

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 29, Issue 3

November 2013



Presidents

Corner...

Hello All,

I am so excited to have gone to another wonderful MO PTA Convention! I learned a lot, met new people, and connected with some friends I haven't seen in quite some time. I gave my first Convention Workshop and found amazingly enough that I did alright! We had great workshops and an amazing keynote speaker.

Another item I was thrilled about was my oldest daughter Sierra was able to go as a voting delegate for Bode Middle School PTSA! It was great to experience all of that with her and to watch as she realized all that PTA does on a state level. She had workshops of her own to attend which were creating a PSA (which they did and I am told will be made available on the state website www.mopta.org, budgeting, increasing student memberships and others. She attended two general assembly business meetings, the first of which she was expected to vote on amending by-laws and in the second she voted on resolutions MO PTA was amending. This was quite the education; PTA is no longer just the fundraising and bring cookies organization to her.

Another highlight of the convention was the keynote speaker at Saturday evening's dinner. Dr. C. J. Huff the superintendent of Joplin Mo schools came. He had amazing video footage of the tornado and walked us through that devastating day in his life, but further than that he told us about the Bright Futures program he had begun even before the storms! Their community is really making a difference in the lives of children and I for one believe that they are on to something! I can't speak to all of it in this short notice but it would be amazing to bring that kind of support to our community.

A workshop that touched my heart and that I am hoping to discuss with each high school principal here in St. Joseph was the Safe and Sober Program. This is a completely free program that can be used stand alone or to enhance whatever programs we already utilize. The time investment is 20 minutes to show the students a video and about 10 minutes to explain the pledge cards. There is also a parent video that lasts about 10 minutes and this is where PTA could step in and help get the message out. It is based on a 3 tier program: the high school students, the parents, and then it shows the high school students how to begin their own program and take it in to the middle schools. There is also cash prizes that the schools could win to put toward project graduation!

I feel blessed to be a part of the PTA and to have all of you as part of that family too!

Joyce Brewka
St. Joe PTA Council president!!!

St. Joseph PTA Council Request/confirmation Form For Button Machine

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Telephone # Home _____

Organization _____ Work _____

Project or function _____ Email _____

Date & Time Requested _____

Number of Components Needed _____ Send request to:
(Plastic Cover, Shell, Pin Back=1 Component) Derrick Brewka
806 South 38th
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-390-7287

Signature _____

Title _____

Send Bill To: _____

j3girlsmom@yahoo.com

**Make Checks Payable to:
ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL**

For Council Use Only

Button Machine reserved for _____ Check out date _____
Date _____ Signature _____
Confirmation Sent _____ Check in date _____
Signature _____

Number of Components Issued _____
Number Returned _____ Date _____
Number Used _____ @ _____ Total Due _____

Confirmation
Your Request for the Button Machine is confirmed for _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Treasurer's Report
Clarence Carpenter Memorial Fund Board
16-Sept-13**

BALANCE ON HAND **June 30, 2013** **\$4,762.67**

Receipts:

School PTA Donations	100.00	
Council/Other Donations	2,001.00	
Memorial Donations	25.00	
Interest Income (checking)	0.50	
Help a Child to See		
Miscellaneous		
Total Receipts	<u>2,126.50</u>	
TOTAL		\$6,889.17

Disbursements:

Vision Expenses		
Dental Expenses		
Secretarial Expenses		
Gifts to SJSD		
Postage		
Treasurer's Expense		
Help a Child to See Expenses		
Insurance Bond for Treasurer		
Miscellaneous		
Total Disbursements:		<u>-----</u>
TOTAL BALANCE	September 16, 2013	<u>\$6,889.17</u>

MONEY MARKET ACCT#7625

Beginning Balance 6/30/13	\$10,456.67	
Interest Paid	\$ 2.63	
Ending Balance 9/16/13	\$10,459.30	\$10,459.30

TOTAL FUNDS FOR CC BOARD \$17,348.47



Council Clippings Article Assignments for December 2013
Articles are due November 10, 2013

❖ <i>Presidents Report</i>	❖ <i>Character & Spiritual</i>
❖ <i>Regional Director article</i>	❖ <i>Parent Involvement</i>
❖ <i>Founders Day</i>	❖ <i>Legislation</i>
❖ <i>Bylaws</i>	❖ <i>Salute to Schools</i>
❖ <i>Spelling Bee</i>	

All articles must be emailed to Lori Prussman at
aokmom@hotmail.com, subject: CLIPPING ARTICLE .
Thank you for getting your articles to me in a timely manner.

"People of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things." -
Leonardo Da Vinci

Submitted by
Mollie Siemens



Family and Community Engagement – Clippings November 2013

Submitted by: Charisse Giseburt

Last month I submitted the St. Joseph School District's annual Volunteer Services report. I would like to highlight and explain a few of the main points from that report.

* 742 active volunteers in 2012-2013. This number tends to go up and down over the years. Active means that these are the volunteers who are signing in and out at the schools or turning in At-home hours. If you are a volunteer, it is crucial that you record your time so that we can continue to see this number grow.

* 26,144 – the number of volunteer hours recorded in 2012-2013. There is no way we could possibly count every hour that the wonderful volunteers put in because, let's face it, volunteers don't do it for the numbers. Volunteers just see what needs to be done and help out. This number is based on those active volunteers who sign in and out. It would be great if this number would also increase, but as long as volunteers have their heart in the right place, the quantity of time recorded is irrelevant.

* \$578,828 – the amount of money the St. Joseph School District would have had to pay for the number of hours volunteered if those were hours staff put in. It's no secret that money is tight everywhere. It is wonderful that people are willing to GIVE away their precious time when we are all stretched thin.

* The VEST program continues to partner with a number of amazing organizations in St. Joseph. We will continue these partnerships and hopefully add some new ones to the list as we start the 2013-2014 school year.

If you have any questions or want to get involved in volunteering and/or mentoring, please contact me at 816-671-4390 or charisse.giseburt@sjsd.k12.mo.us

You can also find information on our website at <http://www.sjkd.k12.mo.us/domain/88>

PTA Convention Report

It is always a pleasure to represent PTA at State Convention. It is very fast paced and full of activities. It is so nice to meet other people from across the state; networking is really important. Developing relationships with people outside your area can be enlightening. Getting a fresh look at things and seeing how others are dealing with the things your unit may be dealing with.

I was presider and recorder for the President workshop. Donna Petiford did a great job on her presentation; she gave some great tips for new and returning presidents. The participants had some great questions. This is an important workshop for presidents.

I also was the recorder for Kathy Nevans in the Conflict Resolution workshop. Kathy is an awesome presenter. Her tips were so helpful. I think the most important part of her workshop was that we as PTA officers/chairs need to make sure that we are not letting personal opinion get in the way of our work. When people have personality clashes it tends to muck up the work, so she advised everyone to put on their PTA hat when doing business and not our let our personal feelings get in the way. Personal agendas are another common problem. Again, don't let your personal agenda get in the way of PTA purpose, mission and vision.

I also was presider and recorder for the Treasurer's II workshop. Another great presentation from Shelly Throckmorton. Shelly is very well versed on treasurer procedure. Shelly advised units to be very careful of who does your audit. Many times units are given misinformation and that misinformation can be damaging to the units. If ever in doubt please contact State PTA for clarification. Shelly stressed the importance of making sure we are getting all documentation done in a timely manner. Units need to make sure that they get their IRS filings done asap and if for some reason the IRS contacts you, get back with them immediately. Waiting only makes matters worse.

All workshop presentations are available online in the members only section at www.mopta.org. Please feel free to log in and take a look at them and pass along to your officers and chairman.

Please consider adding convention to your budget next year, it is a good use of PTA funds. It is very important that your leaders feel confident in their roles and training is key.

See you next year in St. Louis!!!

Submitted by Lori Prussman

SJSD PTA REFLECTIONS RECEPTION will be
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014.
Reception at 6:00, awards at 6:30
AT THE KEATLEY CENTER.

Deadline for entries is: **FRIDAY** December 12, 2013
Fine Arts Coordinators office.
by 4:00 pm



SERGEANT AT ARMS 2013-2014 PLAN OF WORK

Submitted by Stacey Case

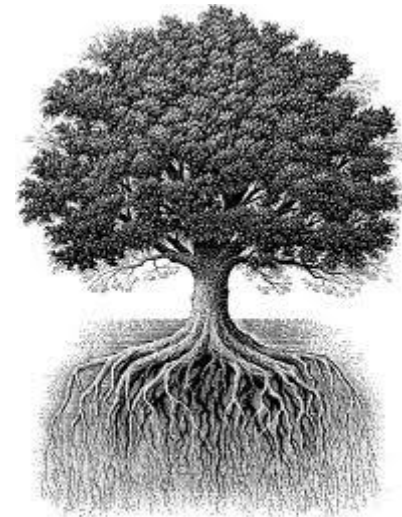
As Sergeant at Arms, I will maintain an attendance book of both the Executive and General council meetings. I will also notify the president if a quorum is not present.

I also plan to purchase door prizes to be awarded at the conclusion of each General council meeting. Door prizes will equal approx \$40 per month for 8 months. There will be NO door prizes awarded in Feb. due to Founders Day Dinner taking place that month.

I will also help carry out any other task that shall be asked of me.

Congratulations to our newly elected
State PTA officers
2013-2016

President: Kim Weber
President elect: Dorothy Gardner
Secretary: Norvel Johnson
Treasurer: Lori Prussman
VP of Legislation & Advocacy: Angel Davis
VP of Membership Services: Michele Reed
VP of Communications: Brigitte Lindstrom
VP of Field Services: Cathy Sweeny
VP of Programs: Susan Rupert



The Oak Tree symbolizes our pledge for youth's security. The trunk represents the National Congress; main branches the State Congress; small limbs Districts and Councils; twigs, the local organization, and the leave the individual members. Each, in turn, draws its life from the parent stem.

Clippings Plan of Work 2013-2014

My plan is to obtain all information for Clippings by the 10th of each month (by the 5th of December) and to get it prepared and to the Print Shop for printing. My goal is to have Clippings out the last week of each month or at the latest the first week of the month, depends on printing turn around.

I will prepare Clippings to postal mail to past Council presidents, Clarence J Carpenter Memorial Fund board chair and honorees that don't have email or internet access.

I will also prepare the remainder of Clippings for Unit Presidents, principals and downtown personnel via school mail. Hard copies will be made available to Council Executive Board and Chairs.

I will add monthly Clippings to our website; www.stjoepta.org.

I will also keep the website and Yearbook updated.

Clippings Chair
Lori Prussman

Family Involvement Plan of Work 2013-2014

The responsibilities of the Family Involvement Chair are to submit articles to Council Clippings by the 10th of each month.

My goals of the chairmanship are to incorporate the SJSD Volunteer Services Program into the PTA as well as focus on Family and Community Engagement throughout the district.

I will use information about the SJSD Volunteer Services Program as well as articles involving positive ways adults can become involved in the education of children in the Clippings Articles I submit.

I will also present any updates and recognitions at the Council Meetings as well as ask for suggestions and opportunities that individual school PTAs might have to increase Family and Community Engagement.

VEST will be sending out a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter that will be made available to PTA Council and will include information about PTA.

The procedure book will be an archive of each month's Clippings articles.

Charisse Giseburt
Family Involvement Chair



The National PTA® and Amazon Kindle have teamed up to offer a new Family Reading Experience program hosted by local PTAs in cities across the United States. [Read in Español](#).

The PTA Family Reading Experience, Powered by Kindle is a set of [free activities](#)—in English and Spanish—that engage the entire family. The activities focus on improving the reading skills of children between kindergarten and fifth grade.

PTAs can use [resources and promotional tools](#) to organize a series of events that will engage the entire family and focus on improving reading skills between kindergarten and fifth grade—which would reinforce a year-round commitment to family reading. The curriculum, which National PTA developed in consultation with family engagement and literacy experts, includes activities with both physical books and e-books. The program brings together all five domains of reading including: phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary.

View story online at www.pta.org to “share your story” and see free activities.



National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

Standard 3: Supporting student success—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Standard 5: Sharing power—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: Collaborating with community—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

See more details at www.pta.org

Convention from a Students Point of View

By: Sierra Brewka

I had an awesome weekend at convention. I learned a lot from the workshops I attended. In the very first workshop I was in, we made a PSA (public service announcement). It was over distracted driving. (This will be posted on the state website mopta.org)

In another workshop, I learned about budgeting. We played a life-sized game of LIFE. We also learned to work with others through all of the workshops. We may have been from all across Missouri but we all came together and became friends. This will definitely not be an experience I'll be forgetting anytime soon. I also plan to attend next year.

2013 National PTA Federal Public Policy Agenda

Each year National PTA publishes a public policy agenda that outlines policy priorities and recommendations for Congress. The priorities are selected based on the following criteria: timeliness of issue (is it being considered before Congress and the Administration), opportunities for National PTA to provide leadership and expertise to Congress, alignment to National PTA's mission and resolutions, and ability to achieve a meaningful policy change that will produce positive results for children and their families. You can also view our Policy Issue Briefs for more information.

[Policy Issue Briefs →](#)

The **2013 Public Policy Agenda** features four key policy areas:

- Education
- Child health and nutrition
- Juvenile justice and delinquency prevention
- School safety

View more details at www.pta.org and download the links.

2013 – 2014 Membership Chairperson Plan of Work

Officer/Chair Name: Nici Hayes

Position: Membership Chair

Responsibilities:

- Determine a membership campaign
- Determine contests & awards
- Accurate record keeping of memberships
- Forward membership information to the State PTA
- Report to Council re: membership numbers
- Provide possible ideas to Units to increase membership
- Make meetings FUN!

Goal:

- #1...Total Unit memberships in each school = number of students enrolled in the school
- #2...Increase involvement of members in each school
- #3...Make attending Council meetings fun and uplifting.

Specific Action Steps:

What	Who	By When
Outcome: Total Unit memberships equal number of students	Students Families Teachers Administration Units Council	6-30-14
How: Council will promote goal of total number of PTA memberships equaling the total number of students enrolled in school. Units will work with school teachers and administration to promote the idea. The group will work with families and students to promote the idea. Units will determine incentives to having a membership to the school's PTA.		
Outcome: Increase involvement of members in each school.	Council Units	By 6-30-14
How: Membership Chairperson will work with Units to discuss involvement within their units and schools. The teams will work together to strategies increasing involvement. Membership Coordinators will communicate together to determine		

Continue next page...

2013 – 2014 Membership Plan of Work continued from previous page...

what resources are needed. Increased involvement might look like increased attendance at Unit meetings, school events, increased number of memberships purchased, etc. Unit Membership Coordinators will provide their email addresses to the Council Membership Coordinator for a list serve.
Outcome: Make attending Council meetings fun and uplifting.

Membership
Chairperson,
Members 6-30-14

How: Membership Chairperson will work with Units and Council members to determine what incentives and encouragement work best for members. Membership Chairperson will use these ideas to build a team atmosphere.

Budget: \$

Resources: Still determining all resources available

Evaluation Process: Membership Chairperson will request evaluation from members of Units and Council to determine effectiveness of goals and strategies.

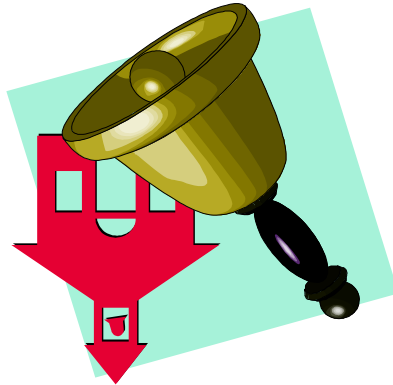
Committee Members: undeveloped as of yet

Incentive Plan (\$450 of total budget used):

- September, October & February: Greatest increased percentage of memberships turned in to Missouri PTA for the year as compared to last school year's totals: \$50 for the Unit... membership information to be announced at the meeting... (September's numbers will include August & September).
- January & March: Most Unit members attending the Council meeting: \$50 for the Unit
- November: 100% of School Employees joining PTA by the November Council meeting – drawing for \$50 out of all schools accomplishing this by the November meeting.
- December: Unit Membership Coordinators will email 2 success ideas from their school's membership experiences and will email them to Nici Hayes at cnhk@stjoelive.com by the December PTA meeting. All Units participating will be entered into a drawing: \$50 for Unit drawn from pool of participants.
- April: Highest percentage increase of VEST members volunteering/supporting the school from last school year: \$50 for the Unit
- May: Highest percentage increase in total memberships for the school from last school year as reported to Missouri PTA: \$50 for the Unit

NOTICE FOR PARENTS

SIGNATURE MONITOR



US PERSONAL MAIL MONITOR

St. Joseph PTA Council
PO Box 8716
St. Joseph, MO 64508

