



Council PTA Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 3

November, 2009

COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT:

"Provide inspiration, information and instruction for its PTA units and the community in which they serve."

Council Meeting Dates 2009-2010

- September 14th
7PM Gowana Library – **DONE!**
- **November 9th**
7PM Acadia Library
- January 11th
6:30PM
Presidents Meeting Acadia Library
- March 8th 7PM
Acadia Library
- May 10th 7PM
Acadia Library

Community Conversations with Dr. Robinson

- **October 24th -postponed until Nov. 7th at Shatekon 9:30AM**
- December 5th 9:30AM
Chango Library
- March 13th 9:30AM
Orenda/Tesago Library
- April 24th 9:30AM Turf Park
- May 15th 9:30AM HS East Library

A Message from the Council PTA President...

November...can you believe it! I don't know about the rest of you but I am so over the novelty of how lovely the change of leaves are since they consistently make an appearance on my lawn after hours of raking the day before. I suppose that is better than the piles of snowflakes that will be upon us soon enough. Like everything in life, you adjust and adapt as you go along and enjoy the beauty of what is and look forward to what will become.

November is usually acknowledged as the month where most of us look forward to the start of the Holiday Season. Where families gather to enjoy a feast and look back to give thanks for what has been received.

As I look forward to all the celebrations, I also look back to what has been, for my family and I, a most grateful year. As the new Council PTA president, I have been fortunate to have been teamed with four ladies who have helped steer a successful start of our goals at Council. Cheryl, Jodi, Shielene and Sue, I am grateful for your willingness and diligence, your sense of humor and compassion, your updates and follow through.

To our Executive Board, presidents, delegates, committee chairs, Mary Blaauboer and Dr. Robinson, much thanks for the support that you give to the work of PTA. Unit Presidents, officers, and delegates, your responsibilities to your Unit establishes the work and success of your PTA goals. There will be times that will challenge you. Know that we are grateful that you forge ahead to rise above adversity for the sake of kids. Committee Chairs, your work is so important since it fills the needs that go beyond the Units and helps the Community as a whole. Thanks for stepping up and informing, providing resources, and events to fill a need for our district. Mary Blaauboer and the BOE, you are the ultimate volunteers. There are not enough words of thanks and gratitude for each of you. You give so much of your time and efforts all for the sake of the Shen Community. Your insights and ability to see the "bigger picture" are so appreciated by those of us that sit in awe of your dedication. Dr. Robinson, what can I say. You are the original "Energizer Bunny". You keep going and going. Talk about challenges! You take on all of it, because it matters. "Excellence" begins from the top. We are most grateful to you "setting the example" with your relentless leadership.

In his speech, at the Presidents and Principals dinner in October, Dr. Robinson quoted Rosalyn Carter, "*A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go but ought to be.*" This applies to each of you that put forth the mission of PTA. The dedication, leadership, involvement and support that is given from every level is evident by the smiles of the children in our district.

Have a great Thanksgiving! May you find that you have an abundance of reasons to be thankful!

Gina Scotto di Carlo, Council PTA President

First payment of Membership dues should have been sent and received by November 1st to the NYS PTA office. Please continue selling membership up until March for the 2009-2010 year.

At the Regional Training meeting on October 27th, award certificates were distributed for Membership recognition for several Units in our district for the **2008-2009 school year**.

Congratulations to:

- Okte PTA for obtaining **100%** teacher membership.
- HS PTSA and the Gowana PTA for having at least 25% of their membership who are men.
- HS PTSA, Gowana PTA, Koda PTA and Okte PTA for enrolling at least 10 members who are not parents or teachers in their school.
- Skano PTA and Shatekon PTA for obtaining at least five more members than 2007-2008.
- Acadia PTA, Gowana PTA, Arongen and Chango PTA for the Early Bird Award.
- Gowana PTA for the Founders Day Award for making payments for at least 15 members during February 2009.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Lets “kick it up a couple of notches” for the 2009-2010 school year.

Community Coalition Update

Coalition Initiatives:

- Student focus groups are being set-up for mid-November. Coalition and community members will be invited to sit-in. Focus groups will also be facilitated at the Y.
- Shen Prevention Needs Assessment survey data will be presented at the BOE meeting.
- Community Events – The Coalition will be seeking a series of topics to bring forth for the entire district. We will be seeking speakers that are experts in subjects such topics as: “How to talk so your kids will listen”, Healthy Relationships, Drugs, Pills, Alcohol, etc. prevention, Internet Safety and Avoiding Teen Pregnancy and STDs. These series of events will begin mid-January.
- The Middle School PTAs is developing Arts & Ed assembly programs and is considering an internet safety presentation, a character education speaker and others,
- A Diversity and Multi-culturalism presentation is planned for the MS and HS in March during International Week. This will include student presentation and NCBI is involved.

Legislative Update

The PTA slogan is “every child one voice” a fitting slogan to remind us that our purpose is to provide a voice and advocate for every child.

As PTA we work together for a common ***purpose: to secure adequate laws, regulations and policies for the care and protection of children and youth.*** To achieve this objective PTA advocates bring critical issues that affect the education, health and welfare of children and youth before the public, policy makers and elected officials.

NYS PTA has invited you to participate in an [advocacy survey](#) so they may better understand how our unit views PTA’s advocacy mission. They want to know, how important taking action on issues that affect the education, health and welfare of our children and youth is to you; and if it is a priority?

By responding to this survey, you will provide critical insight as to how NYS PTA can better engage our members to speak for every child with one voice and align PTA resources and training with member needs.

Click her to take survey
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=e14_2by9lgiOekE5qaZW1ZgA_3d_3d

Jodi Bailey, Council PTA 2nd VP
 PTA Advocate

News from the NE Region PTA

During the recent Regional Training Workshop, Penny Hollister, our Regional Director and Bev Cottrell, Parenting/Family Life Chairmen, introduced a new program that the NE Regional PTA is offering to all Units interested, entitled "PTA 101".

This will be beneficial to all new officers and even seasoned officers, providing the opportunity to learn proper procedures, protocol and policies of PTA. This program will cover how to run an effective PTA. Sometimes the smallest thing that you may think is common knowledge is not practiced. For instance, PTA is spelled PTA not P.T.A., there are no periods between letters. Common knowledge?...you'd think, but the State, Region and National PTAs still get letters and questions concerning PTA with its tagline incorrectly represented.

- Do you know why membership is so important? Each \$3.50 that you send to the NYS PTA, is divided among a myriad of ways from training volunteers to do advocacy work, programs to increase educational benefits, safety and wellness, parent resources, the list goes on and on. This is why the push to maintain and increase membership is so important.
- Did you know that there are only 4-5 paid positions in PTA. They all work in the NYS PTA office. Everyone else are volunteers. They come from all walks of life who believe in the mission of PTA. This is why PTA has remained the largest most successful volunteer advocacy group in the Nation for the past 112 years.
- Did you know that each Unit must maintain a yearly membership list. The IRS can randomly request the list from your Unit at any time.

These are just some of the things that officers should know. Sometimes assumptions are made or policies not followed until it becomes a problem. This program is a more extensive program than that of the Regional workshops. It will cover the smallest things to items that you "just didn't know". Time and time again, the Regional PTA has heard "well that's the way we have always done it", "its never been a problem before". Here is the perfect opportunity for you to learn what the correct procedures are, and have questions answered. The more you know, the more effective the work and efforts for your Unit will be.

We would like to invite the Regional PTA to come to Shen and present this program to our Units. Please let us know by December 1st if you have any interest in having this program brought to us. Contact Gina at gfdc@nycap.rr.com OR Cheryl at children18@aol.com With the questions and inquiries that we have been receiving from many of you (both new and seasoned), we believe that it will be worth the effort. Remember, this program is new, so you haven't already attended.

What's Going On at Shen....

- **Nov. 5th** - "Explore the Fastest Growing Careers of the 21st Century" from 6-8p.m. in the Shenendehowa High School West Auditorium. All parents and students in grades 6-12 are all invited to learn about the projected regional, national, and international career opportunities for the next several decades. The program will feature several prominent speakers and include information on educational requirements, salary ranges and statistics of future projected careers.

- **November 11th** Veteran Day Dash - November has been designated by PTA as Healthy Choices month. Remember your Unit can get behind this initiative by promoting the Veteran Day 5K Run/Walk (emails/flyers were sent to you). Registration is required or can be done on the day. This year it will be open to children, so the whole family can join in. The Run will take place at the Shen Campus, please see the Shen webpage for further information.

SAGE News....

The next meeting of SAGE is scheduled for Monday, November 23rd at 7p.m. in the Acadia Library. Come get the latest information and updates on related programs and opportunities for families in the Shenendehowa district. You do not need to be a SAGE member to attend any of these meetings.

Check out our updated website! Our newly refurbished website at "www.worknotes.com/ny/cliftonpark/sage" contains current information on SAGE programs and meetings. Also available are minutes and information from past meetings this year, helpful links to informative sites, and information on this year's Saturday Scholars programs as well as Science Night. Look for our Saturday Scholars registration form on our website in the near future.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! SAGE needs your help! If you are interested in helping out in any way with Saturday Scholars programs or Science Night, we would love to hear from you! To make these programs happen successfully, we need anyone who can give even a small amount of time. You do not need to be a SAGE member to get involved. We would like to gather a list of possible volunteers for Saturday Scholars and Science Night, so if you can help out in any way, **please email SAGE at "sagenews@yahoo.com" by November 25, 2009.**