

# Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of  
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 24, Issue 2

October 2008



## Presidents Corner...

Peggy Wood, Council President

Fall is fast approaching and we have left behind those lazy days of summer. Now begins the hustle and bustle of running the kiddos to this event, attending that meeting, and feeling somewhat overwhelmed. But it is also a time of formulating inspiring ideas, meeting new people, and getting involved for our students, parents and teachers,

PTA membership represents the most common form of involvement in our schools for most parents. Now is the time to capitalize on membership. It sounds like many units are off to a great start this year and I pray for this to be one of our biggest years for membership. Our Council goal for units is 100% or 10% over last year's members. Remember that Dr. Smith and I or Carla want to be members of each and every unit. Please bring membership cards to Council meetings for us to join.

A great way to learn more about PTA, exchange ideas and make new friends is by attending the Missouri PTA Convention this year on October 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> in Kansas City at the KCI Expo Center. Each unit should have received a convention packet. You can register on site for an additional cost. Information and registration forms are also available at [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org). Don't forget that there are sections of the state and national website that only members can access by using the two codes on the back of your membership card.

Please remember that units need to have their council dues paid by October 15<sup>th</sup> to be in good standing. Council dues can be sent to our Council Treasurer, Sheila Johnson at 3017 Mayfair Dr., St. Joseph, Missouri 64506.

Please join council the first Monday of every month for our St. Joseph PTA Council meeting at Hillyard Technical School. Remember that we changed times for our meetings from 7:00pm to 6:00pm. The October meeting is for PTA presidents and November will be for principals and presidents. These meetings are certainly NOT limited to those few people; everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings. Starting in October I want to take at least 15 minutes and hopefully a little more than that to just have a "gab session" so we can get to know one another and exchange ideas. I have had several presidents ask me if we can do this and I think it is an AWESOME idea. I hope to see all of you there.

Please remember that I will be glad to do any unit's audit that needs it done. All you need to do is contact me. Audits should be done before any funds go in or come out of your PTA this school year.

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## COUNCIL DUES ARE DUE BY OCTOBER 15, 2008

**In the amount of \$30.00 made payable to:  
St. Joseph PTA Council**

**Please remit payment to:  
Sheila Johnson  
3017 Mayfair Drive  
St. Joseph, MO 64506**

"Safety and happiness can only come from individuals, classes, and nations being honest and fair and kind to each other."

--The Case for Christianity—C.S. Lewis



## Council Clippings Article Assignments for November 2008

Articles are due October 10, 2008

<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Presidents Report</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Character &amp; Spiritual</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Regional Director article</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>State Convention Report</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Reflections</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Council Award</u>

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

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Finally, I know I don't say this enough but please hear me now, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU !!!!! Thank you for all you are doing to insure that your kiddos, all kiddos, achieve and that all schools succeed. Parent Involvement is the key to student achievement and school success. Thanks for believing!!!!

Your Council has some ideas for some really fun things for the kiddos this year. We will be sharing some of our ideas and we will want your thoughts in the next month or so. I really want to reach out to every student in our district and make sure they know we care about them in some way this year. I look forward to hearing from you. My cell number is 390-6948 or home phone is 364-4575 is you need anything. God Bless you all.

Peggy Wood

St. Joseph PTA Council President

### **Read a Book; Break a Guinness World Record™** Help Win \$1,000 Worth of Books for Your School

On October 2, 2008, join families, teachers, and community leaders nationwide in reading *Corduroy* as part of [Jumpstart's Read for the Record Campaign](#) to break the Guinness World Record™ for the largest shared reading experience and attract national and local media attention for early learning.

Local PTAs that [host an event](#) to help break the record are eligible to receive literature books valued at \$1,000 for their school library or media center, thanks to the collaboration of the PTA national organization and the Pearson Foundation in support of the campaign. The one PTA school in each state with the highest proportion of participation (based on the school's student population) will receive the book donation. Recipients will be announced in November or early December.

To find an event in your area, contact your local PTA or use [Jumpstart's event finder](#).

Be sure to register your participation through the special PTA sign-up form at [pearsonfoundation.org/pta](http://pearsonfoundation.org/pta).

Learn more at [Read for the Record](#) at PTA.org.

## **Why We Want Parent Involvement**

In today's society we talk about how important parent involvement is to our students, teachers and schools. In PTA we have even added the Parent Involvement office to our Council boards. Since I have taken on this office, I have been thinking about why this is so important to me, our students, teachers and schools and how we can make this happen.

### **A Good School and a Good Home Working Together**

The "why" is so easy yet often overlooked. Parent involvement means better and happier students. Better and happier students make better and happier teachers. Dorothy Rich, author of MegaSkills® says, "In this complex world, it takes more than a good school to educate children. And it takes more than a good home. It takes these two major educational institutions working together." We know this to be true. There are studies everywhere that show that this is how we make our schools better. The next question to tackle is how we can make this happen.

### **Make Schools Parent Friendly**

I would ask PTAs, Volunteer Coordinators and Principals to work together to make your schools parent friendly. Those of us who are involved already often just do not see how hard being involved might be for some parents. This does not mean they do not want to be involved. Parent involvement comes in many aspects which include: telephone and written home-school communications, attending school functions, parents serving as classroom volunteers, parent-teacher conferences, homework assistance/tutoring, home educational enrichment, and parent involvement in decision making and other aspects of school governance. Getting parents involved means letting them know of the many ways they can help.

### **"Three for Me Family Involvement Program"**

National PTA has the "Three for Me Family Involvement Program". This program encourages parents to give a minimum of three hours of their time to their student's school by making school functions a priority. It is sometimes as simple as getting calendars out to parents so they are aware of activities. You can send calendars home, keep your school's website up to date, put events on your school signs, and announce these events regularly. Let parents know that you want them involved.

### **Share Your Great Ideas**

Throughout the year, I hope to share some great ways to increase our parent involvement in the St. Joseph School District. If you have some ideas that you would like to share, please let me know at [nadiennej@hotmail.com](mailto:nadiennej@hotmail.com). I look forward to sharing ideas and making our schools the best they can be.

-Nadienne Hoffman  
Parent Involvement Coordinator  
St. Joseph PTA Council



# St. Joseph PTA Council Legislation Committee 2008-09 Program of Work

As the 2008-09 St. Joseph PTA Council Legislation Committee Chairperson, I plan to participate in the following activities for the year:

1. Attend St. Joseph PTA Council monthly meetings and present legislative information of importance.
2. Prepare articles for the St. Joseph PTA Council Clippings, as needed.
3. Attend political activities to hear and ask opinions of potential/current candidates and gain their opinions about education-related issues.
4. Register Buchanan County residents to vote, as a voter Registrar, as needed.
5. Call (preferably), email, or fax my state Senator and Representative or local officials as needed regarding issues concerning education or children. Call (preferably) or email my federal Senators and Representative as needed regarding issues concerning education or children. (Mail is still greatly detained due to national security issues; faxes are not read frequently as hundreds are sometimes received daily.)
6. Communicate important legislative alerts with PTA Council Board members when a local, state, or federal educational issue needs support via email, fax, or phone call.
7. Support St. Joseph School District issues that affect education such as a levy, bond, or other activity.
8. Actively seek to identify candidates at the local, state, and national levels who support public education.
9. Serve as a member of the Missouri PTA Legislative Network where I will respond to requests for action by Missouri PTA and encourage others to be a member of the Network.
10. Serve as a member of the National PTA Legislative Network where I will respond to requests for action by National PTA and encourage others to be a member of the Network.
11. Attend the monthly Legislative Forums, held January through April at Hillyard Technical Center, serving as a greeter or moderator as needed representing St. Joseph PTA Council.
12. Encourage individuals to be knowledgeable of candidates and to vote in elections.
13. Visit the Missouri Legislative Capitol in Jefferson City to meet with area Senators and Representatives regarding PTA issues in February 2009.
14. Bring local legislative issues to the attention of St. Joseph PTA Council members as needed.
15. Visit the offices of US Senators and our US Congress member and other Missouri Congress members in Washington, DC, on an annual basis and speak to important educational issues (March 2009).
16. Provide Legislative Committee guideline information sheets to be distributed at the St. Joseph PTA Council School of Information.
17. Thank state and federal Senators and Representatives with cards or letters at the state level and emails or phone calls of appreciation at the federal level.
18. Assist with other activities as assigned by the St. Joseph PTA Council President.

Sharon G. Kosek, Ed.D.  
Legislative Chair  
St. Joseph PTA Council

# St. Joseph PTA Council - Legislative Report



Every year we are in greater danger of losing federal and state funding for public education due to the increased, heavily funded legislators who are elected and who support vouchers/ tax credits/ special scholarships. It is tremendously important that we know where our candidates stand who are seeking office. Public education is the “great equalizer.” Without public education available to the masses, many of our children will not have nearly as many opportunities. **National and State PTA highly supports public education.** Please do not believe everything you hear on TV, read in the newspaper, or see in print. Often information is distorted, has a “spin” on it, or is just plain not the truth. Your vote very important: exercise your right to vote. For a list of National PTA guidelines see [http://www.pta.org/pta\\_votes.asp](http://www.pta.org/pta_votes.asp).

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## PTAs Can Not

- It is very important that PTA units do NOT invite only one candidate or political party in an election to come speak to the PTA.
- PTAs cannot tell PTA members to only vote for a candidate who supports “X” position.
- PTAs cannot distribute any campaign materials on behalf of a candidate.
- PTAs cannot wear campaign buttons or t-shirts during a PTA meeting.

## PTAs Can Get Involved by

- Educating candidates on issues important to PTA;
- Engaging in limited lobby, including work on ballot measures;
- Conduct nonpartisan public education and training sessions about participation in the political process; and
- Canvass the public on issues.

### US Sixth-District Representative (Projected as the #1 House of Representatives Race in the US)

Democrat  
(Former KC Mayor) Kay Barnes  
PO Box 14194  
Parkville, MO 64152  
816.587.5400  
Kay4Congress.com

Republican  
US Congressman Sam Graves  
1415 Longworth House Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202.225.8221  
mark.ratto@mail.house.gov (Mark Ratto – Education Assistant)

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## Barnes--Graves Debates

Kay Barnes and Sam Graves who are seeking the Sixth District US House seat will participate in a forum-style debate on Friday, **October 3**, at 7 a.m. at the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce - Chairman’s Breakfast to be held at the Ramada Inn. The cost is \$25 for Chamber members and \$45 for non members. Please call the Chamber at 816.232.4461 for your reservation.

Another Barnes-Graves debate is scheduled for Thursday, **October 16**, at 7 p.m. in the concert hall of the Leah Spratt building at Missouri Western State University. This debate is closed to the general public. The event is co-sponsored by the *St. Joseph News-Press*. It is hoped that the debate will be made available on the MWSU TV channel.

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### 28<sup>th</sup> District State Representative Race (Eastern Part of St. Joseph/Savannah and surrounding areas)

Democrat  
Mark Sheehan  
514 Tanglewood Drive  
St. Joseph, MO 64506  
816.279.8893  
[editmark@excite.com](mailto:editmark@excite.com)

Republican  
Rob Schaaf  
516 Pinewood Drive  
St. Joseph, MO 64506  
816.279.7917  
[rob@schaaf.com](mailto:rob@schaaf.com)

***Last Day to Register to Vote: October 8, 2008***

***Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2008***

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Plastic Cover, Shell, Pin Back=1 Component)

Send request to: Jena Kirschner  
10489 SE State Rt. A  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
816-244-1687  
[jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us)  
Or at TMC 816-671-4390

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Send Bill To:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: *ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL*  
Send Payment to: St. Joseph PTA Council  
PO Box 1271  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

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For Council Use Only

Button Machine reserved for  
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Confirmation Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Check out date \_\_\_\_\_  
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Number of Components Issued \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Returned \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Used @ \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

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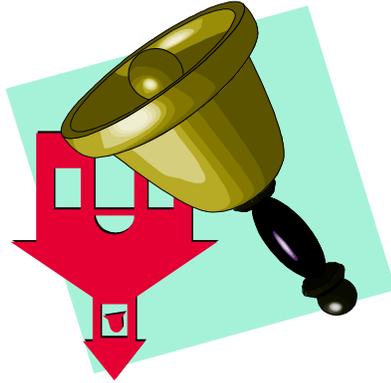
Confirmation

Your Request for the Button Machine is Confirmed for \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

# ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL



# ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

St. Joseph PTA Council  
c/o Lori Prussman  
2504 Ashland Ave  
St. Joseph, MO 64506

