

# COUNCIL TALKS

Garland ISD Council of PTAs Newsletter • November 2011

## Dates To Remember

### November

7-11 **Generation TX Week**

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

8 **Board of Trustees**

Work Session

6:00 - Board Room

Harris Hill Administration Bldg  
Annex (south entrance)

14-18 **HERO Week**

18 **Fifth Grade Greeting Card  
Contest Entry Deadline**

Artwork from individual school  
winners due at Harris Hill  
Administration Building

22 **Early Release Day**

all grade levels

**Board of Trustees**

Meeting

6:00 - Board Room

Harris Hill Administration Bldg  
Annex (south entrance)

23-25 **Thanksgiving Vacation**

### December

2-3 **Reflections Entries Due for  
Council Judging**

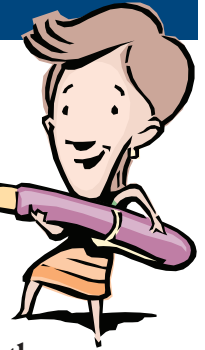
Entries Accepted on  
Friday December 2  
from 3:30-6:00 p.m. &  
Saturday, December 3  
from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

3 **Pickup Non-Winners**  
from Reflections judging  
5:30 -7 pm



## The President's Pen

Juliana Holmes, Council President  
[jholmes@garlandisd.net](mailto:jholmes@garlandisd.net)



I just have to begin with a BIG brag and **Congratulations to the Classical Center at Vial PTA** for being one of ten PTAs in the entire country to be selected as the recipient of a National PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grant! They received the highest award given of \$1,000.00 that they will use to “challenge students to experiment with diverse fruits and vegetables from other countries.” To find out more about Vial’s program as well as the other recipients, visit [PTA.org/healthylifestyles](http://PTA.org/healthylifestyles). I’m sure we’ll be hearing more about their program in the newsletter throughout the school year.

### Don't you just love all the deadlines in PTA!?!

They really do help to keep us all on track and up to date with everything that is happening. There are always deadlines in PTA... membership dues, Council dues, Outstanding PTA, newsletters, awards, fundraisers.

### Membership Deadlines

We just completed our fall membership campaign with the deadline of October 15th. Don't forget that you should continue to send memberships to state throughout the year. Anything received by state after October 15th and before March 15th will count toward the Spring Membership totals. Dues and names turned in after April 1st count toward the next year. You also need to remember that someone isn't actually a member of your PTA until their dues and name are received in the TxPTA office.

### IRS Deadlines

The next deadline everyone needs to be concerned with is for the IRS form 990. The federal 990 form is an information form to be completed by the locals and sent to the IRS each year. Every PTA has to fill out a 990. If your PTA's annual gross income is less than \$50,000 your local will need to complete a 990N. The 990N is an electronic postcard. It is completely online and takes less than five minutes to complete. If your PTA's annual gross income is between \$50,000 and \$200,000 your local will need to complete the 990 EZ with a schedule A. If your PTA's annual gross income is more than \$200,000 your local will need to complete a 990. Both of these 990s are pencil and paper forms and sent to the IRS via “US mail”. I cannot stress enough how important it is for each local to file a 990 form. If a PTA neglects to submit a 990 for three years, their nonprofit status will be revoked.

(See President's Pen, page 2)

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### PTA Council 2011-12 Meeting Dates

- November 2, 2011
- December 7, 2011
- *No meeting in January*
- February 1, 2012  
PTA Founder's Day Celebration!
- March 7, 2012
- April 11, 2012  
(second Wednesday of month)
- Thursday, May 3, 2012  
Spring Luncheon  
- SEC Ballroom

*Council Talks* is the newsletter of the Garland ISD Council of PTAs and is published on a monthly basis during the regular school year.

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

## Program for November

### Restructuring of Texas PTA

Heather Ashwell-Hair, the Texas PTA chairman of Parent Education and Programming, will address our council about the changes taking place to streamline the structure of the state organization, and providing insight to the ways the restructure will affect local PTAs.

### Strong Fathers, Strong Families

Michael Hall, from "Strong Fathers, Strong Families, will be here to address getting the men parenting our students into our schools. Mike is also affiliated with "Watch D.O.G.S." (Dads Of Great Students), which is a program of the National Center for Fathering, and All-Pro Dads, which is sponsored by the National PTA and the NFL.

FYI - Be on the lookout for flying rubber chickens...



**Wednesday, November 2, 2011**

9:00 am in the Harris Hill Annex  
(501 S. Jupiter Rd, 2nd floor of Annex)

### President's Pen

*Continued from page 1*

### Reflections Deadline

Another fast approaching deadline is for the annual Arts in Education Reflections Program. Everyone should be conducting their Reflections program at this time. The dates for locals to turn in submissions for Council judging are December 2nd and 3rd at Harris Hill.

### Thank You's (without a deadline!)

This fall, Garland Council conducted three Leadership Orientations. A total of 114 people completed the class. A big thank you goes to Suellen Atteberry for arranging the workshops and taking care of registration. Thanks also go to Cari Murray, Area 14 Parliamentarian and Sharon Wainscott, Area 14 President, for helping with the presentations.

### November Council PTA Meeting

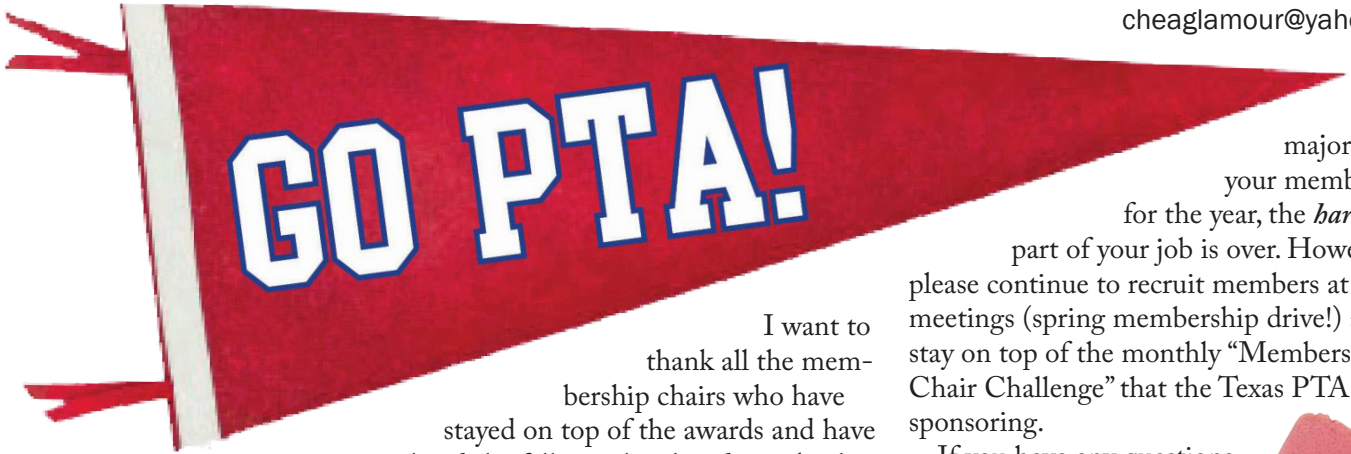
Our November meeting will be Wednesday, November 2nd at 9:00 am in the Team GISD room of Harris Hill Annex. We will have Heather Ashwell-Hair, TxPTA Parent Education, Programming Chair, presenting "New Beginnings" about the restructuring of TxPTA and how it will affect all of us. We will also have a presentation by Michael Hall from the "Watch D.O.G.S.". Remember our service project, Diaper Drop, will kick off at the November meeting. We are collecting diapers of all sizes. We will have a tub for collecting the packages at all the remaining meetings this year.

We are all ANGELS, we Advocate, Nurture, Guide, Encourage, Love and Support all children.

*Juliana*

# Membership Matters!

Cheryl Verret, Council Membership Chairman,  
cheaglamour@yahoo.com



I want to thank all the membership chairs who have stayed on top of the awards and have completed the fall membership drive. As the fall membership "push is the source of the

majority of your membership for the year, the *hardest* part of your job is over. However, please continue to recruit members at the meetings (spring membership drive!) and stay on top of the monthly "Membership Chair Challenge" that the Texas PTA is sponsoring.

If you have any questions, please email me!



## ~~Coreckting~~ Correcting Minutes

Council Secretary  
Tonya Torske  
ttorske@verizon.net

Make all corrections to the official copy of the minutes. Corrections to the minutes are made immediately following the reading of the minutes, during the time specified on the agenda for minutes, or at any subsequent meeting when errors are discovered. The current minutes shall reflect that a correction was made. In the master copy of the minutes, the secretary circles the incorrect words with a red pen and places the correction in the margin of the bound minute book. Corrections must be dated and initialed. Only the group that created the minutes (executive committee, executive board, association) may correct them.

If corrections to minutes are made, in the current meeting's minutes, the corrections to the minutes are noted: "The minutes were approved as corrected." If the minutes are found to be incorrect at a later time (after they've been approved), the corrections take a 2/3 vote to approve.

Be A  
Hero!

\*\*\*\*\*

Help  
Everyone  
Respect  
Others

\*\*\*\*\*

the week of november 14-18



## Arts in Education 2011-12

Sarah Hearn • SLHearn@garlandisd.net • Arts in Education Chairperson • GISD Council of PTAs,

### Announcing the 2011-12 PTA Reflections Contest

This year's interesting theme is Diversity Means and students have been talking about it all over the district! Each year, students are given an opportunity to create entries in 6 different categories. The categories are photography, visual arts, literature, musical composition, dance choreography and film production. The work must be entirely done by the student without the assistance of a parent or other adult. Students may enter in any category as many times as they wish.

### Here are a few particulars about each category.

#### Photography

If it is original and done with a camera, it's photography. This includes digital and standard prints, and various manipulations with a camera and/or software. The maximum size allowed is 11" x 14" (including a mat board).

#### Visual Art

Drawings, paintings, collages are all acceptable for entry. Work must be flat and not more than 3/8" thick. The maximum size allowed is 24" x 30" (including a mat board).

#### Literature

Any type of writing in fiction or non-fiction in prose, poetry or drama is accepted. The maximum number of words allowed is 2,000.

#### Musical Composition

Musical composition entries may be vocal, instrumental or a com-

bination of both. The composition must not exceed 5 minutes in length and should be recorded on a CD-R capable of being played on a computer.

#### Dance Choreography

Must be an original choreographed dance composition, recorded and not to exceed 5 minutes in length. Recordings must be made on a CD-R capable of being played on a computer.

#### Film Production

The movie must be an original work of either fiction or non-fiction filmed by the student and relating to the theme. The film may be with or without sound and must not exceed 5 minutes in length. Please use a C-DR and create your files with a .WMV file extension if possible.

### There are three important changes in how entry forms are to be submitted.

- First, all entries must have an ORIGINAL TITLE.
- Second, all entries must have an ARTIST'S STATEMENT on the form or attached. Artist's statements may not be longer than 250 words.
- Finally, if a student's image or voice is included in an entry, a CONSENT FORM is needed. This includes anyone whose image is included in a photograph or film or whose voice is heard on an audio recording.

Student entry forms may be found on your local campus or at one of the following websites:

- [www.garlandiscouncilpta.org](http://www.garlandiscouncilpta.org)  
Click on "Awards" on homepage—scroll down to "Reflections"
- [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org)  
Click on "Reflections" at the bottom of the homepage

All advancing entries are due to the Garland Council of PTAs on December 2nd 3:30-6:00 p.m. or December 3rd 8:30-10:30 a.m. on the second floor of the Harris Hill Building. Check with your local campus to determine when entries are due at your school.

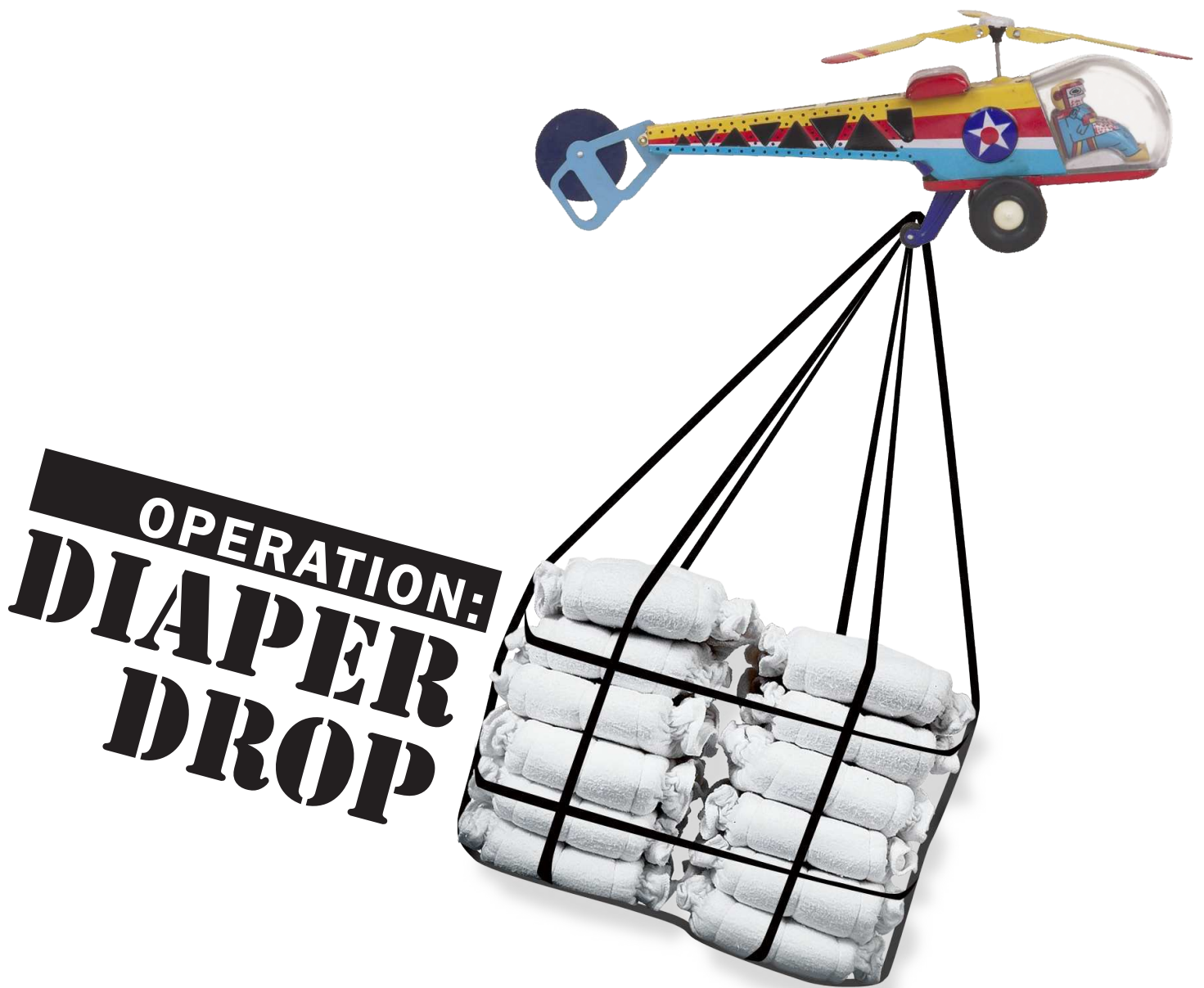
## Annual Fifth Grade Greeting Card Design Contest

Each year, fifth graders from across the district offer their designs for the greeting cards sent by the Superintendent and Board of Trustees.

The designs below were the 2010 winners.

2011 packets will be emailed to all GISD elementary campuses shortly.





As any of you with children *(or who spend time around families with kids)* know, #2 happens. But in these economic times, some families have a hard time putting food on the table, much less getting diapers for their littlest family members.

Therefore, this year, the Board has chosen to host an on-going **“Diaper Drop”** as our **2011-12 Service Project**. Drop off diapers in any/all sizes at our monthly Council Meetings. In turn, we will distribute these donations to various family charities in the Garland, Rowlett, and Sachse area.



# Eating Their Veggies!

The 2011 National PTA® Healthy LifestylesSM grant recipients have been announced, and our own **Classical Center at Vial Elementary School** is one of only ten recipients nationwide!

On Monday, October 24th, the Vial PTA Board learned that they were receiving the maximum grant of \$1000.00. They plan to use the funds to challenge students to try fruits and vegetables from other countries and cultures different from what they may be used to eating at home.

## About the National PTA Healthy Lifestyles Program

The National PTA Healthy Lifestyles Program promotes good nutrition and regular physical activity in order to address the nation's childhood obesity epidemic. One-third of American children are either obese or at risk of becoming obese. Increased access to high-calorie good-tasting, inexpensive foods, along with increasingly sedentary lifestyles, has contributed to the rise in childhood obesity. The reduction and elimination of recess in as many as 40 percent of U.S. school districts has limited students' physical activity during the school day. Furthermore, consistent findings show that obesity is often associated with poor levels of academic achievement.

PTAs can play an important role in increasing physical activity and improving nutrition in the school community by engaging families,

teachers, administrators, and students in programs and activities that encourage the school community to be active and to eat healthier foods.

## 2011 Healthy Lifestyles Grant Recipients

- **Classical Center at Vial PTA**  
Garland, Texas
- Cleveland Heights/University Heights Council of PTAs  
University Heights, Ohio
- Clinton Elementary PTA  
Clinton, Utah
- Coronado Elementary PTA  
Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Crested Butte Community School PTSA  
Crested Butte, Colorado
- Cynthia Heights Elementary School PTA  
Evansville, Indiana
- J. Allen Axson PTA  
Jacksonville, Florida
- Kraft Elementary PTA  
Hampton, Virginia
- South Side Elementary PTA  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- Stonewall PTA  
Lexington, Kentucky

# Have you had “The Talk?”

Alan Smith – PTA Youth Protection

## What talk? You know the one about drugs, sex, bullying, driving, college, career...

The World seems so much more complicated these days. When I was growing up, things seemed so much simpler. “The Talk” we all knew about was the one about the “birds and the bees”. Dad put it off until the coach had “The Talk” with us in middle school. Moms were, sometimes, better with their daughters. The key was the daughters didn’t want to ruin their reputations. The best advice moms gave was just to stay away from boys as long as you can!

Now it seems everything is powered up. What is a family going to do?

## What can you do?.....

Here are some suggestions starting with the easiest.

1. Obtain information about the topic from your student’s counselor at school and/or the public library. (We have great libraries.)
2. Ask your school’s LIGHT counselor what the best way is to approach your child about these topics.
3. If you are a single parent and feel uncomfortable talking about these topics with your child, go to a trusted friend, coach, counselor, religious leader, scout leader and ask if they would counsel your child on these topics. You may wish to be present at the time so you are on the “same page” with your child.

4. Take your child to McDonalds or some favorite picnic spot and talk about these topics away from electronic distractions.
5. I have also heard of a family taking their child away for the weekend for this purpose.

**No matter how you get the information to the child, you do need to have “The Talk” on all these issues:**

- Sex
- Drugs
- Bullying, and
- Being a good citizen at school and home.

I do not have to tell you it is not a perfect world...duh! Yet, because the world seems more complicated, we as parents need to be more sensitive to our children as they are growing up in this environment.

Maybe “The Talk” needs to be more of a conversation in little bits that you spread out through the weeks and months of pre-adolescence and adolescence.

We are all in this together, so let’s help each other so we can create the world that is best for all to live, work, and raise a family.



## Fundraising for Council

While local PTAs have a variety of ways to raise money to fund their programming plans (carnivals, goodie sales, etc.) have you thought about the fact that Council has few options that won’t conflict with the efforts at the local level or involve raising dues?

We don’t like the idea of a dues increase any more than any of you guys would like GETTING a dues increase. So, with that in mind, we’ve decided to have a Basket Silent Auction in conjunction with the annual PTA Spring Luncheon. Donate a basket filled with fun stuff for others to bid on. How easy is that?

Council Board members who also serve on one or more local PTA Boards felt that you would appreciate a “heads up” on the concept, so you would have time to come up with theme ideas and perhaps take advantage of seasonal sales to gather items at a discount.

**Thanks in advance from your Council PTA Board!** We know you’ll have some wonderful contributions.

# GISD COUNCIL OF PTAs

## Monthly Outstanding PTA Activity

PTA NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTER'S EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### Instructions:

- Complete information above and attach form to your entry.
- Please submit a description of your PTAs' activity on the Outstanding PTA Award Application attached.
- A maximum of 300 words, handwritten or typed will be accepted.
- Please do not use your PTA name within the text, as all PTA names are covered for judging.
- Flyers, programs, pictures, etc., may be included, but send copies as these items will not be returned.
- Your PTA may submit only one entry per month.
- Originality of idea, participation of parents, staff, and students as well as community involvement is also considered. Keep in mind the Objects of PTA as you plan the entry.

### Email entries to:

[pmullins@garlandisd.net](mailto:pmullins@garlandisd.net)

or

### Mail to:

Pat Mullins  
501 S. Jupiter Rd, Box 701  
Garland TX 75042

### Monthly "Outstanding PTA" award application deadlines:

Outstanding PTA entries for Month of:	Entry Must Be Received By:	Winners will be Announced at Council meeting in:
September 2011	September 26, 2011	October 2011
October 2011	October 24, 2011	November, 2011
November 2011	November 28, 2011	December 2011
December 2011 January 2012	Entries for both month's entry due January 23, 2012	February 2012
February 2012	February 24, 2012	March 2012
March 2012	March 26, 2012	April 2012

*In April, we will have the form for "Outstanding PTA of the Year" available.*

*Your PTA must enter **at least three (3)** monthly contests during the year  
to be eligible to submit an entry for the Outstanding PTA of the Year.*

*The Outstanding PTA of the Year will be announced at the Council of PTAs' spring luncheon*

# 2011-2012 Area 14 Directory/Yearbook Guidelines

Must be Postmarked by: March 15, 2012

## Judging Criteria

### I. General Appearance

- A. Neat and legible. May be printed, typed, duplicated, or handwritten.
- B. Attractive, but inexpensive, and a size convenient to carry.

### II. Contents

#### A. Outside Cover

1. Name of local PTA .....2%
2. Town and state .....2%
3. Council.....1%
4. Area 14.....2%
5. Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers .....2%
6. Year (2011-2012) .....2%

#### B. Title Page

1. Name of local PTA and date of organization .....2%
2. Town and Council (applies only to units in a council) .....2%
3. Area 14.....2%
4. Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers .....2%
5. Year (2011-2012) .....2%
6. Date, time and place of regular meetings  
(example: 2nd Tuesday, 7p.m., school).....5%

#### C. Following Pages (Item #8 – programs, comprises 15% of grade)

1. PTA Purposes (Objects) .....5%
2. Names of National, State, Area, and Council President .....5%
3. Names of Local PTA Officers and chairmen .....5%
4. School Faculty (PTAs with campus) .....5%
- 4a. ISD Administration Staff  
(for Early Childhood, Councils, or Post PTA) .....5%
5. Local Board of Education School Trustees .....5%
6. Texas State Board of Education & Commissioner.....5%
7. Texas 82nd Legislators  
(Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Senators, & Representatives).....5%
8. Complete detailed program for the year.....10%
9. Order of Business .....5%
10. School calendar or district calendar, holidays, school terms,  
beginning & ending of 6 weeks.....5%
11. A short history of the school or the name of the school  
when appropriate.....5%
12. Bylaws with original approval date or revised date .....10%  
(Bylaws should be printed in directory/yearbook or include a note that bylaws  
have been distributed to members with a copy clipped in book for grading.)

#### D. Optional Contents

1. Dates of council meetings (if your unit belongs to a council)
2. List of PTA past presidents
3. List of Life Memberships and/or Extended Service Awards  
presented by the PTA
4. Dedication, motto, PTA colors (blue and gold)
5. Other items useful to YOUR members

## Instructions:

Mail one (1) copy of the Directory/Yearbook postmarked by **March 15, 2012** to the Area 14 Chairman:

Celeste McGee  
6230 Lumley Road  
Mesquite, TX 75181

Councils also need to mail one (1) copy of the Council Directory, by **December 31, 2011** to the Area 14 President:

Sharon Wainscott  
3101 Sheridan Drive  
Garland, TX 75041

Graded directories/yearbooks will be on display at Area 14's 2012 Spring Meeting and should be picked up at that time. Please include a ziploc plastic bag for each directory/yearbook sent.

Grade of 90-100%

### Highest Honor

*Gold seal with blue & gold ribbon*

Grade of 80-89%

### Honor

*Gold seal with blue ribbon*

grade of 70-79%

### Honorable Mention

*Gold seal*

Grade below 70% and/or  
Postmarked after March 15th  
**Participant**

**Names to be included  
in directory/yearbook**  
(See C-2 to left)

#### National PTA President

Mrs. Betsy Landers  
1250 N. Pitt St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

#### Texas PTA President

Mrs. Sharon Goldblatt  
408 W. 11th St.  
Austin, TX 78701-2113

#### Area 10 President

Mrs. Sharon Wainscott  
3101 Sheridan Drive  
Garland, TX 75041

# 2011-2012 Area 14 Historian Book Guidelines

Due Date: Area 14 Annual Meeting (April)

PTA Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_ Council \_\_\_\_\_  
School District (Please do not abbreviate) \_\_\_\_\_  
Check one \_\_\_\_\_ Early Childhood \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary \_\_\_\_\_ Council \_\_\_\_\_  
PTA President \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
**Historian Book submitted by:**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

All PTA units are encouraged to take part in the Historian Book evaluation, which occurs at the Area 14 Annual Meeting. The Historian Book should be a record of the activities and achievements of your PTA unit. The cover should be of a durable material. Official binders are available from Texas PTA but are not required.

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** To receive the highest award for your unit, please read the requirements carefully and follow Them exactly. To avoid confusion use **only** this official form.

## The first pages must contain the following information:

1. A completed copy of this form in a plastic sleeve should be the first thing in the book for evaluation purposes. (Please do not glue down; we grade on this sheet and need to take it out.)
2. Blank page. (Certificate will be placed here after evaluation.)
3. Cover sheet with name of PTA, School, Council, Area 14 and school year covered in book.
4. Index or Table of Contents.
5. Picture of school or meeting place.
6. A page containing the following information: (\*ECPTA and Councils are excluded)
  - a. Number of students\*
  - b. Number of teachers\*
  - c. The Principal\*
  - d. Number of PTA members (Councils use number of local units)
7. List of Officers and Chairmen.
8. List of meeting dates.
9. Annual Budget.
10. Copy of bylaws. (In addition to those that might be in Yearbook/Directory, must be a hard copy not a disk.)
11. Copy of printed Historian's Yearly Report

Questions?  
Sharon Wainscott  
3101 Sheridan Dr.  
Garland, TX 75041  
972-278-3753  
s.wainscott@verizon.net

**\*\*TIPS\*\*** Include **ONLY PTA** related pages in your book. **DO NOT** include the minutes of the Executive Board meetings. **HAVE FUN!! BE CREATIVE!!**

## In addition to the (11) required items, your book should include as many of the following items as possible.

1. Copy of Directory/Yearbook.
2. Copies of newsletters and other publicity.
3. Accounts of special projects and unit sponsored activities.
4. Awards presented to your PTA unit. (i.e. membership, etc)
5. Information from meetings, programs, parent education courses, etc.
6. Information from all Area, State and National meetings attended. (I.e. name badges, handouts, etc.)

## Certificates will be awarded for:

Highest Honor	all 11 required items plus 3 or more suggested items
Honor	all 11 required items
Honorable Mention	6 to 9 required items
Participant	5 or less required items

**\*\*\*Special Award:\*\*\***

**"Best of Area 14"**

**All 11 required items plus artistic quality**

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** On judging day, please have someone responsible for book drop-off and pick up to ensure your unit's book is safely returned to you. Books must be signed in and out.