you should file form 990-N (e-Postcard)

If your PTA's gross receipts are less than \$500,000 and more than \$25,000 and total assets are less than \$1.25 million then you should file form 990-EZ or form 990

If your PTA's gross receipts are greater than or equal to \$500,000 or total assets are greater than or equal to \$1.25 million then you should file form 990



**National
PTA**[®]
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A Message from the National PTA President

Will Your School Get an “A” for Achievement?

PTA[®] members organize after-school programs, meet with school boards, advocate to legislators, and try to raise the level of parent engagement in their community—and that’s just Tuesday! We’re ambitious, hard-working busy folks. Why? Because we know that every ounce of effort we put in has a direct impact on our students’ achievement. That includes helping with homework, volunteering for field trips, and participating in events at school. And while all the work that engaged parents do obviously helps their own children, it also helps other kids, too. That’s the best part of volunteering with PTA.

We are the largest family engagement association in the country, and it’s no coincidence that the very first topic you’ll find on PTA.org is “student success.” Getting parents, communities, educators, and others *engaged* in children’s lives is our top priority, because it is a leading indicator of how

well students do in school. The correlation between engagement and achievement is so great that we created the *National Standards for Family-School Partnerships* so that every community in America could have tried-and-true guidelines for engaging families and building relationships that work. You will find plenty of tools and guides on our website to help your child achieve success, including resources to help you build partnerships within the community (and with one another), conduct effective arts education programs, prepare children for tests, and much more.

When a PTA member asks someone else—a grandparent, a family friend, a community leader—to join our association, the intent is not to swell our ranks or fill our coffers; it’s to have another positive influence, a role model, a mentor, a volunteer who can promote the mission and goals of PTA. I can’t stress enough how important it is that we invite everyone to join PTA, even if it

means making special allowances for dues. There are so many great ideas out there in our communities to help students succeed—we just need the people who will put them into action.

Take advantage of the greatest resource we have in PTA—each other. Talk face-to-face with PTA members in your town or from across the country at conventions. Go online with e-mail and take advantage of our social networking resources, such as the PTA Great Idea Bank, the PTA Facebook Fan Page, and @ptaeditor on Twitter. We have an amazing wealth of knowledge and experience in this association—something you can’t find anywhere else. If you happen to have a great idea yourself, be sure to drop me a line. We’re always looking to try something new at my children’s school, too

Charles J. “Chuck” Saylor
National PTA President

www.PTA.org/chucksaylor

As a PTA member you get great discounts from these companies:

- MedicAlert Foundation
- MetLife Auto & Home
- OneCause Credit Card
- Parenting magazine
- Sharp Electronics Corporation
- Southwest Airlines Vacations
- T-Mobile

2010-2011 Member Benefits Providers

Because of the size of our organization, PTA is able to partner with businesses and negotiate special discounts, fundraising opportunities, and other valuable benefits exclusively for PTA members. When you make purchases from these companies, not only will you receive a discount, but National PTA will also receive a percentage of royalties from the sale.

PTA is working diligently to establish relationships with additional Member Benefit Providers to provide you with even more exclusive benefits in other categories. When you see a Proud Member Benefits logo, you’ll know the company has established a relationship with National PTA to provide special services or discounts exclusively for PTA members.

To ensure that benefits are provided only to PTA members, access to the list of providers and their offers is password protected. Go to www.pta.org for more information.

Excerpted from www.pta.org

A Message from the South Carolina PTA President

I hope the school year got off to a great start for everyone! By this time, most of you have your membership drives well under way, have recruited and put to work your volunteer task forces, and have held your first general membership meetings at which you welcomed your new PTA members and adopted your annual PTA budgets. Congratulations on surviving the back-to-school madness!

September and October are the months that we traditionally focus on promoting PTA memberships within our schools. Selling memberships at the beginning of the school year not only creates the early school-home partnerships that are so beneficial to both families and educators but also provides the funds that many units are dependent upon to get the PTA year under way. How can we take this a step further and make collecting PTA memberships a year-round project? Consider offering monthly incentives to anyone who joins your PTA during the months of November-March, perhaps a drawing each month for a door prize, a pass for lunch for two with the principal, or a free homework pass. Rewards or

prizes that are offered during these non-traditional membership months don't have to cost your unit a penny and can be just the right incentive for families that haven't already joined. Achieving 100% membership should be the goal of every PTA!

Also, I would like to personally challenge every PTA and PTSA in South Carolina to seek out a corporate partner (ideally, a major employer in your area) that will allow you to promote PTA memberships to its employees. Collaborating with community partners is one of the six components of the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships program and can be mutually beneficial in so many ways. Visit the National PTA website – www.pta.org – to learn more about this program and for additional tips for conducting a successful year-round membership campaign.

If your PTA hasn't yet kicked off the Reflections program at your school, it's not too late to begin! Most school districts have faced the painful reality of budget cuts again this year, and unfortunately, arts programs are often the first casualty. PTA doesn't just advocate providing

arts education to all children; we help make that a reality by offering the Reflections program free of charge to all PTA schools. The 2010-2011 SCPTA Reflections Handbook is available on the SCPTA website and includes everything you need to get started. The National PTA website also offers additional promotional tools as well as examples of winning entries that you will want to share with the budding artists at your school. Our state Reflections chair, Rosa Fulmore, is eager and available to assist your PTA in bringing this fantastic program to your students, so please plan to participate!

As always, the South Carolina PTA Board of Directors is committed to providing the ongoing support and service that your board requires to successfully meet the growing needs of your members. We are volunteers just like you and understand the challenges you face each day as you work to enrich the educational experiences of your students and their families. Please reach out to us whether you need a helping hand or a pat on the back!

Sharyl L. Richardson
SCPTA President

South Carolina

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"I would like to personally challenge every PTA and PTSA in South Carolina to seek out a corporate partner."

E-news Central

PTA Parent E-newsletter

PTA Parent provides concise information twice a month on topics such as parent involvement, student success, child safety, and health and wellness. Information comes from PTA's vast pool of parent resources as well as from other online resources for parents.

PTA Takes Action Update

The monthly PTA Takes Action Update offers the latest news on legislative issues affecting families, children, education, schools and communities. It also provides resources for readers to get involved in advocating for children's issues. In addition, subscribers receive Action Alerts with breaking news and calls to action.

Local Leader News

The twice-monthly Local Leader News gives PTA local leaders information on PTA programs and resources and offers ideas for improving their leadership and unit management skills.

To subscribe to any of the above e-newsletters go to www.pta.org

Excerpted from www.pta.org

“For more than a century, the National PTA has changed the lives of children across our nation for the better.”

PTA Membership: Give Me Three Good Reasons!

That’s all she wanted...three good reasons why she should spend her money on a PTA membership. I was excited for the challenge to answer – and I did quickly and with conviction!

REASON #1: The PTA is a national organization tied together by thousands of local units that help secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth. For more than a century, the National PTA has changed the lives of children across our nation for the better.

REASON #2: The National PTA office stays abreast of every issue coming from our federal legislatures. They, in turn, lobby in any way possible to raise the standards for students. Also, they provide constant information to every PTA member across the country on a weekly basis!

Once a member, it is easy to sign up for the **PTA Action**

Network Today. This will keep you informed on the latest happenings on Capital Hill and to learn about legislative issues that will affect your schools and community! It was the PTA organization that pushed for all schools in the USA to serve hot lunches for children. It was also the PTA that successfully pushed for nurses to be provided in the schools.

REASON #3: What organization in this country can you join for the cost of a hamburger; yet receive so much information for the good of your child? At local PTA meetings you will be provided with everything from workshops on health and safety issues to police presentations on drug prevention or car safety. You will be offered parenting courses from professionals and even topics on how to talk to your children concerning many issues in today’s world. PTAs even provide talent shows and

holiday parties. The list goes on and on and all for the price of a hamburger. Who wouldn’t want to join?

Yes, she did join and so did her husband and two children! She is now on the PTA board of a local school!

Finally, if you have questions about **Just Between Friends**, please feel free to contact me or the SCPTA office. We do not want you to feel alone or frustrated. We will help you! We have already helped numerous membership chairs asking questions—the same ones we asked as we were being trained. My email is Krobins20@sc.rr.com.

Thank you all for what you are doing to increase membership in such a valuable organization!

**Tanya Robinson
Vice President for Membership and Field Services**



Financial Reminders

Whether you are busy closing out the previous year or setting your plans in motion for the current school year, it is certainly a busy time for all. Having worked with PTAs for many years, I am honored to serve as your 2010-2012 SCPTA Treasurer. I look forward to working with everyone.

Reminders:

- Complete Financial Reviews from 2009-2010 and send copy to SCPTA Office (1826 Henderson St., Columbia, SC 29201)
- Since all Units’ financial year ends June 30 all tax filing must be completed by November 15. All units must file a tax return with the IRS by November 15.

- Review all October 1 deadlines:
 - First dues payment
 - Financial Review for 2009–2010
 - Approved Budget for 2010–2011

If you haven’t sent these items in yet then please send them right away!

**Jodie Keener
SCPTA Treasurer**

Legislative News

Greetings Fellow Advocates,

One of the primary functions of PTA is advocacy for children. PTA provides many ways to advocate for children: volunteering, promoting healthy lifestyles, building family-school partnerships, fundraising, and, of course, legislating. That is, helping shape national, state, and local policy to protect our children's overall well-being. For example, in an article in the Fort Mill Times, dated September 2, 2010, Jenny Overman reports how a "PTA dad runs for Indian Land school board seat." <www.fortmilltimes.com/2010/09/02/1239905/pta-dad-runs-for-il-school-board.html>

The PTA dad in Fort Mill running for school board seat is only one of many examples of how PTA members are using the legislative process to advocate for children. If you "... stand before the school board to encourage changes in school policy or support a local bond issue, you are advocating on behalf of children" ([SCPTA Local Unit Handbook 2010–2011](#), p. 18). If you would like to play a role in helping shape policy, please inform your local, council or district president or contact me directly. Our children need and deserve all available resources to help them to be college, career and global ready.

November is nearing and our voices need to be heard. Please review your local representatives running for office and the South Carolina superintendent of education and gubernatorial candidates:

Nominees for South Carolina Superintendent of Education:

Frank Holleman (D)–former US Deputy Secretary of Education and an attorney
www.hollemanforeducation.com

Mick Zais (R)–Newberry College President and Retired Army General
www.mickzais.com

Nominees for Governor of South Carolina:

Nikki Haley (R)– South Carolina Representative from District 87 and an accountant
www.nikkihaley.com

Vincent Sheheen (D)–South Carolina Senator representing Chesterfield, Kershaw, and Lancaster counties and an attorney
www.vincentsheheen.com

Other links with election information are:

www.politics1.com/sc.htm

www.independentmail.com/news/2010/jan/25/burgess-running-sc-education-superintendent

npta2.capwiz.com/election/guide/sc

Please note: "PTAs may NOT endorse, support, or oppose any candidate for public office. Individuals may always endorse, support, or oppose candidates." ([SCPTA Local Unit Handbook 2010–2011](#), p. 20).

Please save-the-date for February 5, 2010 SCPTA Legislative Conference in Columbia, SC (location to be determined). We need to hear your concerns and your voice. Finally, please support all National PTA and SCPTA legislative efforts with the [Call to Action](#) and [Action Alerts](#) to notify your local and state legislators to support bills that advocate for our children.

On the Federal level:

September 2010

- PTA Takes Action Federal Update
- Congress Passes Legislation to Halt Teacher Layoffs
- Senate Unanimously Approves Child Nutrition Bill
- Thirty-Seven States and the District of Columbia Adopt the Common Core State Standards
- Race to the Top Winners Announced
- NBC News Presents "Education Nation"

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Clifford L. Fulmore
SCPTA Vice President for Legislation



"If you would like to play a role in helping shape policy, please inform your local, council or district president or contact me directly. Our children need and deserve all available resources to help them to be college, career and global ready."



IT'S LUNCH TIME!

With school well underway here are some useful tips to help you pack your child's lunch.

What to Pack

Fresh fruits and vegetables.

Make sure your child eats at least 2-3 servings of dark green, red, and orange vegetables daily. Purchase organic locally grown produce whenever possible. Fresh fruits and vegetables provide fiber and a variety of vitamins & minerals and help reduce the risk of diabetes, constipation, and some types of cancer; and they can lower blood cholesterol. And, people who eat high-fiber foods are less likely to overeat.

Whole-grain breads, crackers, bagels, muffins, pita, lavash, tortillas, rice, pasta, and cereal instead of white varieties. Whole-grains provide more

vitamins and minerals, fiber, and protein than white, processed grains.

Beans, nuts, grassfed meats, chicken, fish and eggs. Avoid the milk and meat from animals that have been treated with hormones and antibiotics.

Water instead of juice, fruit-flavored drinks, fruit punch, or soda. Water is what our bodies need. When children fill up on sugary drinks, they may not have room for more nutritious choices, and sodas deplete the body of much needed calcium.

Eliminate hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated oils whenever possible.

Limit sweets. In addition to the increased risk of obesity, excess sugar consumption is thought to depress immunity. It has been linked to diabetes and heart disease and may increase

the risk of cancer. Sugar consumption can also increase the incidence of tooth decay.

Limit sodium. Sodium increases the risk of high blood pressure and stroke.

Reprinted with permission from www.healthychild.com Safe, non-toxic, organic products and education in natural parenting and holistic medicine for children

These may sound like big changes, but taking one step at a time makes it manageable. After all, children who eat well tend to have lower obesity rates and are less likely to suffer from diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease—and they tend to concentrate better in school!

Lisa Conner
SCPTA Health and Wellness Committee Chair

“Suggestions from local PTAs will help to make these statewide programs more relevant to the members and their schools. “

Suggestions Needed from Local PTA Leaders

The SCPTA Leadership Committee would like for you to offer suggestions for programs, workshops, and activities for the upcoming SCPTA statewide events: 2011 Legislative Conference; 2011 Convention, and 2011 Leadership Training Conference. SCPTA has lots of resources and wishes to meet the needs of the local PTAs and their members. Suggestions from local PTAs will help to make these statewide programs more relevant to the members and their schools.

To submit suggestions, email them to a member of the Leadership Committee:
Martha C. Knight, SCPTA President-elect (mknight3294@yahoo.com)
Connie Bush, SCPTA Vice President for Programs (ConnieBush@MaryKay.com)
Jodie Keener, SCPTA Treasurer (mjkeener1@att.net)
Jerry Boozer, SCPTA Secretary (JerryBoozer3@hotmail.com)
Marzel Thomas, District 9 President (MarzelThomas@comcast.net)

Martha C. Knight
SCPTA President Elect

2010 SCPTA Leadership Training Conference Builds Team Spirit

Many local PTA leaders attended the 2010 SCPTA Leadership Training Conference held on July 24, 2010, at W. J. Keenan High School, Columbia, SC. The theme for this leadership training program was "Building SCPTA's Leadership Team Spirit."

Leaders were welcomed to the school by the principal, Mr. Alvin Pressley, who shared his support for parent involvement in their children's education. Sharyl Richardson, SCPTA president, saluted the participants by asking them to stand as their respective positions were announced so that the audience would have an appreciation for their leadership roles at the local, council, district, and state

levels. Tammaka Staley, a rising junior at W. J. Keenan High School, led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence.

A variety of workshops were offered for the leaders. Participants could choose workshops related to their local unit positions: president, treasurer, secretary, membership, bylaws, health and wellness, reflections, programs for local unit meetings, volunteers, and legislation. Other workshops of interest shared information about male involvement in PTA, school-family-community partnerships, and SCPTA special funds (Endowment Fund, Historic House Preservation Fund, Helen Stokes Scholarship

Fund), and communications. EML (Emerging Minority Leadership) classes offered workshops on Title I and No Child Left Behind, Common Threads in PTA Basics, Surviving and Thriving within the PTA, and The Collaborative Leadership.

Participants visited with a number of exhibitors to learn about new fundraising opportunities and a variety of educational programs. To encourage the team spirit, those participants who wished to have their photos taken as representatives of their local units were given that opportunity.

Martha C. Knight SCPTA President Elect



Bates Middle School



Clay Hill Middle School



Lower Richland High School



Dunston Primary School



Forest Acres Elementary



North Vista Elementary



Alston Middle School



C. A. Johnson Preparatory Academy



Knightsville Elementary School



Charleston Progressive Academy



McCrorey-Liston Elementary School



Fork Shoals Elementary School



Manchester Elementary School



The vendors at the Leadership Training Conference



W. J. Keenan High School



Crosswell Elementary School



Kingsberry Elementary School

South Carolina Congress of
Parents and Teachers

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Have a question about PTA? Don't know who to ask?

Then contact the SCPTA office at 800-743-3782 and either Lorene Welch or Brandi Crosier will be happy to help you! The SCPTA Office is here to make your PTA life easier! The office hours are 9am - 5pm Monday through Friday.

We're on the web! www.SCPTA.org

Important Dates

2010

October 1

First dues payment (mandatory)
Financial Review (2009–2010)
Approved Budget (2010–2011)

December 1

Second dues payment (mandatory)

2011

February 5

SCPTA Legislative Conference
(location TBD)

March 1

Third dues payment (mandatory)
Award applications

March 31

Final dues payment (if needed)

February 27

SCPTA Open House, 2–5 PM

April 9

SCPTA Convention: Sumter High
School, Sumter, SC

June 9–12

National PTA Convention: Disney
Coronado Resort and Convention
Center in Orlando, Florida



Lorene Welch (SCPTA Executive Director) and Jerry Boozer
(SCPTA Secretary)

SCPTA Executive Committee

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