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Meet Your Board!!

Palm Beach County
Council PTA/PTSA
2009-2011

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School District ESE Representative



Palm Beach County Council PTA/PTSA

Presidents Message

Welcome Back! I know everyone had a very busy summer, but I hope you had an opportunity to get some rest and are ready to have a great PTA year. Below is a list of tools to help you start the year off right:

Kit of Materials – this is material published by the Florida PTA. If you did not receive your kit, contact the state office and request one.

Official PTA Kit – This is the PTA’s Big Box of Possibilities. If you did not receive your box, go to the national PTA website and order it today. The link is www.pta.org/ptakit_register/.

Back to School Kit – www.SchoolYearsEve.com has downloadable coupons, resources, recipes, invitations, decorations, activities, and more for a back to school bash. You can also learn ways your PTA could win \$1,500.00.

County Council Training – Sign up to attend our FREE training in September. This year you will have 3 different opportunities to attend training classes. Please review the schedule and plan on sending 2-3 board members per night to get the most information for your PTA/PTSA. RSVP to Mindy Haas @ 561-487-4191 and leave a message (name of PTA and how many will attend). Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor who is interested in having a PTA at their school.

Local units Documents – Review your bylaws to insure they are up to date, have a budget that includes line items for attending conferences and paying dues, and your Policy & Procedures and Standing Rules are updated to meet your units needs, and you have sent in your County Council Membership form (www.palmbeachcountyppta.com/Links.html). If you need help with any of these documents, please let us know. We are happy to assist you.

We look forward to helping you all have a very successful year, but we need your input. Please let us know what events, activities or resources you would like to see available from the council.

Kay

Kay M. Stagray

President

Palm Beach County Council of PTA/PTSA

"PTA...Empowering Families!"



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Leadership Training

By Mindy Haas, Vice President of Leadership & Immediate Past President

Attention All Local PTA/PTSA Board Members

Do you feel your board is successful in the way they handle finances, parents, programs and principals?

No matter what your answer is, the Palm Beach County Council of PTA/PTSA will be hosting a Seminar Series of classes for everyone on your board – officers, committee chairpersons & committee members. We are looking to build PTA leaders and help increase your memberships. If you know of someone interested in starting a PTA or PTSA at their school, feel free to invite them to attend as well.

There will be a Mandatory Presidents class that will be given three (3) times over three (3) weeks and it is expected of all Presidents to come to one (1) of them. The other classes are open to all board members and hope you will take full advantage of this training. It is designed for your convenience so you can gather as many to attend informative classes each week.

The Leadership Seminar Series will be held at the Safe School Institute on the Don Estridge Middle School campus in Boca Raton

The dates and times are as follows:

Thursday, Sept 10th 6:30-9:30pm

Tuesday, Sept 15th 6:30-9:30pm

Wednesday, Sept 23rd 6:30-9:30 pm



We will be putting out a schedule soon, so look for more information as there will be six (6) classes given each night. Three (3) classes in each time frame for you to choose from. Please take advantage of this opportunity, and help your PTA become the best it could be.

By Law Update by Jen Martinez, President Elect



Welcome Back Everyone! We hope you had a great summer and are ready to begin another successful school year. We are always here to help you!

Let me start by introducing myself; I am Jen Martinez your County Council President Elect. This year there will be a strong focus on Bylaws and having all PTA/PTSA's current and up to date. Bylaws are to be renewed every 3 years even if no changes are made.

Current Bylaws are necessary to keep your 501(c)3 status. Following bylaws are Policy and Procedures (P & P) and Standing Rules. These are items that the PTA/PTSA board can approve and help your day to day business needs. Look for letters and updates coming to your school. If you have any questions or concerns about your bylaws, P & P or standing rules please do not hesitate to ask. You can call me at: 561-254-9513 or email me at palmbeachcountyppta@yahoo.com
Thank you and I look forward to working with all of you!

When was the last
time your units by-
laws were
renewed????



Why join PTA????

By Wendy Corso Ruud, Recording Secretary

Why Join the PTA?

What is PTA? Why join PTA? The number one reason to join the **Parent Teacher Association** is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help your school. But there are many more PTA advantages:

- **Get Connected.** There's no better way to know what's happening in your school.
- **Discover Great Resources.** The PTA offers a variety of programs designed for parents as well as students.
- **Tap into a Network.** PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, building rapport and discussing issues that are on your mind. You can share ideas, concerns, and experiences.
- **Watch Yourself Grow.** By volunteering with your PTA, you put your skills and hobbies to use for a noble cause—your child and all children in the community.
- **Speak Up.** PTA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change at your child's school.
- **Witness Improvement.** By getting involved at your child's school you'll be part of the solution, helping make positive changes. Local PTAs play an important role by encouraging parental involvement and providing student and parental programs/social events.
- **Be a Role Model.** By becoming a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.
- **Enjoy Substantial Benefits.** Individuals and local units can take advantage of a host of benefits from PTA membership including discounts and offers from [member benefits providers](#) and sponsors, magazine subscriptions, leadership training, e-newsletters and much more.



For less than 3 cents a day, you can become a PTA member, joining more than 5 million other people who share your interest in issues affecting children. Everyone—parents, educators, students and other citizens active in their schools and communities—is invited to join our not-for-profit parent association.

Greetings Palm Beach County PTA's

REMINDER: Please return completed membership form for County Council PTA and dues in the amount of \$50.00. (The membership form can be found online at [Www.palmbeachcountyppta.com](http://www.palmbeachcountyppta.com))

NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Please feel free to contact me with questions about membership and ways to increase members at your school!



IDEAS: We are looking for innovative ways to increase membership in a turbulent economy. Please email your best practices at canrojas@comcast.net so that we can share in upcoming newsletter



Newsletter Updates

You may have noticed that our newsletter is different than the last one you had gotten. Each month, we will be publishing a newsletter with pertinent information for the local units of Palm Beach County. This information will be brought to you by different board members of the Palm Beach County Council PTA/PTSA. In addition, we will have some "community columnists". These community columnists will be providing you with information about different things that may affect you, your children, your school, and/or your community. When we publish our newsletter each month, the "hard copy" that will be distributed will be a synopsis of our newsletter. The complete newsletter will be posted on our website. In addition, we will have a biography of each of the community columnists for your reference. If you have any comments/questions/suggestions about the newsletter, please email them to us at palmbeachcountyppta@yahoo.com



A Message from Karen Holme, School District—ESE Representative

Hi, I'm Karen Holme, the chairperson for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) on the Palm Beach County Council PTA Board. I would like our PTA parents to know that I will be providing information throughout the year pertaining to the education of Exceptional Students. I will provide new information as I receive it, since laws and policies change from time to time and also provide general ESE information that I hope you will find helpful in advocating for your child(ren).

My first announcement is that the Florida Department of Education is closing their clearinghouse of publications. The clearinghouse is a resource of books, manuals, reports, brochures, literally hundreds of items relating to special education. If you need information regarding special education, be sure to contact the clearinghouse immediately for the items you need. Hundreds of items are free or at-cost. If you miss obtaining the items you want, the Department will now be providing all of their publications electronically on their website. You may view them online or print them if you wish. Go to <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/clerhome.asp>.



Please contact me for any questions you have. I am here to help advocate for our special kids. mamaholme@aol.com.



Karen Holme

Introduction to John C. Sherman,
Program Director Children's Home Society
Safe Place/Street Outreach Program Director

When asked to contribute to the newsletter I felt an equal mix of gratitude and dilemma. In the social services field with so many different disciplines and approaches to today's family issues, where do you even begin? Allow me to introduce myself. My name is John C. Sherman and my bio is at the end of this article. My passions are education and mentoring. I am a parent and youth educator, specifically troubled youth and the parents that raise them.

Over the coming months I would like you to join me in a frank discussion about the challenges we face raising and educating children in the 21st century. My goal is to present these challenges in a down to earth way and to provide practical solutions whenever possible. Most of us are aware of the issues it is what to do about them that trouble us. We have done an excellent job of presenting the morbid statistics and defining the problems to the point of near hopelessness.



I was reminded of this after speaking at a prestigious Rotary meeting a couple of years ago. A leader in the community approached me afterwards and asked me, how do you do it? I asked him what he meant. He said John, in the light of the grim statistics, how do I get through the day? I told him what I tell everyone, one child one parent at a time. It is my hope that I can inspire you to persevere in difficult times.

Now here is where I need your help. I want you to share topics of interest with me. They can be anything in the social services arena from bullying to teenage drug and alcohol abuse. I do not profess to be an expert in all areas. I do have access to many talented experts in the industry. Please send your topics to john.sherman@chsfl.org. Next month I plan to discuss runaway prevention from a parent's perspective. Until then...

John C. Sherman
Street Outreach and Project Safe Place Coordinator,
Children's Home Society of FL,
West Palm Beach, FL

4 generations INSTITUTE

The Woodcutter....A Lesson for Our Times

I enjoy sharing parables to give my network allies a good lesson in life skills. Here's a good one, originally sourced from Stephen Covey's Seven Habits for Highly Effective People.

In times past, there was this one very strong woodcutter. He asked for a job from a timber merchant, and was hired.

The pay was really good and the woodcutter was determined to do his best. His boss gave him a new ax and showed him the forest area where he was supposed to work.

The first day, the woodcutter brought down 18 trees.

The boss was very much impressed and said, "Congratulations! Keep up the great work!"

Very motivated by the encouraging words, the woodcutter tried harder the next day, but he only could bring down 16 trees.

The third day he tried even harder, but he only could bring down 12 trees.

Day after day he was bringing down fewer and fewer trees. "I must be losing my strength," the woodcutter thought to himself.

He went to the boss and apologized, saying that he could not understand what was going on.

"When was the last time you sharpened your ax?" the boss asked.

He was taken aback. He hadn't thought to sharpen his ax. He was much too busy trying to cut trees.

The moral of the Woodcutter Story:

Our lives are like that. We sometimes get so busy that we don't take time to sharpen the ax.

In today's world, it seems that everyone is busier than ever, but perhaps less productive than we can be, and perhaps even less happy.

Why is that?

Could it be that we have forgotten how to stay sharp?

There is nothing wrong with activity and hard work.

But we should not get so busy that we neglect the truly important things in life, like our personal, family and spiritual life, taking time to care for others, to read for enjoyment, exercise, relax, to think and meditate, to learn and grow.

To hone our professional and volunteer skills, to replenish our well of inspiration by seeking out opportunities to gain new insights, reach new levels of achievement, and gather others to our cause with more success.

If we don't take time to sharpen the ax, we will become dull and lose our effectiveness.

So consider starting today, with this message. Think about the ways by which you can be more effective and add value to everything you do.

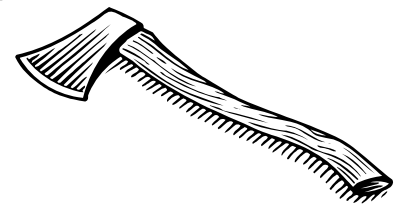
May you stay sharp and find fulfillment always.

"To handle yourself, use your head. To handle others, use your heart."

Jack Levine, Founder

4Generations Institute

jack@4gen.org



**Palm Beach County
Council PTA/PTSA**

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Empowering Families



TO:

