

SCPTA 85th Annual Convention Preview

Mark your calendar! The SCPTA Convention Planning Committee is “Getting Busy . . . Making Connections!” That’s the theme and the goal for Convention 2008 that will convene at **Fort Dorchester High School in North Charleston on Saturday, April 26, 2008**. The celebration will include awards presentations to recognize individual and unit achievements, relevant workshops to educate anyone interested in the welfare of children and youth, and a few surprises.

A pre-Convention Celebration will be held on **Friday, April 25, 2008**, to allow our delegates to start connecting and infusing the atmosphere with **FUN** and excitement. During the celebration, *First Timers* will be treated to a special something just for them. This event is free and open to all. Pre-registration is required.

Our Convention format is being planned with parents, teacher, educators, students and community stakeholders in mind.



Workshop tracks will include: Academic Achievement for All Children, Emerging Minority Leaders, Building a Strong PTA, and Comprehensive Health and Wellness.

Tentatively scheduled topics include: Understanding the Individual Education Plan, Single Gender Education, On-Line Predators, Today’s Drug Culture, School Improvement Council, Title I and PTA working together, and transition workshops to assist PTA boards as they end one year and begin the next. Besty Landers, National PTA Secretary-Treasurer will be the National Representative.

Delegates will be asked to select workshops and to order their Convention T-shirt and pin as a part of the advanced registration process. The early bird member registration will be \$50.00 that includes all registration and workshop materials, breakfast and lunch. **Registration will open on February 10, 2008.**

The SCPTA has blocked 50 rooms at the **Comfort Suite Convention Center** at the rate of \$69.95 plus 13.5% tax per night. Please call the hotel directly at 843-572-6677. You must mention SCPTA and secure the reservation with your own credit card. **Rooms will be released on April 5, 2008.**



Win a free registration to the SCPTA Convention for up to FOUR members from your school.

Local Unit Bylaws and dues must be current as of March 1, 2008, to be eligible. Register **at least four members** from your PTA for Convention by the early registration deadline. All eligible entries will be entered into a drawing and the winner will be drawn prior to the close of Convention. The winning Unit will be reimbursed the registration fees.

Additional details about the Convention will be posted at www.scpta.org, sent via e-mail blast to members registered in OMDR, and mailed to Local Unit Presidents and Principals as they become available.

IMPORTANT!

Application Deadline Change for PTA Take Your Family to School Week Grants

Tell the PTA national office how your unit plans to celebrate “PTA Take Your Family to School Week “(February 10–16, 2008) and your unit could receive \$1,897 to support its work. Applications must be received in the PTA national office by **November 28, 2007**. The form is available on- line at

http://www.pta.org/familytoschool/familytoschool_landing.html



SCPTA Legislative Conference Wrap Up

The South Carolina PTA held its annual Legislative Conference in Columbia on Saturday, November 3, 2007, at C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy. The conference included workshops on Legislative Advocacy, reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Title I Program, Health and Wellness in our schools, Diversity in parental involvement, and a preview of legislative issues anticipated in the 2008 session of the SC General Assembly.

Dr. Jim Rex, State Superintendent of Education was the keynote address speaker for the luncheon. After spirited debate, **Delegates in attendance adopted the SCPTA Legislative Platform for 2008** that will be posted on our website at www.scpta.org and

mailed to Local Unit Presidents prior to December 15, 2007.

Other business conducted at the Legislative Conference was the **adoption of new Bylaws for the South Carolina PTA** that will be mailed to Local Unit Presidents by December 15, 2007. **Local Units are reminded to review their Bylaws to ensure that they are current prior to March 1, 2008.**



Awards 2008

Reminder, the SCPTA Awards have been updated for the 2007-2008 year and are contained in the Awards Handbook that was distributed to Local Unit Presidents. The handbook is also available at www.scpta.org. Please pay attention to the awards deadline and remember to use the correct form. Some awards have changed name and/or requirements and some are brand new. **Applications submitted on previous forms will be disqualified.** Awards will be presented at the SCPTA Convention and will also be printed in the Convention program.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Mauldin High School PTSA was selected as the SCPTA **winner of the Nintendo Wii™** gaming system donated by Nintendo. **Mauldin High School PTSA** will use the game system to promote the importance of diversity, inclusion, and acceptance for children with neurological disabilities, including autism.

The PTA Logo

How to Make Your Own Custom PTA logo

To customize these logos for your PTA, click on text box and type over "Type Your Name Here." Please note: because the text box and logo are separate graphics, they cannot be sized as a single graphic unit. Therefore, three different sizes of logos are provided.

Use only **Arial Black** font to type your PTA name. You can cut and paste entire text box into other documents. The text box containing your name and logo has been formatted to have copy automatically wrap around it in a document. Please note, the white background of the box will not show once it is printed.

Type PTA Name Here



Founders Day 2008

“They had a simple idea—to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive.” (www.pta.org)

Plan now to attend the SCPTA Founders Day event on Saturday, February 9, 2008, at Columbia High School in Columbia.



There will be workshops, round table discussions, a retrospective look at the history of SCPTA and a birthday celebration for PTA.

This event is free to our membership, however, registration is required. The registration form is included in this issue and will also be available on-line at www.scpta.org.

The “P” in PTA

by Shawn Rearden and Stacy Elof
Shaw Heights PTA, District 13

What it really means? It means **parents**, of course, but it also means **power**. It gives parents a forum to discuss the education of their children. Does it mean **participation**? Yes and No. The amount is completely up to you. Parents do not have to do anything. Well, it does help if the parents sign up. Finally, the “P” stands for **privilege**. The more parents sign up, then more can be done for our children. We parents also get a little

South Carolina PTA

privilege. The PTA card gives us discounts at certain establishments. You can go on-line at SCPTA to see all the benefits your membership offers. The PTA wants all parents to become members. We want to give all parents power and privilege but we need your participation. Please consider the PTA.
Why not PTA?

“I Can Make a Difference By . . .”
by Tanya Robinson

Reflections Entry Turn-In
February 9, 2008
Columbia High School in Columbia
8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

“I Can Make a Difference By . . .” should be the buzz words throughout our SC PTAs. I'm sure many of our local schools are in the throes of this contest and others may be winding up. Whatever point you are at, we appreciate all you are doing to promote the arts for our South Carolina Students!

Please remember all works must be turned in on February 9th. We will announce our Reflection Winners in the Visual Art and Photography Categories that day. All other entries will be judged and the winners announced prior to our State Convention.

Do take a moment and check to ensure your entries are following the National PTA Guidelines. If you have any questions, please contact Tanya Robinson, State Reflections Chair at Kentrobinson20@sc.rr.com, or call at 843-871-3189.

www.scpta.org

NPTA Partnership Bonus



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION IDEA

Suave Back to Beauty Kit
Order Your Free Beauty Kit Today!
Suave and the PTA teamed up to offer a unique opportunity to help moms put beauty back on their to-do lists by offering guilt-free beauty solutions this fall. So, don't forget to order your free Suave Back to Beauty kits for yourself and other PTA moms today.

To order Back to Beauty kits, simply e-mail Moms@SuaveBacktoBeauty.com and include:

- * Full name
- * Mailing address (where you'd like the kits to be sent)
- * Number of moms in your group
- * How/when you plan to distribute the kits

Requests for the Back to Beauty kits will be fulfilled on a first come, first serve basis.



INSPIRATION AND MOTIVATION

Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will walk for miles to see you burn.

John Wesley

South Carolina PTA

That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well.

Abraham Lincoln

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.

John Wooden

It's simply a matter of doing what you do best and not worrying about what the other fellow is going to do.

John R. Amos

What would you attempt to do if you knew you would not fail?

Robert Schuller

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.

Robert Collier

Now Ask Yourself . . .

Am I on fire with enthusiasm for our children and PTA?

Am I sharing my PTA's success so that those that are struggling can strive to have a strong PTA?

Am I letting barriers beyond my control stop me from being an involved and effective PTA member?

Am I short-changing the children by keeping my best ideas and skills to myself?

Am I doing all that I can everyday to make a difference in the life of a child?

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCPTA PRESIDENT

By Phil Clark



I would like to discuss the future of SCPTA and *everychild.onevoice*.

First, I would like to take a moment and reflect on the lives of the young people who died in the tragic beach house fire in October. As we reflect upon the tragic events of the past few months, South Carolina Universities have lost more young people than in recent memory. These young people came from all walks of life and have been taken away from their families and friends while still at the very beginning of their lives. In order for these sad stories to end, I encourage all adults to reach out to ALL our youth to support, assist and encourage them to make safe, healthy and wise choices.

Let us now consider the future of SCPTA. If you attended our Legislative Conference on November 3, you witnessed change first-hand. SCPTA is changing how we conduct our business. We are planting seeds today to improve SCPTA tomorrow. As we move forward, the board of directors you elected have faced and will continue to face critical challenges for this organization.

SCPTA has just adopted a new set of bylaws in order to reposition SCPTA to increase our capacity and to be effective in mobilizing parents. These new bylaws will allow this organization to be in line as a contemporary functioning non-profit organization. While we traditionally perceive that diversity is a black and white matter, it is much more than that.

Indeed, for SCPTA to support, assist and encourage our youth, we must utilize all the diversity, wherever it can be found in this state, regardless of race, creed, color, gender or social class.

SCPTA Board of Directors proposed new bylaws to you, our members. We invited your input, your passion and your knowledge, to not just come and vote yes, but to question us and to challenge us in order to serve you better. The time was right to make these changes, but more importantly, the survival of SCPTA is vital for all parents, schools and communities.

SCPTA addressed two major changes:

- The manner by which the board of directors is selected
- New titles and committee structure.

Why did the board of directors choose these?

South Carolina PTA

www.scpa.org

“In order for this organization to continue to grow, this board must now increase its diversity, leadership development and ultimately lay claim to the broadest range of diversity available to us as we move forward.”

With these changes, SCPTA will now be able to realize all the possibilities that arise from a reinvigorated organization that can support, assist and encourage all our youth.

I hope to see you at our Founder's Day Celebration on Saturday, February 9, 2008, at Columbia High School as well as our SCPTA Convention on Saturday, April 26, 2008, at Fort Dorchester High School!

I encourage you all to remain passionately engaged as SCPTA strives to give **everychild.onevoice!**



UPDATES from National PTA

Apple computers (MAC's, etc.) Spreadsheet files (extension XLS) will successfully upload as long as they are formatted according to the Excel template found on the file upload screen.

Report problems and request assistance. Click on the HELP link at the top of most OMDR screens to see the new screen.

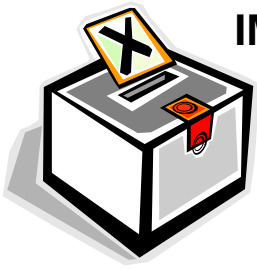
E-mail Function changes have been made to allow local units

to use some formatting (paragraphs) and allows for 3,000 characters (about 3 pages of text). It is in text format.

OMDR will take files from 1997-2003 operating systems. If users have the new **Vistasoftware**, they will need to change a setting on their computer to allow for compatibility. Directions are located on the "Add Local Members (Batch Upload)" screens on how to make this change to their computers.

Need access to OMDR?

Authorized Users (Local Unit Officers and Membership Chair) may contact office@scpta.org or call 800-743-3782 or 803-765-0806.



IMPORTANT DATES DECISION 2008

Voter Registration Deadline
December 19, 2007

South Carolina Republican Party
Primary
January 19, 2008

South Carolina Democratic Party
Primary
January 26, 2008

CONVENTION AND LEADERSHIP PLANNING OPPORTUNITY

Convention and Leadership Training are vital to the success of our PTAs because they provide opportunities for networking and access to important information that help our PTAs to thrive.

The task of planning and executing these events is the responsibility of the SCPTA Board of Directors. In order to broaden our reach and perspective, we would like to develop a committee that includes you, our Local Unit leaders, volunteers, parents, and interested community members.

If you are interested in serving on this committee and helping to plan Summer Leadership 2008 and Convention 2009, please send an e-mail to leadership@scpta.org.

South Carolina PTA

We would like to have representation from various parts of the state so please consider joining us to make our events the best that they can be for all that attend.

National Handwashing Awareness Week

December 2nd- 8th, 2007
Spread the Word not the Germs!!



The 4 Principles of Hand Awareness:

- ☆ Wash your hands when they are dirty and before eating.
- ☆ Do not cough into your hands.
- ☆ Do not sneeze into your hands.
- ☆ Above all, do not put your fingers in your eyes, nose or mouth.

For programs to keep your family safe and infection free at home, work, and in the school, visit

http://www.henrythehand.com/pages/content/infection_control.html.

The 4 Principles of Hand Awareness have been endorsed by the AMA & AAFP.

Submitted by Nicky Taylor, Millcreek Elementary PTA, District 6

www.scpta.org

**SOUTH CAROLINA PTA
FOUNDER'S DAY**

Saturday, February 9, 2008
Columbia High School
1701 Westchester Drive, Columbia, SC



ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

NO CHARGE for ADVANCE REGISTRATION. ON-SITE REGISTRATION IS \$20 per person

Registration deadline January 25, 2008

On-line Registration December 15, 2007 – January 25, 2008

Local Unit/ School Name _____

Contact Person _____

Contact's Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail address _____

Member Registration

Name of Registrant (Please Print)

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Questions? Call the SCPTA Office at 800-743-3782 or e-mail: office@scpta.org. Please pre-register so that the appropriate arrangements can be made to ensure that the day is comfortable and rewarding for you. Mail registration form to: SCPTA, 1826 Henderson St., Columbia, SC 29201.



The Mission of the PTA

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

The Purposes of the PTA

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life;
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth;
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth;
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

NOMINATION FORM

Nomination for _____

(Name(s) of Office or Committee Chair)

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Please answer the following on a separate sheet:

1. Positions held in local, council, district, and/or South Carolina PTAs.
2. Qualifications for leadership and achievements as they apply to this position
Other Qualifications
3. What are your goals as regards SCPTA?
4. How does that relate to the position that you are nominated for
5. Where do you see SCPTA a year from now? 5 years from now?
6. What is the most pressing issue facing SCPTA right now? How would you deal with this issue?
7. Where would you like to see SCPTA 5 years from now?
8. What is the importance of membership to SCPTA? What is the relevance of membership of the position you are applying/been nominated for?!

I agree with National PTA's mission and purposes and am currently a member of _____ PTA/PTSA. If elected I agree to attend the Board of Directors and Committee Meetings, to travel on speaking and service assignments to units and to attend and participate in the SCPTA Leadership and Legislative Conferences and SCPTA Convention to the best of my ability.

Signature of Person Nominated

Signature of Person Submitting Form

Print Name of Person Nominated

Print Name of Person Submitting Form

RETURN TO: SCPTA 1826 Henderson Street, Columbia, SC 29201 or to OFFICE@SCPTA.ORG BY February 1, 2008.

SCPTA Executive Committee

President – Phil Clark, phil@gfpdrugfree.org	Secretary – Teresa Wilkinson, teresalw@comporium.net
President-Elect – Darcia Beckman, leadership@scpta.org	Treasurer – Jill Schneider, jillschneider@charter.net
Vice President for Membership	District President Representative
Field Services – Courtney Simmons, membership@scpta.org	(District 23 President) – Connie Bush, cbush@sc.rr.com
Vice President for Legislation – Doug Griffin, daddydoug@ftc-i.net	District President Alternate
Vice President for Programs – Gail Hyatt, gailhyatt@sc.rr.com	(District 7 President) - Sharyl Richardson, SharylPTA@hotmail.com

Inside this Issue:

Convention Preview	1
Legislative Conference Wrap Up	2
Awards 2008	3
Founders Day	4
Reflections Turn In	4
Phil Clark, SCPTA President	6
OMDR Updates	7
Founders Day Registration Form	9
Nominating Committees	10
Nomination Form	11

Dates to Remember

December 1, 2007
 2nd Membership Report and Dues Payment,
 Current Year Adopted Budget due in
 SCPTA Office
January 2008
 School Board Appreciation Month
February 9, 2008
 Reflections Turn In/ Founders Day Event
February 17, 2008
 NPTA Founders Day

Submission Deadlines

January 5, 2008
 for February/March
March 5, 2008
 for April/May
May 5, 2008
 for June/July
 e-mail submissions to:
office@scpta.org

SUBSCRIBE TODAY! Rate \$5.00 per year. Mail with remittance to the SCPTA Office, 1826 Henderson St., Columbia, SC 29201
 Name _____ Telephone _____
 Address _____

**South Carolina Congress
 of Parents and Teachers**

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 Columbia, SC 29201

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 website: www.scpta.org

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