



# Council PTA Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1

September, 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 14<sup>th</sup>**  
7PM Gowana Library
- **November 9<sup>th</sup>**  
7PM Acadia Library
- **January 11<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30PM  
Presidents Meeting Acadia Library
- **March 8<sup>th</sup>** 7PM  
Acadia Library
- **May 10<sup>th</sup>** 7PM  
Acadia Library

## Community Conversations with Dr. Robinson

- **October 24<sup>th</sup>** 9:30AM  
Shatekon Library
- **December 5<sup>th</sup>** 9:30AM  
Chango Library
- **March 13<sup>th</sup>** 9:30AM  
Orenda/Tesago Library
- **April 24<sup>th</sup>** 9:30AM Turf Park
- **May 15<sup>th</sup>** 9:30AM HS East Library

## A Message from the Council PTA President...

### Welcome to a New School Year!

I hope that your summer was filled with great memories and you are rejuvenated to start the new school year with great energy. I know that you are busy not only with getting your kids ready for school but also preparing for the start of your PTA endeavors. I wish you the best with all you need to accomplish in a very short period of time.

As you know, Council has a brand new Executive Committee this year. Cheryl Hildenbrant as 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Jodi Bailey as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Shielene Guyatte as Treasurer and Sue Campbell as Secretary. We have been busy over the last few weeks setting our plans for the year. Council has been presented with a couple of district wide initiatives that will need the support and participation of Shen's PTA Units. These initiatives will be discussed at our first Council PTA meeting which is scheduled on **Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the Gowana Library** (please note the location). As always we ask that all presidents, co-presidents, committee chairs, district reps and unit delegates attend this meeting.

One of Council's goals this year is to maintain a better level of communication with units and district leaders. In an effort to go as paperless as possible, we will send you pertinent information and reminders via email. So please lookout for Council's emails and we would appreciate timely responses when requested. We have updated our Council webpage, so please look there periodically. Know that Council is here to lend advice, support and answer questions.

We start this year filled with enthusiasm and gratitude to each of you for choosing to make a difference. We know by working together we can only strengthen PTA's mission to advocate for children and build a better community.

Your membership look to you as leaders. We know you will make your unit a welcoming place to share ideas, work in unity to reach goals and share a laugh or two along the way. Have a wonderful start to a great year!

See you on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

Gina Scotto di Carlo, Council PTA President

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2009 NYS PTA CONVENTION November 13-15, 2009

The Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center, Saratoga Springs, NY (right at our backdoor!)

For more information and to register online go to [www.nyspta.org](http://www.nyspta.org).

Remember this is a legitimate PTA expense. You should have a budget line dedicated for conferences and training.

See you there!

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National PTA website:  
[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

## You Should Have Received....

- **Mid-End of August** – Mailing of Membership Cards and information to Unit Presidents
- **August** – NYS PTA Resource Guide mailed to Unit Presidents
- **August** – Reflections packet mailed to Unit Presidents



2009 – 2010 Reflections Program Theme is “Beauty is...”

**Focus on Fathers**

Any unit whose membership is at least 25% men will receive a “Focus on Fathers Award”. During your membership drive, encourage dads, stepfathers, grandfathers or any male advocating for children to join your unit’s PTA. This award is to recognize the importance of “Dads” being involved and having a “voice” in their child’s life.

For further information on this award and other awards visit [www.nyspta.org](http://www.nyspta.org)

*Involved Parents understand the challenges schools face and become part of the solution.*

**New Benefit: The PTA Rewards Card**

Introducing the **PTA Rewards Card**, the world’s largest discount program. Save hundreds even thousands of dollars a year while helping support your PTA!

Loyalty Access Solution has partnered with PTA to offer all PTA members an opportunity to save money throughout the year, Discounts on more than 250,000 retail offers including over 400 of the

world’s most recognizable brand names.

Save up to 50% at thousands of Retailers, Restaurants, Golf Courses, Home Services, Sporting Events, Spas & Salons, Movie Theaters, Hotels & Resorts, Automotive Services and Much, More.

In addition, the **PTA Rewards Card** is a powerful way to fundraise

throughout the entire year with very little effort required by your local PTA. It’s as easy as referring a friend or sending an email.

To learn more or to get your **PTA Rewards Card**, visit

[www.ptarewardscard.org](http://www.ptarewardscard.org)



**Northeastern Region Dates**

The following dates are from the Northeastern Regional Director. Shenendehowa is part of the Northeastern region.

**Please mark your calendar accordingly:**

- **October 19<sup>th</sup>** – Presidents & Principals Dinner at Michael’s Banquet House, Latham NY. Further details will be forthcoming
- **Oct 20<sup>th</sup>** - Early Bird Membership due mailed to NYS PTA Office
- **Oct 27<sup>th</sup>** – Officers Training Meeting Shen HS West 5:30PM
- **Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>** – First Membership dues payment mailed to the NYS PTA Office
- **Nov. 13-15** – NYS PTA Convention
- **Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>** – NE Reflections deadline.

**PTA WORKS WITH SCHOOL PARTNERS**

Partnership, teamwork and cooperation are building blocks of education leadership. Parents, teachers, principals, the superintendent and school board have a common goal – quality education.

This cannot be achieved by anyone acting alone. Developing a partnership, communicating with each other, sharing in the decision making and mobilizing the community into action are key in leading the way to success for all students.

At a time when proposed legislation and restricted funding affect the quality of a free public education, being a partner in education is needed more than ever.

Make it a goal this year to reach out to parents, school staff and district leaders. Reinforce the connection between home, school, and community. As PTA leaders we have the responsibility to advocate for our children to help them reach their full potential.

Empower your membership to keep informed. From this knowledge we can create proactive resolutions for our schools and community. Our voice **can** make a difference.

## A message from the Council PTA Preschool Committee ....

The Preschool Committee would like to wish all a happy, safe and healthy school year. We are excited once again to be able to bring families with preschoolers many great programs this year. We ask that all elementary PTA units advertise the following upcoming events in your newsletters, school's PTA bulletin boards and/or make handouts for Open House. Also, your unit's membership can sign up with our Facebook group "Shenendehowa PTA Council Preschool Committee" to see what else we are doing this year. Our first meeting is **Monday, September 14, 7PM at the Acadia Library**. As always, we look forward to welcome volunteers. We appreciate the support, thanks!

**Meetings:** Held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7PM in the Acadia library with the **exception** of September which will be held on Monday, 9/14 and April's meeting will be held on Monday, 3/29. Meetings are open to all parents with preschool age children and younger, as well as, preschool teachers and daycare providers.

**October 14<sup>th</sup>** 7PM at the Tesago Cafeteria – Mary Seitelman, Immediate Past President of AGATE in NYS, will present "Gifted Education; What You Need to Know for your Preschooler". Admission: FREE.

**November 17-18** Children's Program: "Robinson's Animal Show". Shows are at 9:30AM and 1PM on both days at the Shenendehowa United Methodist Church, Route 146. Admission: Children 2 and up are \$4. Adults are FREE.

Questions? Call Kate at 280-1176 or [preschoolpta@cliftonpark.org](mailto:preschoolpta@cliftonpark.org)

### PRESCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Preschool is in **need** of parent volunteers.

The Preschool PTA does an important service to the Shen community for families with young children. Throughout the year they showcase events that offer educational and social programs for preschool age children. If you know anyone in your membership that has preschool age children and would be interested in volunteering or has questions about the Preschool PTA, they can contact Kate Kirkpatrick, Committee Chairperson at [preschoolpta@cliftonpark.org](mailto:preschoolpta@cliftonpark.org) OR 280-1176

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*Stay informed, read  
your mail and make  
it a point to attend  
PTA workshops.  
Your PTA unit,  
school and community  
will benefit.*

### PTA Records Retention...in other words "How Long do we keep this information?...."

#### Permanently

- Annual audit reports
- Canceled checks to pay taxes, contracts or other important items
- Incident Reports and Financial Discrepancy Reports, if filed
- Legal Correspondence
- Tax returns and supporting annual financial statement
- Tax exempt status documents from the IRS and the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

#### Ten Years

- Financial Statements and Budgets
- Correspondence

#### Seven Years

- Accounts payable
- Canceled checks
- Cash receipts records
- Expired contracts and leases
- Vouchers

#### Three Years

- General Correspondence
- Bank Records

#### One Year

- Bank Reconciliation
- Correspondence with vendors
- Copies of deposit slips

Source: NYS PTA Fast Facts May, 2009