

Springfield Council of PTAs Monthly

Volume 2, Issue 2
October 2018

A newsletter of the Springfield Council of PTAs

2018-19 SCPTA Officers and Chairs

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Jennifer Webb, Ed V. Williams Elementary

Middle School: Andre Illig, Cherokee

High School: Dr. JoAnn Hite, Central High School

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Founder of Clothing Bank delighted by project today

By Karen Craigo
Newsletter editor

In a case of the right person being in the right place at the right time, Joan Keiser served as the Springfield Council of PTAs president from 1973 to 1975. In June 1974, she was approached by the Junior League of Springfield to see if the organization would be interested in taking over a project the Junior League had begun.

And that's how the PTA came to run a clothing bank.

The first Clothing Bank was in the now-defunct Bailey School. "We walked over and looked at the existing Clothing Bank, which was in one large room, and probably 40 percent at least of that room was piled high, like a mountain of clothing. I was looking at it and thinking, 'Oh, my.'"

Even so, Keiser said, "We took it on."

The first chairman for the SCPTA Clothing Bank was Judy Caldwell. "She took on that great challenge, and that's where we began," Keiser recalled.

She said that each PTA had representatives to the bank. "They provided volunteers to help, and those volunteers had to serve a real team effort. In that period of time we had more moms who were stay-at-home moms and were able to come and volunteer. Even if they were working during the day-time, they worked in other ways to help put this together."

In Keiser's view, the Clothing Bank is the perfect project for the PTA to take on.

"Our program was formed to better the lives of children and youth," she said. "There are many kids in our system even today who don't have proper clothing to wear to school, whatever season it might be. Our focus as a parent-teacher association is to support not only their education, but also their physical and mental wellbeing. They can go to school in the clothing provided to them and feel like they have some dignity."

Back then, like today, the Clothing Bank purchased new jeans, socks, and underwear, and it accepted donations of clothing that was new or in good condition. The principal of each school would provide authorization for them to shop, and Kiwanis would provide new shoes, as they still do today, and stores would provide free or discounted goods. "It's always been a bit of a community effort," she said.

Keiser said that everyone can relate to kids who need clothes. "We've all at some time in our lives had a need for something, but the strongest need is that need to belong. Having clothing that seems to match what everyone is wearing — and it doesn't have to be trendy — that's so important. If they feel comfortable, I think that enhances their ability to learn."

Added Keiser, "The body, mind, and spirit work together to help us become the people that God intended us to be, and all of that is part of it."

(Continued on page 2)

Save the date ...

The next SCPTA meeting
will be 9:15 a.m. Nov. 7
at Hickory Hills School,
4650 State Hwy YY
(which is East Division Street).

Hope to see you there!

A letter from the president ...

It is an honor to set aside the month of October each year to recognize our partnership with the principals in our school district. Every organization is sustained by its partnerships, and PTA is no exception. We provide a support team to principals and their faculty and staff. Principals provide the opportunity for parents to engage with their students, staff, and faculty. Working together is critical, and anything we do in their building must be approved by the principal.

Thank you, principals!

National PTA's website has some suggestions on building a strong relationship with your school. Go to their page for "10 Partnering Tips for a Strong School Community" for ideas to strengthen those bonds: <https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/one-voice-blog/10-Partnering-Tips-for-a-Strong-School-Community>

We are two months into our school year, so keep in mind your PTA goals. Membership is the foundation. Continue to reach out to the community around your school. I had a senior citizen comment to me that "No one has invited me to join their PTA." Don't be shy ... invite!

All unit officers, please go to the Facebook page and join SCPTA President's Network. We will be discussing opportunities and answering questions that pertain to our local units.

Units that are in good standing qualify for their principal to apply for the McBride or the CARE Fund scholarships. Please get your unit information submitted to MOPTA and SCPTA so your principal can receive funds that go to the students. Those applications will be sent this month. Principals, be on the lookout.

We are so very proud of the SCPTA's premiere program, the PTA Clothing Bank. The brave agreement of SCPTA President Joan Keiser in 1974 to take on the receiving and distribution of clothing to our SPS students is a touching and amazing story. Her commitment carries on. We have heroes right here among us!

Thank you for coming to our general council meeting. Your 100 percent attendance supports your unit. Our next meeting is Nov. 7 at Hickory Hills School. Remember, you can send up to five delegates from your unit.

Becky Volz
president@scptamo.com

Agenda

October 3, 2018

9:15 a.m.,

Study Alternative Center

- § Welcome
- § Pledge of Allegiance
- § Director Justin Dickenson
- § Superintendent's Report by Dr. John Jungmann
- § Clothing Bank Fashion Show by Mandy Mitchell
- § Principal Recognition by Becky Volz
- § Financial Report by Leslie Norman
 - o 2017 Year-End Financial Review-Audit
 - o 2018 Budget
- § Sergeant At Arms by Heather Buckner
- § Adjourn

Clothing Bank founder amazed at what project has become

(Continued from page 1)

Keiser recently visited the Clothing Bank at the Study Alternative Center, 2343 W. Olive St., and she said that she was simply amazed at what she saw. "It's a shopping experience to the children. It introduces them, perhaps those of them who hadn't ever been out to shop for themselves, to that world," she said.

Keiser loves the bright colors, the layout, the clothing racks — when the Clothing Bank started, clothes were neatly folded on tables.

"I feel very pleased and proud of what they're doing, because so many times a project may start and the heart of it is lost, but I think because the heart of what we do in PTA is working for better lives for children and youth, the heart has continued on," she said.

Keiser is the mother of two grown sons, and her husband, Fritz, is a retired engineer. She still lives in Springfield, and she serves as a chaplain for Mercy Hospital.



Joan Keiser was SCPTA President at the founding of the Clothing Bank.

Are your bylaws up to date?

Please contact Springfield Council of PTAs' Bylaws chair
Tori Sallee with questions and to receive important updates
regarding your bylaws: torisallee@gmail.com

Units due for bylaws updates:

Pittman PTA
Pleasant View PTA
Wilson's Creek PTA

Units to consider Fiscal Year adjustment:

Williams PTA
Watkins PTA
McBride PTA
Pipkin PTSA
Pleasant View PTA
Jarrett PTA
Holland PTA



Meeting Sponsor

Thank you, Great Southern Bank!

The Springfield Council of PTAs would like to thank Great Southern Bank, our first Meeting Sponsor, for their donation of \$1,000 in gift cards for Principals' Month gifts.

Through the generosity of Great Southern, the SCPTA will be able to give \$20 gift cards to 50 principals.

Great Southern is a company with a track record of acknowledging educators. Their Community Heroes Loan Program honors active-duty and retired law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, certified nursing assistants, and — yes — educators. A wide range of options are available, and more information can be found at www.greatsouthernbank.com.

Note: We would love to honor a Meeting Sponsor for each meeting, and to honor them in our monthly newsletter. If your business would like to make a donation to the Springfield Council of PTAs, please contact President Becky Volz at president@scptamo.com.

See something? Say something.



TEXT TO TIP

THREATS. BULLYING. SCHOOL SAFETY.
YOU TELL US. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

417-319-2901

Tip Line new to district

Springfield Public Schools has established a Tip Line for instant reports of safety concerns.

Right from their classroom, students may text their concerns about threats, bullying, and school safety to 417-319-2901. the line is monitored 24 hours a day by school police.

Safety is everyone's business, and the tip line is open to all. Please tell the students in your life about this confidential notification system.

Friendly overtures make Sherwood safer

A letter from the Sherwood Elementary PTA President

From: Jessica Rosa

Date: Sept. 14, 2018

When we moved to the brand-new Sherwood school, everyone was given instructions and a map regarding the drop-off and dismissal procedure. At first it was chaotic with a new school, a new system, a new administration, and, most of all, with it being the start of a new year. Nearly everyone complied with the rules except a few parents, who would break from car line and drop off in the bus line. Dismissal generally worked because there was an administrative presence, yet a few people would still exit the school in the bus lane despite the bus's stop signs being out.

By the second year, the bus drivers were on edge and anxious every time they had to navigate the parking lot. No one was using the crosswalk, vehicles were aggressively exiting, and parents were dropping children off in the bus lane, causing delays. Tensions continued to rise as those who followed the rules were frustrated towards those not following the rules. The rule-breakers were aggressively defensive because no one corrected them when they started breaking the rules. Everyday someone was shouting, honking their horn, and in a grumpy mood because they had to deal with a chaotic parking lot in one way or another.

As a PTA, we saw an opportunity where we could make a difference. At first, we started by politely asking those not to drop off in the bus lane. The bus drivers saw our commitment to helping them, and they asked if we could remind people to use the crosswalk. Asking people to follow the rules was greatly upsetting the rule-breakers, and they were calling the office to complain about being asked to follow the rules. These complaints allowed the new principal to recognize the current drop-off procedure needed some improvement and maybe a little enforcement.

The first improvement the principal made was using cones to restrict those using the bus lane as an exit and/or drop off zone. The parent who placed the cones would help to navigate the buses, so they could safely enter the bus lane. With the cones in place, it also made the area safer for those refusing to use the crosswalk.

With the bus lane safer, the PTA could now pay attention to the car line. At first the goal was to help the car line to be more efficient by encouraging cars to pull up. In doing so, more children were able to ideally exit the cars at the front doors. Then the PTA started helping the smaller children out of the cars, and the parents didn't have to get out of the car to help them. When the PTA opens the door, they greet the children (and parents) with a friendly, "Good morning!"

Here is the amazing part: Yes, the cones helped. Yes, having a school employee present helped. Yes, directing the flow of traffic helped. However, what changed everything was the "Hello — good morning"! The students are feeling welcomed and more connected, but the parents are feeling it, too! A simple smile and greeting has changed the whole climate, and the parents are seeing it in action. As a PTA member, the only parents I meet are those who attend the meetings and volunteer at the events. I never got a chance to say hello or invite the parents to events in person until I started helping with the morning car line and drop-off.

Parents who have never attended a meeting or event are responding and inquiring about the next one. It's a very short interaction, but its impact is very powerful — so much so, they are waving back, smiling and saying "Good morning," too. Think about it; which school do you want to take your child to? One where the parking lot during drop-off and dismissal is a mess, filled with tension and frustration? Or one that is orderly but friendly? And where do you think someone who wishes to do harm will attempt to do it? One where no one is paying attention because it is chaotic, or one where people are visibly and consistently present, not just standing there like a prison guard but engaging everyone with a friendly "Good morning"?

I really wanted to share how impactful Sherwood's "PTA Morning Greeters" are changing the way everyone is engaging with the PTA. I tell my PTA team that "PTA" stands for Parents-Teachers in ACTION!

Sincerely,
Jessica Rosa

School Crossing Protection Committee begins its work

The School Crossing Protection Committee met for the first of four meetings they will have for the 2018-2019 school year.

SCPTA has filled the five voting positions from the feeder school areas of the five district high schools. They are Parkview, Allison Lawson; Kickapoo, Sarah Whitten; Central, Marie Woods; Hillcrest, Jennifer Shotwell; and Glendale, Mike Seever. Becky Volz, SCPTA President, will act as chairperson for SCPC meetings. We are very

pleased to have a full committee in place. The next meeting will be Nov. 15.

All PTA units are urged to review their school walking maps at <https://www.springfieldmo.gov/2114/School-Safety>. Please notice that purple shaded areas on the Walking Route Maps indicate that parents are strongly advised not to let children walk unescorted in those areas. Please help share these maps with all parents of walkers in your schools.

RIF: 'Celebrating 40 years of giving in Springfield'

By Laura Erwin
Vice President of Programs

The theme this year for Reading Is Fundamental of Springfield, Inc., is "Celebrating 40 Years of Giving to Springfield."

RIF has been selling glow sticks at high school football games in the district. So far, we have attended games at Glendale, Hillcrest, Kickapoo, and Parkview. We thank the A+, Kickapoo U and Leadership departments at all the high schools for sending us student volunteers, who have helped at these events by walking through the crowd and the stands to raise money for RIF.

We will be at Central on Friday, Oct. 5, so please stop by and support RIF while helping to celebrate their 40 years of serving students with free books in Springfield. We will be doing a drawing for a dinner for two at Los Cabos Mexican Grill and Cantina on South National, so do make sure you have entered.

RIF book distribution

The first RIF book distribution will be Oct. 22-24. On Monday the books will be unboxed, and on Tuesday we could use volunteers at 9 a.m. to help with sorting the books for individual schools. We encourage RIF coordinators or a representative to assist and will reward those in attendance with 10 bonus books for their school. If you are there to volunteering, you can take your books with you on Tuesday. Distribution pickup is Wednesday starting at 9 a.m. Book sorting and distribution will be at National Audio, 1010 S. National Ave.

The second book distribution will be Jan. 14-16, and the third book distribution will be April 15-17.



Reading Is Fundamental of Springfield, Inc., has been selling glow sticks at district high school games. Look for them Friday, Oct. 5, at Central.



Awaiting distribution: 4,500 books

RIF gearing up for busy season

By Laura Erwin

Vice President of Programs

RIF Coordinator Training was a great success as we had 24 units attend the three training sessions offered last week. It was great to meet so many new and returning faces with such excitement. We are off to a great start by having representation from each of the schools. Thank you for volunteering your time so students can each pick their own books. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you to Bingham, Horace Mann, Disney, and Harrison PTAs for sending in RIF donations already! We can accept donations electronically through PayPal. For anyone would like to donate, there is a donation link on our SCPTAMO.com website under the RIF section. If you have or know a local business that could donate, we would be glad to talk to them; please forward their contact information.

It takes \$30,000 to run this program every year supporting the students in first and second grades. We depend only on local contributions to fund the program, which provides three free books a year for every first and second grader in SPS. Book ownership has been proven to be a great motivator and helps to encourage reading in these young students so they will become lifelong readers.

Save the date: Cookie Bake

Come join us for our annual RIF Cookie Sale the week of the Springfield Christmas Parade Dec 8. We have two locations at the PenMac Building on South Ave and at the Gillioz Theater on Park Central East. We begin around noon and last until the parade passes or the cookies run out. We will also be selling trays of cookies for delivery on Friday. If three trays are purchased per location, we will personally deliver them to your school or business location. Orders are due by Dec. 6.

We could use your help in the following ways:

1) Help us bake on Thurs, Dec. 6, starting at noon until 8 p.m. at the University Heights Baptist Church at Grand and National. Just come with your apron to help bake and decorate cookies. It's a great time, and we get to learn others' secret recipes as a bonus.

2) Help us sort cookies Friday morning starting at 9 a.m. It's amazing how beautiful these cookie trays turn out.



RIF Coordinator Training

3) Sell trays of cookies to your school friends or businesses prior to Dec. 6. The 2018 cookie order forms are ready and will be posted on the SCPTAMO.com site.

4) Help staff the sales on parade day by selling individually wrapped cookies with hot chocolate or coffee.

Any commitment of time would be great, even if it's only an hour or two; come at the time that is convenient for you. The more, the merrier, as we are expecting a big year and will need your help. If you volunteer for the cookie sale, we have a surprise for you and will reveal it in November, so stay tuned. Due to liability we cannot have children helping during the baking on Thursday.

Please keep RIF in mind as you plan your holidays for some of the RIF famous traditional cookies. They're great for teacher recognition gifts, office parties, and for family gatherings. Get your orders in early, as last year we sold 180 dozen. To order your cookies in advance, please email rifspringfieldmo@gmail.com, phone 417-880-6073, or fax 417-863-7825.

When mailing in a check donation, please send to the following address:

Reading is Fundamental of Springfield, Inc.
PO Box 11253 G S
Springfield MO 65808

What is the proper role of the chair?

By Donna Petiford
donnapetiford@gmail.com

Parliamentary procedure requires that all members have equal rights; that there be mutual respect among board members; and that the rights of the minority to initiate motions, debate, and have their votes counted be protected, while at the same time the will of the majority governs.

Only one item may be under consideration at a time. The majority vote decides the question. The simplest, clearest and most expeditious way to conduct business is considered proper, as long as it does not violate the rights of members.

FAQs

(Borrowed from Dr. Leonard Young)

1. Can the chair (president) vote?

If a member, the chair has the right to vote, and does so in small boards of not more than about a dozen members present. In larger assemblies, the chair (who has a duty to maintain an appearance of impartiality) may vote when that vote would affect the outcome: to make or break a tie or to make or prevent a two-thirds vote, or when the vote is by ballot (at the same time as everybody else).

2. Can the chair make motions?

Yes, the chair, if a member, has the same RIGHT to make a motion as any other member. In small boards of not more than about a dozen members present, the chair usually participates in the same way that

other members do. However, in larger assemblies, the chair has a duty to remain impartial, so would usually not make a motion directly. The chair could say, for example, "The chair will entertain a motion to ..." and then wait for a member to make it, or "Is there a motion to suspend the rules that interfere with hearing the speaker at this time?" The chair may also assume a motion, as in this example: "If there are no [further] corrections, the minutes stand approved as read [as corrected]." or "If there is no further business to come before the meeting, this meeting will now adjourn. [pause] Hearing none, this meeting is adjourned." Without actually directly making a motion, the chair can accomplish pretty much the same thing without blatantly compromising his or her impartiality. Another option is to ask someone before the meeting to make a motion that the chair wishes to be considered. Accepting the job of chair does not remove any rights as a member.

3. Can the chair enter into debate?

In small boards of not more than about a dozen members present, yes. In larger assemblies, if the chair wishes to debate, he/she should relinquish the chair to the vice president or another member, until the matter is disposed of, before resuming the chair.

4. What is a quorum?

It is the minimum number of members who must be present at a meeting in order to conduct business. This number is usually specified by the bylaws.

The National PTA Position Statement on Principals

THE PRINCIPAL, THE SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL LEADER:

The principal is the leader of the school. Leadership provides purpose and direction for the school and school community. This leadership includes shaping school culture and values, developing a shared vision, and structuring change efforts.

The principal guides the leadership team in setting priorities for all stakeholders within the school community, the district framework, and the larger community.

The principal coordinates all of these efforts toward developing successful students who can be productive in the 21st century.

The National PTA encourages cooperation of PTAs with professional organizations of principals to promote quality education for all children and youth.

Full Statement at <https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/advocacy/position-statements/the-principal-the-school's-educational-leader-ps.pdf>

Clothing Bank already distributing coats

By Allison Lawson

Vice President of Health and Public Services

October and fall kick off many clothing drives sponsored by our PTA units and community partners. Hickory Hills is busy planning their drive and recently had a video shoot at the Clothing Bank; they were working on their promo pieces, which we can't wait to see and share. The Downtown Church kicked off their "Undies for Sundays" drive, asking for new underwear, socks, and bras to be donated on Sundays in October.

Cooler temperatures arrived at the end of September. In response, we quickly made winter coats available a bit earlier than originally planned. Eighty-two students were able to shop for winter coats as well as lightweight jackets on Thursday, Sept. 27. Students can select one lightweight jacket at each of their three visits per school year and can select a winter coat once per school year. The need for hoodies and other lightweight jackets in all sizes is huge, as many students wear these every day.

The PTA Clothing Bank has been blessed with many incredible donations as everyone cleaned out their closets for back-to-school, and our needs right now are for really specific items, such as hoodies.

Our most critical need right now is twofold: volunteers to sort donations and student shoppers to take these amazing outfits home and then wear them to school!



Winter coats were available for students for the first time on Sept. 27.

Please spread the word so we can reach every child who needs clothes (it is getting cold), as well as their teachers! We are glad to welcome teachers who might be heading to a store to buy something for a student to first come to the PTA Clothing Bank.

PTA units, you are doing an incredible job providing for all of our SPS students and making sure every child is ready to learn!

PTA unit assigned workdays for October 2018:

(Any volunteer is welcome any day; assigned units, please send at least 1-2 volunteers on your day.)

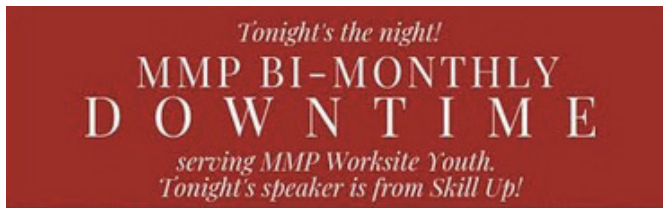
Oct. 4: Central, Greenwood, Pipkin, Westport, Study, Bissett, York, Weaver, Boyd, and Weller

Oct. 6 (Saturday): ALL units and volunteers welcome!

Oct. 11: Hillcrest, Reed, Pleasant View, Robberson, Bowerman, Williams, Watkins, Fremont, and Truman

18: Glendale, Pershing, Hickory Hills, Sequiota, Field, Wilder, Pittman, and Bingham

25: Parkview, Jarrett, Carver, Cowden, Sherwood, Holland, Sunshine, Delaware, Rountree, McGregor, Twain, and Portland



Special thanks to Springfield Council of PTA's Clothing Bank for donating amazing interview clothes for our youth!



The PTA Clothing Bank was happy to share extra summer clothing with Missouri Mentoring Partnership as we worked to switch the floor from summer to winter.



The Downtown Church's donation drive was presented in their church bulletin.

Meet our hosts:

The Study Alternative Center

Study Alternative Center is the host for today's general meeting of the Springfield Council of PTAs, and as the home of our PTA Clothing Bank, it is a place many of us know are acquainted with.

But how well do we know Study? We're savvy enough to pronounce it correctly — STOO-dy, which rhymes with "Judy."

And some of us have met Justin Dickenson, director of Alternative Programs at the school — yet we may not know that he has been in education for 23 years, with 14 of those years served in SPS. For the last 11 years, he has been an administrator with SPS Alternative Programs.

Study has a clear mission for its students and staff: To provide an alternative educational setting that addresses the academic and personal growth needs of our students in order to promote their ability to become socially responsible members of our community.

And its vision is for Study to be a leader in al-

We hope you'll plan to attend these future meetings of the SCPTA

Meetings are at 9:15 a.m. at the location indicated, and everyone is welcome. You might even win a door prize!

NOVEMBER 2018

Date: November 7th

School: Hickory Hills

DECEMBER 2018

Date: December 5th

School: Pleasant View

FEBRUARY 2019

Date: February 6th

School: WOLF – WOW choice school site

MARCH 2019

Date: March 6th

School: Glendale High School

APRIL 2019

Date: April 3rd

School: Reed Academy

MAY 2019

Date: May 1st

School: David Harrison Elementary

ternative education characterized by a small, respectful, and safe learning community. We will employ a flexible, innovative curriculum to meet the diverse needs of our students.



Some of the students at Study Alternative

October dates to remember

- 4 Clothing bank open – Central and feeder schools' volunteer days
- 5 RIF Fundraiser at Central Football Game
- 6 Clothing bank open 9-11 a.m. – all units and volunteers welcome
- 11 Clothing bank open – Hillcrest and feeder schools' volunteer days
- 15 No school (teacher work day)
- 16 SPS Board of Education meeting, 5:30 p.m., Kraft Administrative Center
- 17 SCPTA executive meeting 9:15 a.m., Kraft Administrative Center
- 18 Clothing bank open – Glendale and feeder schools' volunteer days
- 22 RIF – Preparation for distribution (taking out books), 6:30 p.m., 309 E. Water St.
- 23 RIF – Preparation for distribution (sorting of books), 9 a.m., 309 E. Water St.
- 24 RIF – First distribution, 9 a.m.
- 25 Clothing bank open – Parkview and feeder schools' volunteer days
- 28 Council newsletter deadline

Financial overview for August 2018

Bank Account Balances	07/01/2018	08/31/2018	Last Reconciled	Summary for the Period	
Care Fund	447.97	447.99	09/03/2018	Starting Total	133,649.23
Clothing Bank	20,446.63	19,076.82	09/03/2018	Income	149.41
General Operating	62,230.17	61,550.95	09/03/2018	Expenses	-2,060.61 -1,911.20
McBride Fund	573.56	573.59	09/03/2018	Ending Total	131,738.03
Scholarship Checking	329.90	467.68	09/03/2018		
Scholarship Funds Restricted	49,621.00	49,621.00	09/03/2018		
Total	133,649.23	131,738.03			

Council uses MoneyMinder to track and report financial information.

Detailed financial records are available online at <http://www.nonprofitcentral.biz>

Treasurer's Tips:

Follow safe handling procedures

By Leslie Norman
Treasurer

October is a month of fall festivals & possibly book fair, so here are a few reminders of money handling procedures.

1. Only paid PTA Members may handle money.
2. Prior to depositing, two (2) PTA members need to count

checks & cash. Suggest using a "Reconciliation Form" with signatures to put with deposit slip for records.

3. To steal a good idea from David Harrison Elementary, try using a locked box for money collection when members aren't available to handle money. An example of this sort of situation would be middle school volunteers staffing a popcorn table.



A locked box is ideal for holding cash.

