



ACCPTA

Alachua County Council of Parent Teacher Associations

7510 NW 41 Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32606

"Together We Make A Difference"

President: Mary Zinger

April 2003

Editor: Lisa Labbe

President's Message

Mary Zinger - ACCPTA President

It's hard to believe that this is the council's final newsletter of this school year. This is also my final President's Message. Serving as council president has been full of challenges with an abundance of new and rewarding experiences. As my two year term as council president ends, I'm thankful for the many opportunities I've had to serve you and the children of Alachua County. It has been an honor and an inspiration to work with so many wonderful people who are truly dedicated to this organization. I would especially like to thank the members of the board for the remarkable job they have done and the support they have given. I'm amazed again and again by their dedication, talent, energy and professionalism.

Some of you are in the same position that I am, nearing the end of your term of leadership. Thank you for all you have done for the children of your schools. The leadership you have provided at your school and in our community has enabled others to become involved and the PTA is larger and stronger because of your commitment.

Those who are continuing as PTA officers, we thank you for your efforts, also. ACCPTA looks forward to working closely with your school in the coming year. Please let us know how we can serve you better. Our mission is to provide you with the best service, leadership and information available.

I look forward to celebrating this year's accomplishments with you at our Annual

Meeting and Awards Banquet on Tuesday, April 22nd at the Sovereign Restaurant.



Bylaws Committee Report

Mary Zinger - ACCPTA President

Every three years, the PTA's bylaws must be reviewed. PTA president, Mary Zinger appointed Lorie Primosch, Cindy Walker and herself to serve on the bylaws committee. After reviewing the county council's bylaws, the committee has recommended the amendments listed below. These changes will be presented at the Annual PTA meeting on April 22nd at 6:30 pm. It takes a 2/3 vote of the members present to pass the bylaw amendments.

The bylaws committee recommends the following changes:

1) Amend Article VIII, Section 1, by replacing the number **one** in the last sentence with the number **two**. It will now read:

*Officers shall assume their official duties immediately following the close of the annual meeting in April and shall serve for a term of one year or **two** (number of years) or until their successors are elected.*

2) Amend Article XIII, Section 2, by replacing **executive board** with **executive committee**.

The sentence will now read:

The chairs of the standing committees shall be selected by the executive committee.

Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet

Mary Zinger – ACCPTA President

The annual meeting of ACCPTA will be held on Tuesday, April 22nd at 6:30 pm, at the Sovereign Restaurant. The focus of the meeting will be the election of officers and an awards celebration. We invite every school to send at least three board members and the school principal. Spouses are also welcome. The cost of the dinner will be \$20 a person and is a legitimate PTA expense. We will be sending out invitations with an RSVP card soon. We look forward to seeing you there.

SBAC News

Robin Snyder - ACCPTA SBAC Liaison

2003 Teachers of the Year - The excitement built all night long as the crowd of over 500 awaited the selection of the 2003 Alachua County Teacher of the Year. For the first time ever, the announcement was made live at the annual Teacher of the Year Recognition Event, held on February 24th. The event kicked off with a 'Just Desserts' reception for the 42 teacher honorees and their guests. The recognition program featured video montages of all the teachers, comments from the three finalists, musical performances by the Buchholz High School Chamber Singers, and a special presentation from Terwilliger Elementary students which highlighted this year's theme "Teaching, the Profession that Makes All Others Possible." All the teachers were presented with a check for \$500 and a Teacher of the Year briefcase filled with certificates and other gift items. The three finalists also received special recognition items from local sponsors.



2003 Alachua County Teacher of the Year, **Gloria Merriex**, and her large crowd of supporters, screamed with excitement upon hearing her name announced by Superintendent Mary Chambers and 2002 Teacher of the Year Steven Noll. Ms. Merriex is a fifth grade teacher at

Duval Elementary School, and has taught at Duval for the past 25 years. She has recently developed a "Rapping with Math" video to reinforce student skills with movement and chanting, resulting in an increase in her students' FCAT math scores. She says that, "After many years of teaching I have discovered that learning requires active involvement for young children. My search for innovative ways to engage students in academic activities to enrich their learning experience never ends."

Fort Clarke Middle School's Everett McConn was one of the three finalists selected this year. Mr. McConn has been the Band Director at the school since 1998, teaching 6th through 8th grade students to select and play traditional band instruments. He also started a Jazz Band program at the school. He has a Bachelors degree in Music Education from the University of Florida. Mr. McConn says that, "A good teacher teaches more than subjects. He teaches life. The subject is a platform from which to launch the study."



High School finalist, Lynn Sandefur-Gardner already has a long list of awards to her credit. As the chorus teacher at Gainesville High School since 1974, she has seen her students earn Superior ratings in Chorus, Ensemble, and Vocal Solo categories year after year. She is active in both school and community activities, using her time and talents to help raise funds for worthy causes. Ms. Sandefur-Gardner says that music and teaching are her passions. "I believe that, through music, I can strengthen, enrich, and change students' lives." Her chorus students performed at the Teacher of the Year Recognition Reception in 2002.

As the 2003 Alachua County Teacher of the Year, Ms. Merriex will now submit an application to the Burdines Florida Teacher of the Year program. A state selection committee will review all submissions and an announcement of the five regional finalists will be made by Commissioner of Education Jim Horne will be

made in April or May. The state winner, along with the district and regional winners, will receive additional monetary awards from both the Department of Education and Burdines.

Check out the ACCPTA web site. We keep it updated and you can always find useful and captivating information on it. All of ACCPTA's newsletters, flyers, and other publications are listed, as well as helpful links to more educational web sites in Gainesville, Alachua County, Florida, and the U.S.

www.afn.org/~accpta

2001-2002 ACCPTA Executive Board	
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Web Site

Greg Labbe – ACCPTA Web Site Administrator

ACCPTA

Alachua County Council of PTAs

"Together we make a difference."

The Alachua County Council of PTAs would like to initiate what will hopefully become an annual award.

The **ACCPTA Distinguished Leadership Award** will recognize women and men who have made significant and notable contributions for the betterment of their schools and PTAs.

We would like to solicit your nominations for this award. Some of the criteria to consider when making your nomination:

Does your Nominee:

Currently oversee a program or committee?

Demonstrate creativity in the development of the program?

Demonstrate effective communication skills?

Model good leadership skills and mentor others?

Demonstrate dedication to strengthening the school, PTA and community?

Nomination Form

School _____ PTA President _____

Name of Nominee _____ Address _____

City, Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Briefly describe why this Nominee is deserving of the ACCPTA Distinguished Leadership Award:

The Nominations should be sent to Mary Zinger by April 7, 2003. Multiple nominations from one school are allowed. Award is based on merit, there are no limits on number of nominees or winners.

The ACCPTA Distinguished Leadership Award will be presented at the ACCPTA Annual Banquet to be held on April 22th.

Completed nominations should be postmarked no later than April 14th to ensure delivery by April 17th and mailed to: ACCPTA / Mary Zinger, Pres. 7510 NW 41st Ave, Gainesville, FL 32606