



The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

May 31, 2009

The Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) held the 2009 Presidents and Principals Dinner Wednesday, May 27, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, installing officers and honoring individuals and organizations that have given extraordinary service to the students of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) through their PTAs. MCCPTA has over 50,000 members and represents 189 local PTAs.

Shirley Brandman, president of the Montgomery County Board of Education, delivered the welcome and opening remarks. Ms. Brandman and Leon Harris, MCPS parent and WJLA news anchor, served as Masters of Ceremony for the evening. Mr. Harris gave remarks and later introduced portions of the program. Ms. Kay Romero, president of MCCPTA, gave a special thank you to outgoing officers who served this past year.

Mr. Harris introduced Debbie Ritchie, president of Maryland PTA, who installed the new MCCPTA officers and board of directors, including returning president Kay Romero and Vice Presidents Kristin Tribble (Educational Issues), Carol Salsbury (Programs), and Rebecca Smondrowski (Legislation). Also installed were Treasurer Jaimie Jacobson, BOD Secretary DeBora King, Delegates' Assembly Secretary Patti Twigg, and cluster coordinators and area vice presidents representing schools around the county.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Chuck Saylor, President-Elect of National PTA who urged parents to get involved in their children's schools as volunteers and as PTA members. Mr. Saylor expressed a particular desire in getting fathers to be more active in their children's education using himself as an example: he has been part of PTA since his oldest son, now 24, was a first-grader at Woodland Elementary School in Greer, South Carolina.

Craig Zucker, Chief of Staff for State Comptroller Peter Franchot, presented a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of Mr. Franchot to MCCPTA "In recognition of your tireless advocacy on behalf of teachers, parents and students throughout the county. Your activism and energy have helped to make your association one of the most effective in the state of Maryland."

Maryland PTA Lifetime Memberships were presented to parents Steve Augustino and Kate Savage. Mr. Augustino has been involved in PTA for 13 years, including serving for the last two

years as Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) chairperson for MCCPTA. Ms. Savage started volunteering for PTA even before her oldest child started kindergarten, and has served PTA in many capacities from running the Sally Foster sale at Beall Elementary School to PTA President at Richard Montgomery High School, as well as serving as a cluster coordinator and area vice president for MCCPTA.

The Partnership in Education Award went to the Knights of Columbus for their many years of support of programs and students at Stephen Knolls School and other alternative schools throughout the county. Stephen Knolls School is for students ages 5 to 21 who have severe and profound disabilities, as well as students with medically fragile conditions. This year's grant of over \$40,000 allowed Stephen Knolls staff to purchase assistive devices to support their students.

The dinner was attended by many state and county officials including Ike Leggett, Montgomery County Executive and a number of senators and delegates from the Maryland General Assembly, County Council members, Board of Education members and MCPS officials (list attached). Several past MCCPTA presidents were also present: Marian Fox (1968-70), Vicki Rafel (1985-87), Nancy King (1993-94), and Jane De Winter (2006-08).

A free Kaplan PSAT, SAT or ACT Classroom course valued at over \$1000 was raffled off during the dinner. The winner was Northwest High School. April Keyes, the PTA President for Northwest High School, accepted the award on the school's behalf.

Music and entertainment were provided by the Walter Johnson High School Jazz Combo, directed by Christopher Kosmaceski and Sherwood High School's Rock and Roll Revival, directed by Bill Evans.

Ms. Kay Romero, MCCPTA president, gave closing remarks and thanked everyone for their dedication to children and families through volunteerism in PTA and MCCPTA.