

Area 6 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1, August 2011

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Welcome

Your Area 6 Board and how we can help YOU.

Jennifer Timm—Area 6 President

2011 – 2012 Local PTA and Council Presidents,

Welcome to another wonderful year of teaming up to make a difference in the lives of the students in your schools and communities. My name is Jennifer Timm, the Area 6 President for the 2011-2012 school year.

You may be wondering what Area 6 is, who we are and what we do. Good question. Area 6 includes the following counties: Bandera, Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Gillespie, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Lee, Llano, Mason, Travis, and Williamson.

The Area 6 Board consists of a President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, two Field Service Reps, and the Council Presidents in Austin, Bastrop, Dripping Springs, Georgetown, Hays, Leander, and Round Rock. Area 6 provides training, support and guidance to the Councils, and the local PTAs not in a Council. On page 4 is a list of the board members, and how to contact us.

Please forward the newsletters and emails you will receive from me throughout the year to your local board members.

Your Area Board and I look forward to working with you this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year.

Leader Orientation Training (LOT) and Officer and Chair Training

Leader Orientation Training (LOT)

As per your local bylaws (new template)
ARTICLE X: Executive Board, Section 5.

"The duties of each executive board member shall be to:

- a. *be a graduate of the Texas PTA Leader Orientation or complete the course by October 15 after their election or appointment."*

Check your bylaws and standing rules to see which officer, and other positions make up your executive board. The cost of this training is \$6 and is reimbursable by your PTA. This is a one-time training and lasts two hours.

Officer and Chair Training

There will also be Officer and Chair trainings available this Fall. These trainings may include, but are not limited to President's, Treasurer's, Secretary's, Membership, By-laws and Reflections. Strong PTAs are developed through teamwork and TRAINING. Please take this opportunity to strengthen your PTA.

Training Opportunities by date

Area 6 will hold Training Events in cooperation with Region IV Training Teams and Councils on the following dates:

- **September 6: Round Rock Council**
10:00am to 12:00 – LOT
Location: Old Hope will next to RRISD Administration Bldg
Contact: Carolyn Lawrence
clawrence628@yahoo.com
- **September 10: Hays Council**
9:30am to 10:00am – LOT Registration
10:00am to 12:00am - LOT Training
12:00am to 1:30pm - Lunch and Learn (**Bylaws** Updates)
1:45pm to 3:00pm - **Treasurer** and **President** Training
Location: Hays CISD PAC, 979 Kohler's

Krossing, Kyle, TX 78640

Contact: Michele Hoskins
mhoskins@fcsouthwest.com

- **September 10: Round Rock Council**
9:00am to 11:00am - LOT
9:00am to 10:30am - Officer/Chairman Training (**Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, & Reflections**)
Location: Chishom Trail MS
Contact: Carolyn Lawrence
clawrence628@yahoo.com
- **September 20: Leander Council**
10:00am to 12:00 - LOT
Location: Faubian Elementary
Contact: Kristen Hill kkrhill@aol.com
Deadline to Register: Sept 6
- **September 24: Austin Council**
8:30am to 9:00am – LOT Registration
9:00am to 11:00 am **LOT in English and Spanish**
11:00am to 11:30am – Lunch (\$5)
11:30am to 1:00pm – General Mtg & Bylaws Training
1:00pm to 2:30pm – Officer and Chair Trainings (**President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership & Healthy Lifestyles**)
Location: Murchison Middle School, 3700 North Hills Dr., Austin, TX
Contact: Cindy Anderson
austincouncilpta@gmail.com
- **October 4: Leander Council**
6:00pm to 8:00pm - LOT
Location: Faubian Elementary
Contact: Kristen Hill kkrhill@aol.com
Deadline to Register: Sept 27
- **October 4: Georgetown Council**
6:00pm to 8:30pm - LOT:
Location: GISD District Office
Contact: snrasmith@msn.com 512-863-0617.
Deadline to Register: Fri, Sept. 23.
No children. No childcare provided due to facility constraints
- **October 5: Georgetown Council**
9:00am to 11:30am LOT
Location: GISD District Office
Contact: snrasmith@msn.com / 512-863-0617. RSVPs must be in by Fri, Sept. 23.
No children. No childcare provided due to facility constraints
- **October 5: Austin Council**
3:45pm to 4:00 pm – LOT Registration
4:00pm to 6:00 pm **LOT in English and Spanish**

Location: Galindo Elementary, 3800 S. 2nd St.,
Austin 78704

Contact: Amber Elenz
austincouncilpta@gmail.com

- **October 5: Round Rock Council**

6:00 pm to 8:00pm - **LOT**

Location: Old Hopewell next to RRISD

Administration Building

Contact: Carolyn Lawrence

clawrence628@yahoo.com

- **October 11: Austin Council**

5:30pm to 6:00pm – LOT registration

6:00pm to 8:00pm - **LOT**

Location: TBD

Contact: Rashaanne Lewis

austincouncilpta@gmail.com

Please RSVP for the trainings. If you would like to attend training outside of your Council, please contact the person listed for that particular training to verify that there is still space available.

If you are in a Council, but see no training dates listed for your Council, don't despair – contact your Council President to find out what is planned.

If you are NOT in a Council, you are welcome and encouraged to attend the trainings listed, subject to space availability. If you are not able to get into any of these trainings, please contact your Area 6 President to make alternative arrangements.

Membership Dues Increase. Help!

The new bylaws template which can be found on the TXPTA website, on the Bylaws page has the following wording regarding membership dues:

“ARTICLE VI: Members and Dues, Sections 6 and 7

Section 6. Each member of this Local PTA shall pay annual dues that equal the total of the national dues as determined by National PTA, state dues as determined by Texas PTA, and the local portion of _____.

Section 7. This Local PTA shall remit the national and state portions of the dues paid by each member of this Local PTA to the Texas PTA with such reports as required by Texas PTA.”

Additional formation from the TXPTA membership page:

“New Membership Rates Effective July 1, 2011

Regular Members: Remit \$4.50 per member to Texas PTA.

Life Members: Remit \$2.25 per member to Texas PTA to cover the national dues portion

Over the past ten years, National PTA has wrestled with continuing to leverage our collective power while still providing the services that are needed at the local level. The past ten years have been marked by increasing costs and further demand on all of National PTA's services and resources. National PTA has established various cost cutting measures to attempt to keep pace with these rising costs. However, considering the rising costs and increased need for services and resources, the National PTA Board of Directors recommended the first dues increase in ten years.

At the 2011 National PTA Convention, delegates vigorously discussed the issues facing our association. After much debate, the delegates voted to raise National PTA's portion of the member fees from \$1.75 to \$2.25. With this change, the combined Texas PTA and National PTA per member dues amount increased from \$4.00 to \$4.50 effective July 1, 2011. So to be a member of both a national and state association, it's 37.5 cents a month! Although we all know that this is a difficult time to implement a fee increase, PTA remains an incredible value.”

There is also some sample wording on the same webpage you can use to announce the National PTA dues increase to members, and sample wording to follow up with members who have remitted old dues amounts.

If your PTA is **not** collecting:

\$2.25 (National Dues) + \$2.25 (State dues) + \$_____ (local portion as specified in your existing bylaws),

or for Life Members:

\$2.25 (National Dues) + \$_____ (local portion as specified in your existing bylaws), then you are **not in compliance** with your bylaws and as a matter of urgency, need to amend your bylaws. The procedures to do so are covered in the next section.

New Bylaws Template—What Does That Mean for Our Local PTA Bylaws?

The Texas PTA Board of Directors approved amendments to the Local PTA, Local PTSA and Council PTA bylaws templates and adopted a new Bylaws Policy in February 2011. These templates and the policy, along with detailed instructions on how to update bylaws, may be viewed on the Texas PTA website at www.txpta.org

As a member service to our PTAs, Texas PTA will be storing the most current information for each PTA in a database, so that maintaining and updating your bylaws with the current template will be easier for you

The list below provides an overview of the amendments made to the templates. All amendments go into effect immediately, and approval from your membership is not required.

Local PTAs, Local PTSAs, Council PTAs

□ Throughout the bylaws:

“Organization” was changed to “association” when referring to PTA as an entity.

“Chairman/chairmen/chairmanship/chairmanships” were changed to “chair/chairs/chair position/chair positions” to make these titles gender neutral. Other slight changes were incorporated where appropriate to make references gender neutral.

Footnotes were removed and either incorporated into the bylaws, eliminated, or incorporated into the Bylaws Policy.

The stars indicating mandatory wording were removed, as the Bylaws Policy now requires adherence to the entire template. This new policy will allow for database storage of Local and Council PTA-specific information in order to quickly provide bylaws to your PTA on the current template. If your PTA’s previously-approved bylaws contained wording that is not included in the 2011 template, this wording will

need to be moved, verbatim, to your PTA’s standing rules. This action requires ratification by your PTA’s membership at the next regular meeting of the association. Provide notice to your PTA membership prior to the meeting at which the vote will occur. Below is a sample notice for your PTA’s use:

Sample Notice to Ratify: “In order to comply with the new Texas PTA Policy on Local and Council PTA Bylaws, the following items have been removed from the PTA’s bylaws by Texas PTA. These items have been added to the standing rules. A vote to ratify this action shall occur at the regular association meeting to be held on (date) at (time).”

List specific items removed from the bylaws and added to the standing rules.

Amending local bylaws has never been easier

Below is a summary of what needs to be done to amend bylaws. Please refer to [How to Update or Amend Local PTA Bylaws and Standing Rules](#) on the Texas PTA website for more detailed information

- Form a Bylaws Committee following the information about forming a special committee found in the Local PTA’s bylaws
- Make sure you have a copy of the Local PTA’s existing bylaws.
- Review existing bylaws and compare them to the Local PTA bylaws template or the Local PTSA bylaws template available online at www.txpta.org/members/bylaws.html
- Using the Bylaws Request Form, request a current copy of your Local PTA’s bylaws on the new template from Texas PTA.
- Consider amendments.
- The bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the association, provided a quorum is present, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting. Notice of each proposed amendment shall be provided to the membership through regular publicity channels thirty (30) days prior to

Membership Deadlines

September 30
(Postmarked by)
Early bird dues
deadline for
reporting
members to
Texas PTA

October 15
(Postmarked by)
Report at least
20 members to
Texas PTA to
retain “active
PTA” status

March 15
(Postmarked by)
Spring dues
deadline for
reporting
members to
Texas PTA

the meeting at which the amendment is voted upon or at the previous regular meeting.

Upon Approval of the Membership

Send the required documents to Texas PTA as outlined in [How to Update or Amend Local PTA Bylaws and Standing Rules](#)

The bylaws and/or amendments are *not official* and should not be implemented until your PTA receives a stamped, approved copy signed by the Texas PTA President. Adoption of or amendments to the standing rules are effective upon membership approval.

Membership Deadlines, Awards, and Challenges

TEAM UP!
JOIN PTSA

The 2011-2012 membership theme is “Team Up!” Local PTAs are encouraged to use Texas PTA’s annual membership theme, although it is not required. Texas PTA creates high-quality graphics, resources and materials utilizing the theme for Local PTAs to use, many of which are provided at no cost. Additional resources using this theme can be purchased for a nominal charge. For information and free artwork downloads, visit the Texas PTA [Membership Theme](#) page.

PTA Membership Awards

[Membership Awards](#)

Texas PTA recognizes outstanding membership recruiting efforts. Many awards are automatically calculated based on the PTA’s membership totals as recorded on October 15 and March 15.

FALL AWARDS

Early Bird Achievement

Presented to each local PTA that submits membership dues and a membership list for 75 percent of its previous March 15 membership total to the Texas PTA office postmarked by September 30. Membership reporting begins April 1 of the current year.
No form to submit.

Applause Award

Presented to each PTA chartered in 2010 who submits a membership roster and dues payment for 25% or more of student enrollment by September 30.
Award form must be submitted.

Presented to each PTA whose student enrollment decreased by 25% or greater between the last school year and the current one and who submits a membership roster and dues payment for 25% or more of the current student enrollment by September 30.
Award form must be submitted.

10% Increase Achievement

Presented to each local PTA that submits membership dues and roster for 10% more members than their previous year's membership total to the Texas PTA office postmarked by October 15th. Previous year's membership total is recorded in the Texas PTA office.
No form to submit.

Early Childhood Achievement

Presented to each early childhood PTA that maintains or increases membership from the previous year's membership total and submits dues and a membership list to the Texas PTA office postmarked by October 15th. Previous year's membership total is recorded in the Texas PTA office.
No form to submit.

500 Club Achievement

Presented to each local PTA that submits membership dues and a membership list for 500 or more members to the Texas PTA office postmarked by October 15th.
No form to submit.

1000 Club Achievement

Presented to each local PTA that submits membership dues and a membership list for 1000 or more members to the Texas PTA office postmarked by October 15th.
No form to submit.

The [Membership nomination form](#) is used to apply for any awards not calculated automatically by the Texas PTA Office.

[Membership Chair Challenge](#)

The Texas PTA Membership Chair Challenge issues a challenge to all Local PTAs to help increase membership. Certificates of participation and accomplishment are awarded and top contenders receive a prize. Follow the link above for more details—there are 7 challenges for the year:

Team Up – ends 8/31/11

The Scrimmage – ends 9/30/11

Get in the Game – ends 10/31/11

The Play-Offs – ends 12/30/11

Get the Fans Involved – ends 1/31/12

12 For 12 – From 1/1/12 – 3/15/12

Every Child, One Voice – ends 3/15/12

Texas PTA Website

www.txpta.org




As the official Web site for the Texas PTA this can be a great source of information for you and your local PTA.

All the major forms for awards and officer submissions are available. Many are in a PDF format, which requires the use of Adobe Acrobat to view. Instructions are available on the Web site for downloading the free program.

Submit changes to your Officers online

If you have not already submitted your Local Officer Form for 2011-2012, please do so immediately so that you don't miss out on important information from Texas PTA.

If you have had changes in your officers, please resubmit an updated Local Officer Form.

[Local Officer Submission - Online](#)  Preferred submission method for Local Officer Information. This method allows you to send a copy of your local officer information to your Council or Area. Please have their email address ready.

As the Website is constantly changing, make it your homepage or bookmark it so that you can check it often.

3rd Annual TEA/PTA/ISD



Walk[®] Across Texas!

Challenge

Are you up for the challenge?

Sept. 19th—Nov. 13th

- **An 8-week friendly competition**
- **Teams of eight people or school classes**
- **Do any physical activity, including walking, jogging, bicycling, dancing, or aerobic classes**
- **Friendly competition to see who can log the most miles**

For a team, or walk by yourself.

Walk Across Texas is a free program to help people start moving more and establish physical activity as a lifetime habit. Doing Walk Across Texas with people you know is a great way to help you keep going when you feel like quitting. To walk across the state in eight weeks, everyone on a team must walk almost 13 miles each week.

Walk Across Texas is not a walk-a-thon or an event to raise money. While teams do compete to walk across the state first and/or to accumulate the most miles during the eight weeks, the main point is to get moving and keep moving after Walk Across Texas ends.

After Walk Across Texas ends, you can continue walking by yourself to see how long it takes you to walk across the entire state of Texas

<http://walkacrosstexas.tamu.edu>

For more information con-tact your local county Extension Agent or state office for assistance:
Alice Kirk akirk@aq.tamu.edu
Carol Rice crice@aq.tamu.edu



Area 6 PTA Newsletter is published five times per year – August/September, October, December, February/March and May

Area 6 Board of Directors

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President	Jennifer Timm	jtimm@austin.rr.com	512.627.7719	www.area6.txpta.org
Secretary	Beth Purcell	wbpurcell@msn.com	512.293.4619	
Parliamentarian	Shelly Reeves			
Field Rep North	<i>Vacant</i>			
Field Rep South	<i>Vacant</i>			
Austin Council President	Amber Elenz	AustinCouncilPTA@gmail.com	512.414.4050	www.acpta.txpta.org
Bastrop Council President	Kari Potter	thefourpotters@yahoo.com	512.718.4934	
Dripping Springs Council President	Laura Marsan	dsisdCouncilofPTAs@gmail.com		https://sites.google.com/site/dsisdcouncilofptas/
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Leander Council President	Angie McDonald	mackyclan@austin.rr.com		
Round Rock Council President	Lori Hutson	la_hutson@yahoo.com		www.rrisd.council.my-pta.org