

February 2009

MCCPTA Membership Committee Report

April Keyes, Chair

The Membership Committee met on January 7, 2008. We had seven committee chairs in attendance. We discussed the success of our Membership Drive this school year. One of the concerns raised was the economy and how this has made a difference in attracting new members.

We also discussed ways that members promoted new membership at their local PTAs. Some of the members did family memberships and others provided ways for members to pay dues in installments.

It was suggested that Maryland PTA needs to create a theme statewide for membership and market it throughout the state of Maryland. It was also stated that it would be very helpful for MCCPTA to add the link to the Maryland PTA Membership booklet to their website.

The **Value of PTA** handout that was provided in our Membership packets from the state should be edited to represent the locals in Montgomery County. We will work with MCCPTA to prepare this form for our locals.

Our final discussion was on diversity in our PTAs and we talked about incidents where some of our membership chairs felt out of place when they attended a PTA meeting. They suggested that even though you may not speak the language of the new member please go up to them make them feel welcome at your meetings. If you have a large population of diverse members you should think about having a translator at your meeting.

We are planning on inviting a membership representative from the National PTA to our next quarterly meeting. We will announce the date in the coming weeks.

From MDPTA- Membership Cards

Your unit has been issued membership cards based on last year's membership. MDPTA has increased your total by 5 and rounded off to the nearest sheet of ten.

Important information:

One membership card per member. No two names on a card.

One card one vote

Membership is required to participate in the business of your PTA. Non members are not allowed to vote or take part in the business of PTA.

Membership on one local PTA does not constitute privileges in any other local PTA.

All members of your board of directors must be PTA members, see bylaws.

A current Membership card is required to attend National and Maryland PTA conventions and participation in the business of the organization.

All damaged or invalid cards must be returned to the Maryland PTA office. They can be mailed in with the monthly statement.

Unsold membership cards must be returned to the Maryland PTA by the end of the school year.

Each local unit determines the dues for their unit. They must, however, remit \$3.25 to Maryland PTA for each member that joins their local PTA.

Maryland PTA remits \$1.75 to National PTA and retains \$1.50 in Maryland.

Maryland PTA cannot issue a refund for membership overpayment

The Membership Committee chair is charged with an important and rewarding responsibility. The opportunities for involvement that PTA membership provides are of great importance. Research has shown that academic achievement among students is higher in schools with active PTAs than in schools without these associations. When parents and school staff interact positively and regularly, their enthusiasm and interest is transmitted to students.

2008-2009 Membership Awards -PTA and PTSA Good Standing Certificates

All PTA/PTSAs in good standing as of March 31, 2008 will receive a Certificate of Good Standing.

5% Growth over Last Year-All PTA/PTSA's in good standing with a 5 percent growth in their membership over last years numbers will receive a certificate.

15% Growth over Last Year

All PTA/PTSA's in good standing with a 15 percent growth in their membership over last years numbers will receive a plaque.

25% Growth over Last Year

All PTA/PTSA's in good standing with a 25 percent growth in their membership over last years numbers will receive a plaque and a PTA/PTSA school banner.

All membership is calculated from July 2, 2008 through March 31, 2009. Growth will be determined based on the membership reported by March 31, 2008.

Maryland PTA Membership Awards will be given out during the Reflections/Membership Recognition Program in April/May 2009.

MCCPTA Dues and Delegates Cards- It is important that local PTAs pay their MCCPTA dues too. Your dues are MCCPTA's operating money to keep our office up and running in support of local PTA needs, as well as going toward the cost of printing the Blue Books, as just one example. Your MCCPTA dues, **(\$1.00 per member)** all go directly back into MCCPTA to help continue committee work, office/phone support, copying and more. MCCPTA does not make a profit off its members.

Every voting Delegate should bring their voting card to meetings they attend in order to participate in discussions and vote on any organizational positions related to MCCPTA. Delegates are reminded that when your school PTA votes to take a position on a particular issue, you have an obligation to bring that position forward.

Two things to note:

1. Delegates are chosen to represent the views of their local PTA.
2. Delegates represent the position of the local PTA membership at Delegate Assemblies. The Delegates Guidebook is available on the MCCPTA website:

<http://www.mccpta.com/DelegatesHandbook.pdf>