

District 37 Dialogue

National Congress of Parents and Teachers
Illinois PTA – District 37 Publication – Fall: 2009

Nicole Fentem, Director

Michele Sheppard, Editor

From Our Director

Thank you to everyone who attended the District 37 Annual Meeting that was held on October 19th. It was an evening full of celebration while we honored the units that reached their membership goal set for last year and the Local Unit Honor Award winners. Debra Strauss, Illinois PTA President, led us in inspiration while reminding us of Illinois PTA issues and goals of the past and how we can forge together on the new issues that have arrived. On display, were the masterpieces our children of District 37 created for the Reflections theme “WOW” last year. The evening also involved the election of the District 37 Nominating Committee. National PTA President, Chuck Saylor had a conversation with us regarding Parent Engagement and the overall goals of PTA and how we can come together to make a phenomenal difference on the lives of all children and their education. Have you had any of these conversations with your local unit yet?

Congratulations to the many award recipients. Awards were given to the 2008-09 2 + 2 Membership Increase Winners. This year’s challenge is the “3 for Free” program. If you are not familiar with this program yet, please check it out at www.ilpta-d37.org. Kudos to the two Outstanding Local Honor Units, Eisenhower PTA in Hoffman Estates and Lincoln PTA in Palatine as well as those who received Local Unit Honor Awards. Keep up the great work!

As the weather turns colder and the holidays quickly approach, it is a good time to evaluate how your PTA is doing. Have you met your goals for membership? Are you developing leaders? Have you involved the parent community in the activities of your PTA? Are you on track to achieve the goals of your PTA? Take a moment to think about what

your PTA is doing. The PTAs in District 37 host wonderful programs and activities that couldn’t be accomplished without planning and hard work. Thank you for all the work that you do for the children!

Who will be leading the local unit next year? Who will be the leaders of your Council PTA? Now is the time for everyone to be forming a Nominating Committee to slate the officers for next year. District 37 will be hosting a Nominating Workshop on January 14th, hopefully your committee will be elected by then and we can help them with their process. For those that aren’t yet elected, we can help you and your unit to educate the potential committee of their duties and procedure. Please plan on having representatives from your unit represented at this workshop. Responses should be sent to our Leadership Chair, Tom Goodrich at tgoodrich@ync.net.

Lastly, the Illinois PTA 108th Annual Convention will be held on March 12-14, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel and Conference Center in Naperville, IL. Friday will feature a vendor exhibits and the dinner event. There will be leadership-training opportunities at various times through the weekend. Saturday morning will be our District 37 Caucus, please plan on joining us bright and early getting a great head start on your day. This is a great opportunity to learn from and network with other and PTAs throughout the state. Convention is an appropriate use of PTA funds. Please plan to attend and have your PTA represented. Watch the Illinois PTA website (www.illinoispta.org) for updated information.

Remember that the District 37 board and I are available to help at any time.

Nicole Fentem

TREASURER – Barb Quinn



TAKING STOCK OF YOUR BUDGET

The PTA mid-year point is rapidly approaching, and it is a good time to take a look at the adopted PTA budget to determine if you are on track or need to make some revisions. What percentage of fund-raising activities have been completed? Have those activities yielded the anticipated income listed in the budget? If you have exceeded anticipated results, are there any activities that you can either eliminate or make a "member benefit" --in other words FREE rather than at a cost. If you have signed contracts with vendors, should you review them to determine how those contracts will impact your projected revenue for the fiscal year?

The other side of the budget represents anticipated expenditures. Are those in line with the funds that you have taken in? If any activities have already been completed, did they come in at the levels you anticipated? Should you be looking at amending your budget? If so, please remember that this requires action by the membership not just the PTA Board.

Finally, by this time most of you should have filed any necessary documents required by the Internal Revenue Service. Remember, filing is required by the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of your fiscal year.

Questions? Concerns? Please feel free to contact the District 37 board for assistance.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 8, 2009 – Nominating Committee Workshop
7:00 pm. at Olive-Mary Stitt School, AH

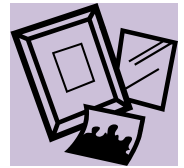
Jan. 14, 2010 – Nominating Committee Workshop
7:00 pm. at CCSD54 Board Room, SCH

March 2, 2010 – Illinois PTA Road to Success
9:30 am. at SD25 Admin. Bldg., AH

March 3, 2010 – Reflections Reception
7:00 pm. at Lincoln Prairie, SCH

HOSPITALITY – Terrie Poczatek

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY!



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Annual Meeting! A special thanks to Schaumburg Township Council for set-up and take down. It was a huge success as we only had 2 schools not represented. Give yourselves a pat on the back as we had 349 people in attendance. I hope everyone enjoyed the picture frame key chains.

SCHOLARSHIP – Jeanne Hamilton

The student application deadline for this year's Lillian E. Glover Scholarship is February 15, 2010. Applications should be in the guidance offices of our high schools. If you know a graduating senior who is planning on an education related career, please take the extra step to let them know of the wonderful scholarship opportunity that Illinois PTA has for them. This year two scholarships, one \$2500 and one \$1500, will be awarded to high school seniors residing in the Illinois PTA Northern Field Service area - which encompasses District 37.

As PTA members and PTA units, we can help fund this worthy Scholarship through memorial gifts and direct donations via the Illinois PTA office or by purchasing any of the following:

- Illinois PTA Life Memberships
- Book of Recognition
- Distinguished Service Scroll
- Certificate of Recognition
- Local Unit Educator of the Year
- Scholarship Gift Cards
- PTA Note Cards
- In Memoriam Cards
- Scholarship Charms/Jewelry
- Convention Promotional Items
- Gifts of T.H.A.N.K.S.

These awards are great ways to recognize the people in your community. The Illinois PTA yearbook gives more details on each of these awards. You may also find information regarding them and ordering information at www.illinoispta.org.

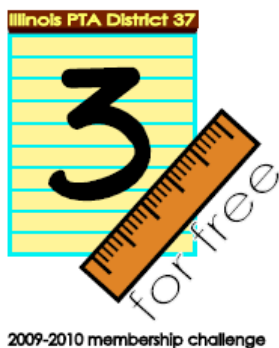
Especially with money being tight for everyone these days, think about purchasing a gift that actually gives twice this year.

MEMBERSHIP – Liz Chlopowicz

Since members equal voices for all children and families engaged in ensuring every child's future, it is a pleasure to congratulate the following 2008-09 "2+2 Membership Challenge" winners. These PTAs either increased their membership by 2 percent in 2007-08 and again in 2008-09 or increased their membership by 2 percent by December 31, 2008 and added an additional 2 percent by June 30, 2009.

CONGRATULATIONS to those who were honored at the District 37 Annual Meeting in October:

Winston Campus Elementary PTA
Westgate PTA
Thomas Middle School PTA
Tarkington PTA
South Middle School PTA
Pleasant Hill PTA
Muir PTA
Lions Park PTA
Link PTA
Lincoln Junior High PTA
The Learning Academy PTA
Ivy Hill PTA
Hoover PTA
Hanover Highlands PTA
Greenbrier PTA
Fox PTA
Einstein PTA
Eisenhower Junior High PTA
Dryden PTA
Campanelli PTA
Blackwell PTA
Arlington Heights Council of PTAs
Aldrin PTA



Remember this year, District 37 is taking that challenge up a notch with the Three for Free Campaign. The three PTA units with the largest percentage of membership growth by December 31, 2009, will each receive one free delegate registration to the 2010 Illinois PTA

convention to be held March 12 to 14 at the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville, IL.

Remember that Membership is a YEAR ROUND job. Keep informing families about the great things your PTA does and asking them to join!



The Illinois PTA Fall Packets were mailed in October. If you are the President of record, did you receive yours? Did you read it and share the important material with the appropriate chairman?

ILLINOIS PTA AWARD DEADLINES

With Illinois PTA Convention taking place in March, all applications for awards will be due in February. To simplify things as much as possible the magic deadline date is the same for all applications, with a few exceptions, of course. What is the magic date?

FEBRUARY 20, 2010

If you haven't already begun working on your applications and events, there's no time like the present!

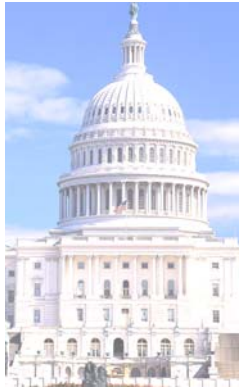
The following award applications must be postmarked no later than February 20, 2010:

- Council Membership Increase Award
- Environmental Concerns Award
- Membership Awards
- PTA Founders 50 Award
- Keeping Our Kids Healthy Award
- Juvenile Protection & Safety Award
- Newsletter Award

Each of these applications can be found on the 2009 Fall Packet CD that each unit received recently in the mail. The applications are also available for download online at: www.illinoispta.org under the About Illinois PTA tab in the InFORMATION section.

Be sure to fill out each application completely and then mail it to the address listed on the application.

LEGISLATION – Paula Saban



You may be tempted to think nothing is going on in Washington other than debate over the recently introduced the Affordable Health Care for America Act (H.R. 3962). While many actions have been delayed due to focus on healthcare, other initiatives are on the table at both the federal and state level. For example,

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the priorities for the \$650 million Investing in Innovation Fund. These funds, which are actually part of the investment in school reform which was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will be used to start or expand innovative programs that help close the achievement gaps in our schools. The grant recipients (which can be school districts, groups of schools, nonprofits partnering with a district or group of schools) will be selected-based on their application's approach to the four areas the Administration has identified as priorities: recruiting and retaining effective teachers and leaders; using data systems to support instruction; implementing high-quality standards and assessments; and turning around persistently low-performing schools. These priorities will be implemented at the early childhood education level, students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, college access and success, and rural districts.

While the national PTA's public policy priorities are certainly delayed due to the debate over healthcare reform, the Child Nutrition Act which was scheduled to expire on 9/30/09 was extended for another year and was allotted nearly \$150 million in additional funding for programs under the Child Nutrition Act. Continued focus on healthy eating and nutrition is expected.

On the Illinois state level, HB174 has been amended by the Senate and now contains language that the Illinois PTA supports to provide long-term, sustainable funding amidst a time of financial challenges to school districts. Among the highlights are an increase of 5% for both individual and

corporate tax rates; increase in the individual standard exemption; increase in the property tax exemption for homeowners; increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income working families and an expansion of the sales tax base to include 39 consumer services.

One final note: the February 2 primary election here in Illinois offers a great opportunity for PTA districts and/or local units to host a candidates' forum. While the PTA does NOT endorse specific candidates, we are known for helping our members and the general public to become educated about candidates. If you would like more information about hosting a candidates' forum, please contact me.

LEGISLATION NEWS FLASH!

Source: Schaumburg Police Department, Crime Prevention Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 4, November/December, 2009

ILLINOIS DRIVERS NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING LAWS RECENTLY PASSED BY THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

HB 71 (Rep. D'Amico)

Vehicle Code – Electronic Communication Devices

This law, now Public Act 96 – 0130 effective January 1, 2010, provides that a person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device to compose, send, or read an electronic message with certain exceptions.

HB 72 (Rep. D'Amico)

Vehicle Code – No Phone in School Zone

This law which is now Public Act 96 – 031 effective January 1, 2010 provides that a person regardless of age may not use a wireless telephone in a school speed zone or on a highway in a construction (maintenance) speed zone with certain exemptions.

To read the full context of these acts, check out the Illinois General Assembly website at: www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts.

ILLINOIS PTA DISTRICT 37

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The evening began with a performance by the Hoffman Estates High School Madrigals Singers.



Reflections Projects from 2009 were available for viewing prior to and during the meeting.



Cadet Girl Scout Troop #42292 from Fairview School in Hoffman Estates presented the colors and led us in the Pledge of Alliance to begin the Annual Meeting.



National PTA President Chuck Saylor and Illinois PTA President Debra Strauss posed with District Director Nicole Fentem. President Strauss provided the inspiration for the evening. President Saylor was the keynote speaker. Thank you!

The Evening concluded with the presentation of the Local Unit Honor Awards. Congratulations to all!

Outstanding Local Unit Honor Awards were presented to:

Eisenhower PTA
Lincoln PTA in Palatine

Honor Unit Awards were presented to:

Aldrin PTA
Fairview PTA in Hoffman Estates
Hunting Ridge PTA
Nathan Hale PTA
Dryden PTA
Windsor PTA
Patton PTA

Honorable Mention Awards were presented to:

Armstrong PTA
Marion Jordan PTA
Sandburg PTSA
Olive-Mary Stitt PTA
Thomas Middle School PTA
Keller PTA
Frost PTA
Link PTA
Mead PTA
Lake Louise PTA
South Middle School PTA



REFLECTIONS – Joan Scovic

2009–2010 Theme:
"Beauty is..."



Learn more at
PTAreflections.org

As an arts enrichment program that takes place outside of the school environment, the Reflections Program has been fostering artistic creativity in children across the United States for 40 years. PTA's Reflections Program helps parents encourage the creativity and continuous self-discovery process of their children. Supporting the Reflections Program is one way parents can support the arts in their homes, schools, and communities.

Congratulations to all of the students who decided to Start The Art this year with the Reflections Program! Students throughout District 37 have been busy creating music, paintings, literature, photographs, dance pieces, and movies. All of these artistic outlets are helping our children become more creative and more aware of the beauty that can be found all around them.

Please mark your calendars with the following Reflections Dates:

- November 20: Local Unit Projects due to Northwest Suburban Council and Schaumburg Township Council (Arlington Heights projects were due in October).
- November 30 Schaumburg Council Reflections Reception at Keller Junior High in Schaumburg. Begins at 7 pm.
- December 14: Council projects and non-council local unit projects due to District 37 chairperson. Portfolios can be dropped off at Joan Scovic's home: 1538 E. Alison Drive in Palatine. Please call ahead to make an appointment to drop off your portfolio.

February 22: Northwest Suburban Council Reflections Reception at Carl Sandburg Junior High in Rolling Meadows. Begins at 6 pm.

March 3: District 37 Reflections Reception at Lincoln Prairie School in Schaumburg. Begins at 7 pm.

March 10 Arlington Heights Council Arts Festival at Thomas Middle School in Arlington Heights. Begins at 6 pm.

NEWSLETTER – Michele Sheppard



One of the criteria for an award winning newsletter is to include information from National PTA and Illinois PTA. Articles can be reproduced as long as the source is cited. The following

is a great resource for articles from National PTA.

Source: www.pta.org

PTA E-Newsletters

PTA's free e-newsletters provide a quick, easy way to get the latest information on important topics for all parents, educators, and child advocates:

- **Parenting**—The PTA Parent provides concise information twice a month on topics such as parent involvement, student success, child safety, and health and wellness. Information comes from PTA's vast pool of parent resources as well as from other online resources for parents.
- **Federal policy**—The monthly PTA Takes Action Update offers the latest news on legislative issues affecting families, children, education, schools, and communities. It also provides resources for readers to get involved in advocating for children's issues. Subscribers also receive Action Alerts with breaking news and calls to action.
- **Local PTA leader resources**—The twice-monthly Local Leader News gives PTA local leaders information on PTA programs and resources and offers ideas for improving their leadership and unit management skills.

To subscribe or to read archived editions of any of these newsletters, go to www.PTA.org/2000.htm.

TECHNOLOGY – Brent Fentem

Source: www.common sense media.org

Rules of the Road for Parents in a Digital Age

By Liz Perle

November 4, 2009



Even if you're clueless, you're still your kid's teacher.

Our kids learn from us -- not from what we say, but from what we do. And good, safe online behavior begins at home. Even if we're somewhat clueless about our kids' online and mobile lives, it turns out that there are 10 simple rules we can follow to get great results.

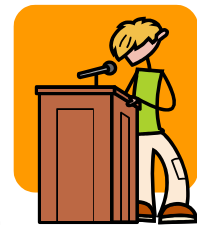
Common Sense Rules of the Road for Parents

1. **Model good behavior.** If we're on our Blackberries or iPhones at dinner, why will our kids listen to us when we tell them to turn theirs off?
2. **Pay attention.** We have to know where our kids are going online -- and what they're doing there.
3. **Impart our values.** Cheating, lying, being cruel - - they're all non-starters. Right and wrong extends to online and mobile life.
4. **Establish limits.** Phone time, video download time, destinations. There's really a right time and place for everything.
5. **Encourage balance.** Get kids involved in offline activities -- especially where there's no cell service.
6. **Make kids accountable.** If they have a privilege, make sure they earn it.
7. **Explain what's at stake.** Let kids know that what they do today can be abused by someone tomorrow.
8. **Find ways to say "yes."** That means we have to do some homework and know the sites they visit, the songs they download, etc. -- and find ways to use technology that lets us say "yes" more often than we say "no."
9. **Don't be technophobic.** It's not rocket science.

10. **Lighten up, embrace their world, and enjoy the possibilities together.** None of us want digital divides in our relationships with our kids. It's up to us to join the fun and help them seize the potential.

LEADERSHIP – Tom Goodrich

Back in my younger days, I joined the Schaumburg Jaycees (a coed young adult organization (18 – 40) that teaches leadership training through community service) and immediately was convinced to be on the board as a local director. At my first board meeting our president stressed we adopt a “no negatives” policy at our board meetings. I left the meeting thinking how do you do that? How can you discuss issues or problems without it seeming negative? So I had to ask. His response was very interesting and made a lot of sense. He stated that issues and problems need to be viewed as opportunities to grow and do better next time. Negative thoughts and dialog tend to bring down the entire group and are cumulative. We followed this policy throughout the year and the results were amazing. The positive energy made our board and chapter stronger and our accomplishments were astonishing. Since then, I try to lead that same way.



Has your PTA gone on a negative streak? As leaders we need to focus on the issue. We need to find a silver lining to that dark cloud. Positive thinking leads to stronger motivation, which leads to hard work, which leads to success, which leads to more motivation. The result is productive PTA unit.

We continue to offer PTA training. On January 14th, we will be conducting a Nominating Workshop. The main purpose of this workshop is to explain the role of the nominating committee and how to function as a successful nominating committee. We will be adding training courses throughout the year. Do you have special training your PTA could use? Drop me an email and we can make it reality.

HEALTH & SAFETY– Linda Millar

Health & Safety

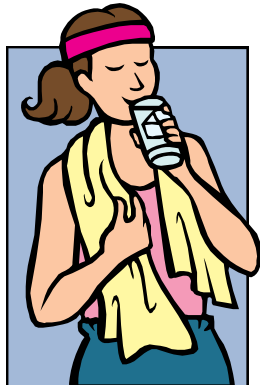
More than just blood drives

Childhood obesity and juvenile diabetes are two of the most serious health problems facing our children today. This school year, consider ways that your PTA can begin to address these issues. Does your PTA have an active Health & Safety Committee? Does your Health & Safety Committee do more than just sponsor blood drives?

One of National PTAs recommendations is "to promote overall healthy habits for healthy lifestyles." Your PTA has a unique opportunity to ensure that children have access to healthy food and sufficient physical activity during all PTA sponsored events, including classroom parties. Encourage healthy lifestyles in your school and educate your parents on how beneficial healthy lifestyles are for our children and us.

When your PTA plans activities for the up coming year, keep the focus on children's wellbeing and safety. Ask your PTA:

- ☺ Are we planning enough physical activities for our children?
- ☺ Are we serving healthy snacks at PTA events?
- ☺ Are our PTA classroom parties focused on games and activities and not food?
- ☺ Are we providing our membership with educational opportunities that involve children's health issues?
- ☺ Are we getting our parents involved in these opportunities?



Students achieve when families and teachers partner through PTA to ensure children are safe and healthy. Your PTA can lead the way to positive change in your school and community.

SECRETARY – Michele Sheppard

The primary responsibility of the secretary is to accurately record the business of the association. If



questions arise on how an item should be handled, refer to

Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised as specified in your bylaws. Unfortunately, reading this book can sometimes be more confusing then the original issue. However, Roberts Rule of Order has a website with FAQ's and a Question and Answer Forum. If in doubt, check it out.

The following is an excerpt from the website, <http://www.robertsrules.com/faq.html#16>.

Question #16

If minutes of a previous meeting are corrected, are the corrections entered in the minutes of the meeting at which the corrections were made?

Answer:

If corrections to minutes are made at the time when those minutes are originally submitted for approval, such corrections are made in the text of the minutes being approved. The minutes of the meeting at which the corrections are made should merely indicate that the minutes were approved "as corrected."

If it becomes necessary to correct minutes after they have initially been approved, such correction can be made by means of the motion to *Amend Something Previously Adopted*. In this event, since the motion to *Amend Something Previously Adopted* is a main motion, the exact wording of that motion, whether adopted or rejected, should be entered in the minutes of the meeting at which it was considered. [[RONR](#) (10th ed.), p. 452, l. 12-15; p. 458, l. 10-16; see also p.151 of [RONR In Brief](#).]

**Ensuring Every Child's Future
by
Engaging Every Child's Family**

Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs

Promoting Parent Participation

The year, the Schaumburg Township Council is focusing on increasing parent involvement throughout all 27 of our local units and schools. We started by educating the local units about National PTA's **Three for Me** program. PTAs were encouraged to start the new school year off by highlighting opportunities for parents to get involved with their children's education.



At our first general meeting of the year, we hosted Dr. Sonya Whitaker, Director of Academic Improvement in Schaumburg School District 54, for the parent conversation - *Ensuring your Student's Success*. Dr. Whitaker talked about the vital link between academic achievement and parent participation. She discussed the 5 questions parents need to ask when engaging in critical conversations with their student's teachers. Those are:

- What is my child expected to know and do?
- How will you know if my child has reached the goals that have been set?
- What types of assessments are being used to assess my child's knowledge?
- What happens in the event that my child is not experiencing academic gains?

- What can I do specifically to assist my child academically?

Those questions and more information about Dr. Whitaker's presentation were shared with School District 54's parents and staff in a broad reaching way through the first of a new STC initiative, *Parent Pages*. *Parent Pages* is a monthly, electronic bulletin to give parents ideas about how to connect with their student's education.

STC also maintains a Parent Enrichment Library from which all parents are welcome to check books out. There is information on a variety of topics from Autism to Raising Strong Daughters. Right now I'm reading *A Parent's Guide to School Projects* and *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*.

We're hoping that by providing a number of resources and programs throughout this year, we will persuade parents to find a way to take an even more meaningful role in their child's education.

Mary Kay Prusnick
STC President

Northwest Suburban Council of PTAs

The Northwest Suburban Council is holding 4 workshops for 7th and 8th grade boys and girls and their parents. These workshops are being conducted by a local organization and will teach tools for coaching adolescents towards healthy sexuality and relationships. Topics will include brain development, peer pressure, goal setting, media influence, pregnancy and STDs/STIs. The workshop will be followed by a question and answer session.

Lynn Topp
NWSC President



DISTRICT 37 COUNCIL CORNER

Continued

Arlington Heights Council of PTAs

Greetings from the Arlington Heights Council of PTAs we have been busy planning our Fifth Annual Gala along with the ABC25 Foundation. The Gala will take place in March 2010. The Gala raises monies for large school grants, teacher grants and also college scholarships for approximately fifteen graduates of District 25 schools.

We have also started planning our Annual Scholarship luncheon which will be in May 2010. This is a wonderful event where we award those high school seniors with scholarships which are funded by some of the proceeds of the Annual Gala. One big highlight of this special event, each award winner invites their favorite District 25 teacher and explains why this teacher had such important influence on this scholarship winner's education experience.

In December, we will be meeting with our Nominating Committees from all nine schools to help prepare them for their role in the nominating process for available Local Unit and Council positions for the 2010/2011 school year.

As 2009 comes to an end, we are grateful to all of our District 25 PTA presidents and all the hard work that they have done for our children, parents and District 25 schools this year. As in true spirit of PTA, these leaders have stepped up to all of the challenges asked of them this fall from opening day to H1N1 vaccination clinics to family fun events for all of our students.

*Sue Coops and Joyce Stenzel
AHC Co-presidents*

ILLINOIS PTA TAX EXEMPT LETTER

The new Illinois PTA Tax Exempt letter was included on the CD in the Fall Packet. Please make sure that your chairmen have a current letter. The old letter expires in January 2010.

DISTRICT 37 BOARD

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