Together and Trained is our new theme at Thirty-Third District PTA. We are looking forward to working together as a team and being trained to perform the work we agreed to do, in an efficient and effective way.

Allow me the opportunity to introduce myself: I am Tom Horn, your new district president, and I look forward to the opportunity of meeting each and every one of you who are out there making a difference in our schools and communities. Although many of you know who I am, I look forward to the privilege of knowing who you are. So please take the time to introduce yourself to me.

Allow me and the wonderful district team the opportunity to serve you and meet the individual needs of your units and councils. We are here for you. Let us know how we can best serve you.

The work of the PTA has never been more critical than it is now in the face of budget cut after budget cut to education. We need to continue to speak out as we are the voice of all children in California. The future of our children is dependent on the actions we take today, so we need to be all the more vigilant in these difficult times.

Thirty-Third District PTA has a history rich in service, leadership, and training. We provide opportunities to our members to work collectively towards making a difference in our schools and having a positive impact on the lives of all children. Seize those opportunities and get the training you need to be successful in all your endeavors.

As we embark on another year in PTA, we hope you will join Team Thirty-Three. Now is the time to join in the race, work collaboratively, and cheer on the rest of the team. Don’t stand on the sidelines and watch... get in the game!

Let’s make a difference together.

Tom Horn
President
District Orientation 2009

CALLING ALL COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

Don't let the train leave without you. District Orientation 2009 is a must and we need you there. We ask that at least two members from each council attend District Orientation 2009 in Palm Desert.

It will be an event you do not want to miss. There will be a showcase of information on activities and programs for the entire year. We have several special guest speakers and some secret surprises for all who attend.

You will learn what Thirty-Third District PTA is all about, have an incredible time of fun, learning, and sharing together with other councils, and have the opportunity to meet most of the district board.

Don't leave your council out of the picture. We need you and you need the information that is going to be presented to take back to your council and units. This is an integral part of the training component for our district.

We intend on being number one in Thirty-Third District PTA and we need you.

Orientation 2009

Our Annual Orientation will be held once again at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Palm Desert. Attendees include council presidents, council first vice presidents, area advisors, district chairmen and district board of directors. We are encouraging all councils to send at least two participants this year. This year’s theme is "Together and Trained".

We have very informative workshops planned, as well as our usual "family" projects, and loads of great information from our district Board of Directors and chairmen to help you kick off a successful year. We also have a few surprises planned!

Orientation will begin on Sunday, September 13th, and wrap up around noon on Monday, September 14th. We are starting on a Sunday rather than on Monday this year to accommodate those who work and find it difficult to take weekdays off. The cost is only $50 and covers lunch and dinner and your overnight stay on Sunday night. We are strongly encouraging everyone to arrive on Saturday, September 12th, to have time to network and share valuable ideas in a relaxed setting. The cost of your room cannot be subsidized by district and will be $95 for singles, $105 for doubles, and $120 for triples. This is a legitimate PTA expense that councils can absorb.

All reservations must be made through the district. The registration form is included in this newsletter and must be completed for each attendee. The deadline for reservations is September 2, 2009, but we would appreciate getting them as soon as possible to help us effectively plan for this very educational and fun event.
Thirty-Third District PTA officers, chairmen, consultants, council presidents, first vice presidents and area advisors are invited to the

Thirty-Third District PTA
~~Executive Board Orientation~~
September 13-14, 2009
“Together and Trained”

Embassy Suites Hotel Palm Desert Resort

74-700 Highway 111
Palm Desert, CA  92260
Telephone:  760-340-6600
Time:  12:00 noon on Sunday, September 13th to 11:30 a.m. on Monday, September 14th
Cost:  $50.00

This meeting follows the Executive Board meeting which will be held at this location on Sunday, September 13, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

We are strongly encouraging everyone to arrive on Saturday, September 12th. Attendees will have time to network and share valuable ideas in a relaxed setting. The cost of arriving on Saturday cannot be subsidized by Thirty-Third District PTA; however, it is a legitimate council expense.
Crescent Courier Deadlines for 2009/2010

#1
October 1, 2009 - Our first issue of the year is always a keeper! It's packed with lots of information for the year. The spotlight this month is on “Thirty-Third District PTA.”

#2
December 7, 2009 - An article from each of our Board of Directors. The spotlight shines brightly this month on: ABC, Bellflower, Beverly Hills, Compton, Culver City, Montebello, Norwalk-La Mirada and Whittier Councils.

#3
February 9, 2010 - Report from the nominating committee. Some special ideas for spring break. This month the spotlight shines on: Downey, El Segundo, Inglewood, Lawndale, Little Lake, Long Beach, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Redondo Beach, Santa Monica-Malibu and Torrance Councils.

#4
April 15, 2010 - Making the transitions easier on July 1 for units and councils. Summer Safety, “What’s happening with Thirty-Third District PTA in June, July, August and September?”

“Helpful Information”

Each time the Crescent Courier is published, the Board of Directors have a little something to say. Our financial team always has a word or two. Our president’s messages have been very motivational. In the coming year, it is the goal of the Thirty-Third District PTA communications director to get information out in a more efficient and timely manner. This will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to turn the information around to their various councils and units. In order to accomplish this task, each of our council presidents is asked to forward the Crescent Courier to their unit presidents. Then their unit presidents will in turn send it out, via email if possible, to PTA members. This year we will be sending hard copies to the superintendents and principals in our district.

By Debi Salazar
Director of Communications

The “spotlight” part of each issue is your time to brag. We’re looking for: “What Works for your Council or Unit.” In previous years we read about your size, how many members you have, etc. This year we want to hear about your successes and also what may not have been successful. We need to learn that sharing information will help everyone achieve growth in their membership as well as the ability to create enthusiasm and life skills for all parents of our organization.
It’s Budget Time…

The budget process is an important part of planning for the new school year. The budget is the financial representation of the different activities and programs your PTA is planning. Keep in mind the budget must be approved by the association; this should be done at the first meeting of the new school year. Also remember that the budget is intended to be a guideline, and even though a projected expense appears on the budget, the association must approve the actual expenditure when it occurs.

Here are a few points to consider when preparing your budget.

• All board members and chairmen should provide input
• Consider the association’s needs and projected programs and their probable costs
• Make sure to balance the projected income with the projected expenses
• Include unallocated reserve funds to cover unexpected expenses
• Include carry-over funds to cover start-up costs for the next year

Other line items to be included are:

• State PTA Convention
• Sacramento Safari
• Fundraisers
• Gross income
• Insurance
• Membership – both income and expenses
• Reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses paid by board members and chairmen
• PTA conferences, workshops and training

More helpful information on the ins and outs of the budget process can be found on the California State PTA website, capta.org. A sample budget form is also available.

Kathy Corzine
Thirty-Third District PTA
Director of Budget & Finance
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS IN YOUR PTA BYLAWS?

As you begin a new school year, you need to review your bylaws. Are they adequate for your PTA at this time? Are your membership dues correct? Check the end of your bylaws (before the start of the Standing Rules) for the date they were last signed. No bylaws should ever be more than two or three years old.

FYI: The computer print out copy of bylaws from the State PTA is not yet available to our district. There is a computer trial run being tested in a smaller district now. Please be patient; it should be ready by the first of the year.

Put the Bylaws Workshop – Saturday, October 10th - on your calendar now!

Gloria Blackwell, Parliamentarian

NOTES FOR TREASURERS AND FINANCIAL OFFICERS

⇒ Be sure financial records have been audited before starting the new school year.
⇒ Schedule a budget meeting and present the proposed budget at the next association meeting for approval.
⇒ Budgeted income must be equal to or greater than budgeted expenses.
⇒ Give a copy of the unit audit and budget to the council and a copy of the council audit and budget to the district.
⇒ Make sure tax forms have been filed. Do not ignore any tax forms or notices. Non-profit organizations may not pay taxes, but they DO PAY FINES for not following the rules and regulations.
⇒ Secure the signatures of new officers authorized to sign checks, and file the signature cards with the bank.
⇒ Become familiar with duties outlined and any references to finances and budget in the PTA bylaws.
⇒ Get a copy of the financial section of the Toolkit from the president’s state summer mailing or download it from capta.org.
⇒ Records retention schedule – refer to finance section 5.1.6 of the 2009 Toolkit.

Terry Shore, Thirty-Third District PTA Treasurer

From the Publications Committee

Remember that ALL publications distributed to members of the district must first be approved by the Publications Review Committee before the president will approve them for distribution. Please allow sufficient time for your flyer, booklet, etc., to be reviewed by the committee (at least one week, preferably two).

Direct your item for review to Diana Wright at disline@aol.com. We promise to get it back to you promptly! Thank you.

Publication Review Committee:
Diana Wright, Chairman
Susannah Baxendale
Gloria Blackwell
Joan Jakubowski
I know many of you think that legislation is boring and will want to stop reading right now. 

PLEASE DON’T. We know that as PTA leaders we are actively working to make our schools better for all children. We also know that it takes all of us working together to do what we do best, including “to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.” As such, one of our goals for the term is to make legislation more interesting, relevant, and understandable.

As the craziness in Sacramento continues, it is going to become more and more important for us to be sure that our voices are heard. I am writing this on July 10th and we still don’t have a budget. Hopefully a budget will be in place by the time you are reading this. Budget or not, I am sure this is going to be a tough year for education and our children. We are going to have to all pull together to make sure that all children are not short-changed and that they and their families can receive the services/education that is needed.

The district legislation network is ongoing and is an opt-in email network. If you are already a member, there is nothing for you to do. If you are not a member, please email me at joanej125@aol.com and I will make sure you are added.

We have two important events planned for the year. The first is our Legislative Conference on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, and second is Sacramento Safari on Tuesday through Thursday, March 9-11, 2010. Please be sure to put these dates on your calendar now and watch for registration information. Remember that both events are legitimate PTA expenses and should be included in the unit budget.

Registration information for the Legislative Conference will be available at Orientation; the deadline for registering is October 7, 2009. The conference will be at the Carson Community Center and we will be going back to the “Basics of Legislation.” The price will be the same as last year- $15 per person.

The cost last year for Sacramento Safari was $425 for adult delegates (excluding airfare) and $550 (including airfare) for students and chaperones. The cost this year should be the same as last year. Registration information will not be available until the fall for Sacramento Safari, but it is not too early to be thinking about students and chaperones to join us in Sacramento. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to sit down and meet with our legislators. Believe me when I say that our voices do count!

For those of you who have been to convention, you know that resolutions are an important part of the PTA process. If you have an idea for a resolution, please contact me and I will send you the materials to get you started to shape it into an actual resolution.

Joan Jakubowski, Chairman
Legislation Committee
Celebrate PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month
By Stephanye Bolton, Health Committee Chairperson

November is “Celebrate PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month” and all Thirty-Third District PTA units are encouraged to sponsor a health-related event during that month.

The Healthy Lifestyles Award Applications are due to the National PTA office by September 11th. Information about submitting a successful award application can be found on the National PTA website.

Council presidents: Please submit a list of all units that hand in a Healthy Lifestyles Award Application to the Thirty-third District PTA Health Committee by October 16th. The health committee would like to do articles about these unit health projects in future Crescent Courier editions.

Dates to Remember -

Programs/Directories:
October 9 - Program /directories must be distributed by this date to qualify for the Early Bird Award
October 30 - Programs/directories must be distributed by this date to qualify for the Participation Award
December 1, 2009 - Due Date to turn in programs/directories to district

Mid-Winter Conference
February 4, 2010

Annual Meeting
April 15, 2010

Save the Dates -

Thursday, October 15
Council Presidents and Superintendents Conference

Saturday, October 24
UPOC

Thursday, November 12
Presidents and Principals Conference

Nancy Best
Director of Programs

Need a hard copy of Crescent Courier?
PTA Presidents, Officers, Chairmen, Treasurers, and Principals
Contact Thirty-Third District PTA at 562-804-4519

Anita Avrick
Director of Leadership
**Orientation Registration Form**

**“Together and Trained”**

**September 13-14, 2009**

Immediately following the Executive Board meeting
Time: 12:00 noon on Sunday, September 13th to 11:30 a.m. on Monday, September 14th.

**Embassy Suites Hotel**
74-700 Highway 111
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Telephone: 760-340-6600

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We are strongly encouraging everyone to arrive on Saturday, September 12th. Attendees will have time to network and share valuable ideas in a relaxed setting. The cost of your room on Saturday cannot be subsidized by district and will be $95 for singles/ $105 for doubles, meals not included. This is a legitimate PTA expense that your council can absorb. All reservations must be made through district.

Request to stay Saturday evening (at your/your council’s expense) ____________________________

Would you like to be billed by the hotel separately for Saturday night?_____yes _____no

If you answered “no”, please include the appropriate amount due for Saturday with your payment.

Roommate Request ____________________________

Total Amount Enclosed (Please include room cost for Saturday if applicable) $______________

Make reservations through Thirty-Third District PTA only.
Make check payable to Thirty-Third District PTA.
Mail to: Thirty-Third District PTA, PO Box 1235, Lakewood, CA 90714-1235

This is a subsidized event. We are obligated to pay for all rooms contracted. If a reservation is made and not used, you will be billed for the full amount of the room and meals.