



President's Message

Dear Friends of PTA,

It's hard to believe that my time as President of Santa Clara Valley PTA is ending. It has been a couple of years of growth, patience testing, joy, and loss. I am so proud of our wonderful SCV PTA board, as well as our communities, for finding new ways to be together. Don't get me wrong, I miss our Exec Board meetings over lunch at someone's house (dreams of Dinah's egg salad haunt me), but I believe we have learned to adapt and grow as a group in the virtual world.

Our wonderful Grant Committees have worked hard to extend grant opportunities to over 50 units in Santa Clara and Monterey counties. We began by focusing on PTA programs and opportunities to strengthen leadership for PTAs in low-wealth areas during distance learning. Our funds supported a Family Virtual Paint Night, student Tech Club, hot spots for access to the internet for students and funds for MyPTEZ. As the 2021 school year began, we granted six PTA units funds to enhance their membership drives with such items as a PTA tablecloth, a gift basket award at an opportunity drawing, and a chance to go shopping at the CAPTA store. As our year ends, we are looking to help up to four units increase their PTA funding to help them begin 2022 with the resources to begin their membership and community building as families begin to have access to school campuses again.

Our fabulous Advocacy team continued to focus on early learning but expanded our view to include support of Palo Alto Council's E-Cigarettes/Vaping, Flavored Tobacco Products, and Youth Health resolution, and Cupertino-Fremont-Sunnyvale Council's Teaching Hard History: American Slavery in K-12 Education resolution. Our team has met multiple times with CAPTA, and with state and local lawmakers to help forward these issues. To help further our understanding, SCV PTA chose to host a Book Club this year, focusing on books that deal with issues of race and slavery.

Talking about all these wonderful accomplishments feels like I am bragging a bit. I guess I am. However, all these ideas & accomplishments were the result of a team of fantastic individuals who are open to sharing their ideas with each other. My job was easy. I just had to say, "Great idea -- who wants to take that on?" Having been blessed with the best Exec Board, we always had someone willing to volunteer. It has been my privilege to have learned from and grown with the support of this amazing group. It is impossible to truly express my gratitude to every one of them. They have been one of my joys.

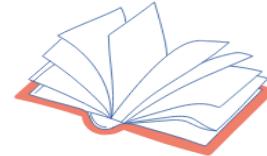
These past two years have brought many changes, some for the better, but many have experienced loss. Our PTA family lost one of our founding members, Diane Foote. She was a tireless fighter for children, and the PTA. She was always the first to volunteer (or volunteer to someone she believed in) to help SCV PTA move forward in its goals. When Diane helped you to volunteer, you knew she would be there to support you every step of the way, and she always was. I will miss her laugh, her smile and quick wit. I hope to honor her by continuing to support PTA and the wonderful work she has done. I look forward to supporting our wonderful incoming President, Naomi Higaki, who will be a fantastic leader for SCV PTA!!

Thanks again to all our members and to the best Exec Board ever!
Hugs, Laura

We value your support. Please become a member of the Santa Clara Valley PTA.

Thank you!
Laura Raimondi
President, Santa Clara Valley PTA 2020-2022

You're Invited!



Come join us at our next Book Club Meeting on Wednesday,
June 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

In March of 2021, we had the pleasure of listening to Mr. Leo Beauchman's presentation entitled "A Parent's Guide to Talking about Race". We also had the privilege of hosting the author of the CAPTA resolution: "Teaching Hard History – American Slavery in K-12 Education", Tiffany Landry. Our discussions led to the creation of the SCV PTA Book Club this year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Date: June 15, 2022
Time: 7:00 pm
Book: "How the Word is Passed" by Clint Smith
Register to join: [\[register here\]](#)

Please register in advance for this meeting:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out by email to president@scvpta6.org.



Diane Marie Foote 1952-2022

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of one of our founding members, Diane Foote. As many of you know, Diane served PTA for many years, sharing her time, passion and knowledge with all she could reach. Not only was she active at CA State, District, Council and Unit levels, but she was instrumental in creating the Santa Clara Valley PTA. Diane never hesitated to help all of us grow as leaders and her friendship will be truly missed.

Please share a memory at the Sixth District PTA Facebook Memorial page:

[**SHARE A MEMORY**](#)

Sixth District is accepting donations to form a Diane Foote Memorial Leadership Fund.

Leadership, training and supporting new units were Diane's passion. These funds will support unit & council leadership development, training, and provide grants to new units to honor her 30+ years of service and commitment to the children and families of Sixth District and California. You may donate by clicking the link below or by sending a check to Sixth District PTA (1290 Ridder Park Drive M/C 214, San Jose, CA 95131). Please write in the memo – Diane Foote Memorial Leadership Fund

[**Donate in Memoriam**](#)

Membership



We value your support. Please become a member of the Santa Clara Valley PTA.

Membership is only \$10 per person, and it is tax deductible. For a downloadable membership form, visit our website at [Join SCV PTA](#); or join online at [Join SCVPTA Online Totem](#).

Please feel free to invite family members, friends, and neighbors to join as well. You don't have to have a child in school to join the PTA. You just have to care about children and public education.

Membership perks

Enjoy membership benefits with being a member of Santa Clara Valley PTA. Visit CA State PTA's website at <https://capta.org/join/member-perks/> to see what we have to offer. Some offers include discounts for venues and services.

Member Perks

Grants awarded!

SCVPTA Grant Program, Spring 2022

Santa Clara Valley PTA continues to support PTAs across Santa Clara County and the South Bay through its Grant Committee. Early this past spring, the committee chose to move from a unit application model to an award/donation model. The two-year pandemic has allowed many units to suffer low parent engagement and participation. This, in turn, has had a significant, and negative, impact on programs and fundraising at a number of units. Following an analysis of the financial viability of all units, several were awarded grants to allow them to keep their unit in stable shape with an opportunity to have a healthy start for the 2022/2023 school year. We are so very grateful to our SCVPTA members who support us and, in turn, allow us to support so many unit organizations,



Susan Carty, SCVPTA Grant Program



Advocacy

Advocacy is not a one-time or a one-person endeavor.

Much of SCV PTA's recent advocacy work has been based on three recent Convention Resolutions that originated right here in Sixth District:

- ◆ [Early Care and Education for All of California's Children](#) (Sixth District, 2019):

As we have done for years, we continue to participate actively in two coalitions: [Strong Start](#) and the [Silicon Valley Children's Action Network](#). (Follow the links to learn about these important community organizations!)

- ◆ [E-Cigarettes/Vaping, Flavored Tobacco Products and Youth Health](#) (Palo Alto Council, 2020):

We continue to participate actively in the [Santa Clara County Tobacco-Free Coalition](#), and to work with State and National PTA on "going national" with this Resolution. We have also met with state legislators to discuss the protections and the support that students need. Most recently, seeking to strengthen enforcement of the local retail ordinances we have fought to pass, we have worked with, and testified to, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and its Health and Hospital Committee. (For more information, see our [Fall 2021 newsletter](#).)

- ◆ [Teaching Hard History: American Slavery in K-12 Education](#) (Cupertino-Fremont-Sunnyvale Council, 2021):

This school year, SCV PTA has created a Diversity Book Club, reading and discussing three important books on issues of Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity: Ijeoma Oluo, **So You Want to Talk About Race**, Richard Rothstein, **The Color of Law**, and Clint Smith, **How the Word Is Passed**. **The third discussion will be June 15, so there is still time to join in!**



PTA advocacy has a long history both here and at the state level. Click to see some of [what PTA has achieved for California's children over the years](#). (This page is from 2008, so our recent work doesn't appear.) Sixth District PTA has had significant impact in important areas such as foster care and juvenile justice. Sixth District PTA also founded the Braille Transcription Project (now an independent non-profit serving over 40 states), which allowed blind children to study without being sent away from home.



2022 is an election year! In November, please consider State PTA's recommendations on ballot measures, including the [Referendum on the PTA-supported 2020 law](#) restricting the retail sale of vape products and flavored tobacco products. On the Referendum, “YES” is a vote to keep this law and put it into effect; “NO” is a vote to reject the law. **Please register, inform yourself, and don't forget to vote!**

SCV PTA – A brief history

Santa Clara Valley PTA was chartered within Sixth District in 2006 to be a PTA unit untethered to a specific school. SCV PTA is the vehicle for people who support PTA and/or had “aged out” of traditional school PTA membership and/or wanted to be active in PTA to do just that. One of the original ideas for creating SCV PTA was to expand the capacity of Sixth District PTA by being able to do PTA unit tasks that a District PTA cannot do.



Some of the tasks that SCV PTA has done, and continues to do, is role model PTA operations for rookie PTA leaders who are SCV PTA officers that take their learning back to their children’s schools, comprise Sixth District scholarship committees to award the Barbara Emerich scholarships to high school seniors as well as PTA Convention scholarships to emerging PTA leaders within Sixth District and assist Out of Council units.

Programs SCV PTA has offered to our members and the broader Sixth District community include: the very popular EBTKS (Everything but the Kitchen Sink) where SCV PTA officers hold an open session for PTA leaders come to ask questions and get help on whatever issue they are facing, Tax Help Days, Book Club where an education-issue book discussion is led by a SCV PTA officer, help struggling units and providing monetary grants to Councils and units.

SCV PTA has also authored a number of documents to help PTA units both function as an organization and resources to make their work easier. Some examples include: Essential Calendar, Program Resources Guide, etc.

Marcie Brown, SCVPTA Historian

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Our 2022-2023 Officers:

President:	Naomi Higaki
Executive VP:	Marcie Brown
VP Membership:	Wendy Akers-Ghose
VP Communications:	Laura Raimondi
VP Advocacy:	Tiffany Landry
Secretary:	Darice Koo
Treasurer:	Susan Canty
Auditor:	Tami Borba
Parliamentarian	Dinah Showman
Historian:	Erwin Morton

Visit SCV PTA online at <https://scvpta6.org/> for more information about our PTA.

Email President Laura Raimondi at president@scvpta6.org if you have questions, comments or concerns.

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Santa Clara Valley PTA is better...with YOU!

**Your SCV PTA membership helps
support PTA units in Sixth District PTA!**

*"Santa Clara Valley PTA is unlike any other PTA you've ever been a member of –
we have no school, no principal, and no students!"*

We exist to support other PTAs, in particular, low-wealth PTAs through grants and mentorship.

To assist PTAs as they worked to support their school communities in 2020-2021,
we provided grants for:

- purchasing hotspots to help close the digital divide,
- providing a community bonding Family Virtual Paint Event, and
- funding materials for an afterschool program.

In 2021-2022, we have awarded six grants to help with membership outreach
and will continue to provide additional grants to PTAs this year.

*We invite community members to join Santa Clara Valley PTA, as we work to support PTAs in
the counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito."*

- Laura Raimondi, SCVPTA President



Here's how to join Santa Clara Valley PTA:

Join online or by mail

For more information:

Visit <https://scvpta6.org/>