

The Sutterville Slate

A Publication of the Sutterville Elementary PTA

April 2005

In This Issue

- Art & Science Night Financial Recap
- End of the Year BBQ
- Ever Dream of Becoming a Writer?
- Family Fun Day Cancelled
- Get Your Hot Tamales
- New Library Update
- PTA Board Nominations & Election
- Room 4 on the News
- Sutterville Race for the Cure Team
- Sutterville Stampede is Coming
- Thanks to United Way Donors
- The Old Red, White and Blue
- Traffic Safety Reminder
- Your PTA Funds at Work

Dates to Remember

- **April 15th**
School Site Council Nominations Due
- **April 22nd**
PTA Board Nominations Due
- **April 22nd**
Student Council "Backward Day"
- **April 26th – May 12th**
STAR Testing
- **April 27th**
Stingray Showcase 6:30 pm
- **April 29th**
Sutterville Stampede/Jog-a-Thon
- **May 13th** (tentative)
Spring Art Day
- **May 25th**
Open House & Tamale Dinner
- **May 25th**
PTA Board Election

2004-05 PTA Board

- Denay DeGuzman, President
- Lindsay Nevis, Vice President
- Denorah Hall, Vice President
- Mary Whisten, Vice President
- Susan Yee, Treasurer
- Becca Gonzales, Secretary

Notes from an Outgoing PTA President

It has been such a pleasure to serve the students, parents, teachers, and staff of Sutterville Elementary over the past nine years. There have been so many improvements to the school site and programs implemented by our school, the PTA, and parents. I will truly miss being a part of Sutterville, and my heart will always be filled with joy whenever I think of all of the wonderful people who have come into my life over the years through my involvement with the school community.

Recently our hard-working board members and school principal have been receiving a few anonymous notes from a frustrated individual(s) who does not understand the role of the PTA. In response to these misunderstandings, as outgoing PTA president I would like to make a statement about the PTA board and its mission:

PTA is here to facilitate communications between the school principal, teachers, staff and parents, with the emphasis being on improving the school experience of the children. PTA appreciates and values the commitment of time, energy, and love that is so freely given of many involved parents, teachers, staff, community members and our principal. PTA raises funds for important enrichment activities and school enhancements that otherwise could not happen, as the funding is not available through the school district.

PTA invites everyone to attend four annual PTA General Membership Meetings - all of which are held at the school site. In order to be an effective group, the PTA needs increased parental involvement, and the board members appreciate all who take time to come to the meetings (usually 1 - 3 non-board members per meeting).

President Continued page 4



The Principal's Office

Dear Sutterville Families,

As you may have seen in the April 8th Family Newsletter, the STAR testing period will be here soon. Tests are scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays only during the period April 26 through May 12.

We want our students to do their best in demonstrating their knowledge of the State standards when they take the STAR test. We have a few suggestions on how you can help us prepare your students at home—

- Please deliver your children to school on time so that they do not miss any testing instructions or interrupt others who are already at work.
- Please be sure that your child gets plenty of sleep so that they come to school well rested.
- Please see that your children have a nourishing breakfast before school starts so that they are not distracted by their stomachs. The school serves breakfast at 8:40 every morning.

Please remind your student this test is an important way of demonstrating all they know to you, their teacher, and teacher next year.

Most importantly, remind your children that they are awesome and we are all proud of their progress this year!

Thank you for your help!

Diane Shada, Principal

PTA Elections— The PTA Board Wants YOU!

In the March edition of the Slate, we asked parents who were interested in being on the nominating committee for the PTA Board to contact a member of the board. Since we did not receive any replies and we know that there must be a few parents out there who want to become more involved, we are including a tear-off ballot with this edition of the Slate. We hope this simplified process will entice a few people to come forward.

As we stated last month, being a member of the board can range from a time commitment of between eight and forty hours a month, it really depends on what each board member makes of the position. If anyone has any questions about PTA Board membership duties, you can contact the PTA Secretary, Becca Gonzales, at 457-6325 or email her at beccag@infostations.com.

This tear-off form can be used to nominate yourself for the board or you can nominate someone else. The PTA is always looking for new members with new ideas. We look forward to working with you!

Art and Science Night – Financial Recap

Income

Dinner Tickets \$611.50

Total Income \$611.50

Expenses

Food \$264.00

Supplies \$150.00

Staff Gift Certificates \$150.00

Total Expenses \$611.50

Your PTA Funds at Work

Here is the PTA financial activity for February 1 through March 31

Income

Cookie-Pizza Dough Sale \$1,707.00

King's Fundraiser \$1,153.77

Schoolpop \$ 53.00

Total Income \$2,913.77

Expenses

Assemblies (4th and 5th Mountain Men & History of the Old West) \$325.00

Office Supplies \$111.00

Supplies - Slate \$57.00

Student Incentives \$48.00

Teacher's Supply Fund \$256.00

Total Expenses \$797.00



Ever Dream of Becoming a Writer and Publisher?

The PTA Board is looking for a new publishing team! Our current team is retiring! The position requires a computer and printer, word processing program and access to e-mail. You would be responsible for collecting the stories, formatting, copying, collating, distributing and managing an operating budget for the monthly PTA newsletter, The Sutterville Slate.

Interested? Questions? Contact Mary Whisten 443-0284 or mherw@hotmail.com.

Sutterville Stampede is Coming

The 2nd Annual Sutterville Stampede is coming on Friday, April 29th. This health and fitness fundraiser will occur during school hours. Each student will receive a Stampede t-shirt and a bib number. The Romo family is again donating \$2,000 for the t-shirts!

Every student (and hopefully teacher, staff member, friend and relative) is expected to walk or run the official 1/4 mile loop as many times as he/she can in 45 minutes. Keep a look out for the Stampede pledge form. Last year we raised close to \$10,000!

Questions? Contact Jenny Hitchings, 454-9300 or ajhitchings@sbcglobal.net.

Sutterville Elementary team for Race for the Cure

My name is Mary Wandschneider and I am the Team Captain for the Sutterville Elementary team at the 2005 Komen Sacramento Race for the Cure®. The Race is Saturday, May 7 at Cal Expo. I want you to join our team for the Race and to raise pledge funds.

This powerful, fun event features a 5K (3.1-mile) timed run or non-timed run/walk and a 1-Mile walk. The event is open to runners and walkers of all ages and abilities who want to help in the fight against breast cancer. There will be great post-Race refreshments, information, and entertainment for the entire family.

You can register online at www.sackomen.org; or, in person April 30 - May 6, in front of Nordstrom, Arden Fair Mall, from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm everyday. After you register, let me know and I'll share our plans to meet Race day.

If you have any questions about joining our team, please call me at 916.452.2365 or e-mail me at mwandschneider@comcast.net.

Thank you for joining our team as we Team Up Against Breast Cancer®!

Get Your Hot Tamales!

We will be serving our famous tamale dinner during Open House, May 25th from 5:00 p.m. thru 7:30. We know this is a busy night, and squeezing in a healthy dinner can be hard. So let us take some of the stress away by nourishing your family.

Our menu will include, chicken or cheese tamale, rice, beans, chips and a drink. Cost? \$5.00 per person. Extra Tamales sold for an additional \$2.00 per Tamale for the extra hungry hombre!

PTA will be taking "pre-orders" for take-home" tamales. \$15.00 per dozen wrapped and ready for transport. If you would like to take a dozen or two with you after Open House, fill out the following form and return to the office by May 20th.

Hot Tamales By the Dozen!

I would like to pre-order tamales to pick up during Open House, May 25.

Chicken tamales - \$15.00/dozen

1 / 2 / 3 Dozen (circle one)

Pork tamales - \$15.00/dozen

1 / 2 / 3 Dozen (circle one)

Cheese & pepper tamales - \$15.00/dozen

1 / 2 / 3 Dozen (circle one)

I am enclosing my check payable to Sutterville PTA for: \$_____

Cash is okay, with exact amount of bills. I understand this is a perishable item and must be picked-up on the evening of the 25th. If I do not pick-up on the evening of the 25th, I understand my order cannot be held over and I will forfeit my tamales to the highest bidder! Sorry, no refunds will be issued.

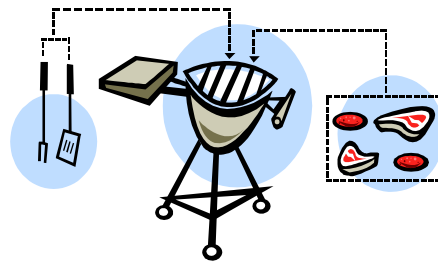
Please return order form and money in an envelope marked "Tamale Order" to the office by May 20th. Enjoy!

Traffic Safety Reminder

Carpool parents...please help to protect our students and to speed up the drop-off/pick-up process by:

- Turn right into the parking lot from the southern approach only (NO left turns).
- Going straight or right only when exiting the parking lot, with NO left turns.

Eliminating the left-hand turn from these two spots will keep vehicles moving along smoothly and reduce traffic stand-stills, as well as allowing access for emergency vehicles during these busy times of day.



End of the Year BBQ

It's hard to believe, but it's time to start planning for our end of the year BBQ! This Sutterville tradition has been dormant for the last few years, but we are reviving it with a bang! We need about 6 helpers to work our food area and a few helpers for set-up and clean up. We will also need a few folks to scoop ice cream towards the end of the night. Please contact Mary Whisten at 443-0284 or email mherw@hotmail.com if you can help.

Thanks to United Way Donors

Joyce L. Engbritson

J.D. Baumhoff

Jennifer A. Young

B.A. Blue

M.R. Cashatt

H.S. Chastain

C.M. Cheeseman

D.A. Hall

Roy G. March

Julie Carrera

Anonymous Giver

The Old Red, White and Blue

A few of you have noticed our flags are looking a bit, well, worn. Not to worry! Flags were ordered last week and we'll be flying the new flags soon!

New Library Update

With funding from the PTA, the new shelving needed for the library was ordered with the District in October. They did not place the order until December. After some troubles with the supplier, the items finally arrived last week. The District carpenters came in and the shelves are now installed. Librarian Anna Zeh, along with parent helpers, are now shelving the books. When completed, the library will open. AND yes, we are all frustrated by the situation, but the library will be up and running before yearend.

Anna Zeh submitted a proposal for furniture funding and the PTA Board approved roughly \$800.00 to support her efforts. These funds will be allocated from the PTA school site improvement budget. At the time of publishing this article, we do not have a date as to when the furniture will be delivered.

Room 4 on the Channel 13 News!

The excitement was palpable in Room 4 as Ms. Tomita's and Mrs. Griffith's first grade class was on KOVR 13's Noon News with meteorologist Cody Stark broadcasting live from the class room on February 18th. Since the class has been studying weather, Mr. Power's, Isabella's dad, invited Cody Stark to visit. He spent about an hour in the classroom, talked about high and low fronts on weather maps, and made balloon animals with the children.

Family Fun Day Cancelled

Due to lack of parent/volunteer participation, the family fun spring event has been cancelled. PTA organizers will hopefully be able to revive this event next year.

President

Continued from page 1

The PTA appreciate the multitude of parents who participate in the fundraisers that are vital to PTAs continued monetary support of activities and enrichment for the children.

In addition to the PTA General Membership meetings, the PTA board members hold additional monthly "board meetings" to handle the month-to-month workings of the PTA. These items include, but are not limited to, writing checks for bills and events that were approved as part of the budget during previous PTA General Membership Meetings, brainstorming new ideas that will be presented at the next General Membership Meeting, etc. As these board meetings involve only the six or seven board members themselves and the school principal, they may take place on whichever date and time is most convenient for the board members (all of whom have day jobs), and at a location that is pleasant for spending more volunteer time on behalf of the school after coming over from a full-day's work at the office. The board's location of choice is frequently Starbucks.

PTA is NOT to be considered the only or most important VEHICLE of parent volunteer activity, but ONE of what should be a number of individual and combined parent efforts. The most effective method for accomplishing desired improvements at the school is for parents who see a need to address it by coming to a PTA General Membership Meeting and/or e-mailing a board member directly about the need. However, it is not enough to simply make the board aware of the need, but instead to help facilitate the efforts required to fill such need.

President Continued next column**President**

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This can be done by getting a committee together to address the problem, ask for PTA funding by providing three bids (including sales tax and/or shipping) and personally lead the project to completion.

The PTA's job is to support parent committee efforts by providing partial or complete funding of certain projects. One criterion is that the money spent benefit the greatest number of children possible.

PTA board members are available to offer suggestions to the committee as how to best reach the desired goal, and can ask for project volunteers with an article, provided by the committee, for publication in the Slate, and to give needed moral support.

It is important to realize that the PTA consists of all of YOU, with leadership provided by the six PTA board members who coordinate your efforts. It is also important to note that the PTA board is in no way responsible for "brainstorming" all of the different ways to spend important PTA funds, AND then for putting everything into motion. The PTA board members facilitate the decision-making process; inviting all parents to attend meetings, take part in discussions and decision-making. In the past years, few parents have attended the meetings or e-mailed or written to the PTA discussing their ideas and/or concerns, which means the PTA board must move forward to make any needed decisions using their best judgment. Placing anonymous notes on the PTA bulletin board is not constructive and does not result in the desired change.

To communicate with the PTA, we invite you to attend a PTA board meeting or contact us via phone or e-mail. The six PTA board members need your help to get things done! Remember the PTA board is here to help coordinate the efforts of parents who come together as committees to improve aspects of the school site or lead activities.

President Continued next column**President**

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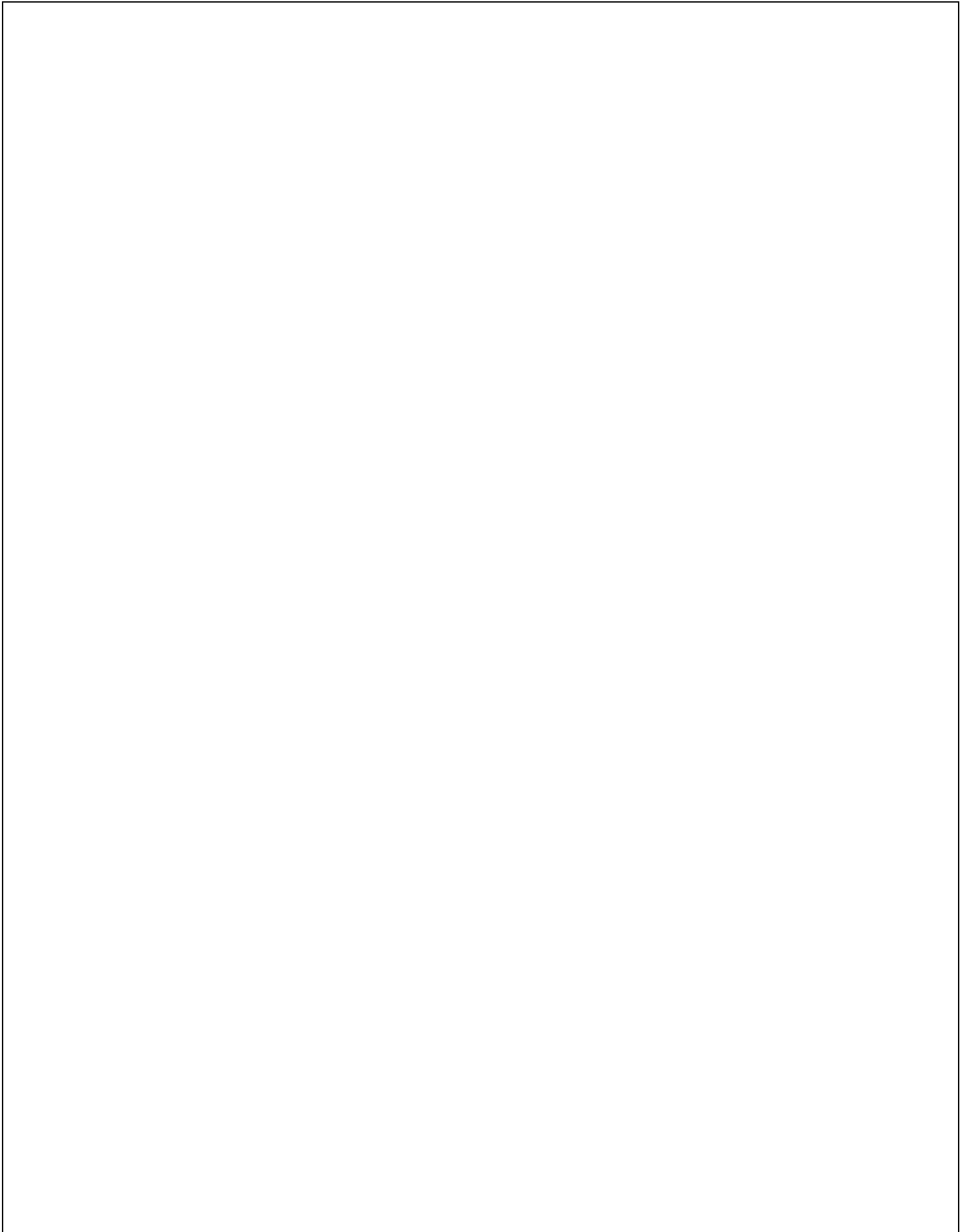
While you might have noticed in recent years PTA board members lead most of the fundraisers and activities that at Sutterville. It is important to note this is not the primary function of PTA board members - this is only reflective of the choice of individual board members who are acting in such capacity as part of the greater "PTA" group. PTA board members perform their job by empowering parents to take action in getting their ideas for school improvement and enrichment activities off the ground and running.

One good example would be the school flag. An anonymous parent had complaints that the PTA was not attentive to noticing, and therefore replacing a well-worn flag. A correct response to the "flag" issue would be as follows: A parent notices the flag is in need of replacement. The parent researches pricing and comes up with three pricing bids. The parent notifies the PTA of the desire to purchase a new flag, submitting the request in writing. The PTA reviews the request during the next board meeting and checks the budget for funding. If approved, the PTA notifies the parent and Sutterville community at the next PTA General Meeting and via the Slate that a new flag has been ordered. The flag would come under the budget line item "Site Improvements." If the Site Improvement budget has already been spent, then the PTA board would ask the membership at the next PTA General Membership Meeting if they agree on moving funding from another budget line item to cover the cost of the flag. This is how the process works.

PTA looks forward to continued service to Sutterville children, teachers and families in the months and years ahead. We continue to be motivated and energized by your enthusiasm and desire for excellence! Your commitment to our school community is appreciated.

Bouquets of thanks go out to you all!

Cheerfully, Denay



Sutterville PTA Board 2005-06 Nominations

- Nominations will be accepted through **Friday, April 22nd**.
 - Nominees will be *limited* to PTA members *whose dues are paid* and whom have been members of the PTA for at least 30 days previous to nomination.
 - Voting will be held, in ballot form, during Open House, May 25th. This will be our "election meeting".
 - Voting is open to all *PTA members whose dues are paid* and whom have been members of the PTA for at least 30 days previous to elections.
 - Elected board members will begin service, July 1, 2005 through June 30th, 2006.
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Sutterville PTA Board 2005-06 Nomination Form

- I verify that I am an eligible dues paying member of the PTA.

Name: _____ Phone Number _____

I would like to nominate the following to serve on the Sutterville PTA 2005-06 Board:

(You may nominate yourself and/or others, if she/he has agreed to serve. You may make one or more nominations. Contact information for nominee required at the time of submission for nomination to be valid.)

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President _____ | Phone Number _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President _____ | Phone Number _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President _____ | Phone Number _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President _____ | Phone Number _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President _____ | Phone Number _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President _____ | Phone Number _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary _____ | Phone Number _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer _____ | Phone Number _____ |

- I verify, that if I've nominated someone other than myself, I have spoken with that person and obtained her/his permission.