

Listservs Committee Report
Aug. 3, 2006

Patti Twigg, Chair

(Please note, this is a very brief version of my original report, which was lost in a disk crash last week. I have hired someone to try and recover the contents of the disk, but so far, he has been unsuccessful. I have tried my best to include everything from the original as closely as I can remember.)

- 1) Back in the spring, I had asked for locals to please send me information on their listservs, specifically any rules or guidelines they used, how they used the lists, who could be a member. I heard back from about 10-15 schools, and have a multi page summary, which is gone now (hopefully not permanently). From memory, let me summarize what they said. The majority of PTAs that responded have lists that are for sending out information only, no discussion is allowed. Most of the lists moderate messages – meaning that they must be approved by the moderator before they go out to the entire list. Most limit their membership to families and staff at the school only. Some also allow community members.
- 2) On July 1, I removed members of the Board listserv that had completed their term in office and added new members of the Board. Only committee chairs that have a replacement have been removed so far. I have also been working on the transition of the Presidents list. I am working with Cathy Lilja as she gets Blue Book info, plus some people have been contacting me separately. I am not removing anyone until I get a successor for them so that no school community is isolated from this source of information. The loss of my database has made this transition more challenging.
- 3) I was sent the following by Cindy Kerr, from a National PTA publication. I would like to consider adding this to our listserv disclaimers and think we might want to also consider putting it on the website.

PTA:

** Does not exert editorial control over materials that are posted by third parties onto its website or materials that are e-mailed by third parties to any other persons.*

** Specifically disclaims any and all liability for any claims or damages that result from postings by third parties.*

** Does not exert editorial or other control over content provided by links from the PTA website or newsletters.*

4) I am including some recent emails I have received and hope that the Board can give me some guidance regarding the issues of membership and postings. We have guidelines, but increasingly I am receiving emails and requests to send things out and categorizing items is getting increasingly difficult. I am posting below some examples to help clarify what I mean.

Ms. Twigg,

I would like, if possible, to join the MCCPTA_Bulletin list serv for Olney Theatre Center. Olney Theatre host many events throughout the year that might be interesting to PTA members including student matinee performances, fundraising opportunities, open houses, and work shops. If it is possible for us to join please let me know. If not, do you have a monthly mailing or other service through which we might be able to communicate this information? Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you!

Sean T. Valentine
Group Sales Manager
Olney Theatre Center

Subject: *FW: Free Energy Saving Workshop With Free Compact Bulbs*

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in conjunction with the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center (EMRSC), is conducting a free workshop to help save energy in homes and apartments. We are asking for your assistance in sharing this information with your PTA members.

In many cases, simple low-cost measures can reduce energy consumption by 10% or more and comprehensive improvements can lead to 30% and greater savings. Sure Energy Savers can be found through your home's lighting, heating, cooling, and exterior. Regardless of what happens with the cost of energy, energy-efficiency improvements will save you money!

This free workshop will be held on Wednesday, August 9th, 2006, 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm, at the EMRSC, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road. DEP will be giving away free compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) to attendees (supplies limited). This low cost measure can save you save up to \$60 over the life of the lamp. Complimentary refreshments will be provided by the Center.

Questions about the workshop should be addressed to Eric R. Coffman, the Montgomery County DEP's Senior Energy Planner, at 240-777-7754 or eric.coffman@montgomerycountymd.gov. For directions, call the Center at 240-777-8400.
