

This is the **Indiana PTA Good News Alert** that goes out every Sunday night throughout the year. **Please feel free to pass this on to your PTA contacts!**

We are looking to highlight PTA's and Council's across the state that are excelling at membership, projects, or just have a great idea to share! We also hope this keeps you up to date on deadlines and events for Indiana PTA.

INDIANA PTA UPDATE

THE INDIANA PTA 98th ANNUAL CONVENTION HAS COME TO A CLOSE...

AND IT WAS TRULY WONDERFUL!!!

The Indiana PTA Convention has come to an end and we are sending home leaders who have been recognized and celebrated; leaders who are trained and bursting with ideas, and leaders who know who to contact for help if they need it! Watch out Indiana - PTA spirit is alive and well here! 186 Delegates, approximately 290 attendees at the Reflections/Citizenship Luncheon and 27 guests today for the Celebration Brunch showed us that Indiana PTA is moving forward and making great strides in getting the word out about our association! It is so nice to be with parents, teachers and leaders who share the same vision. It is truly wonderful to watch the excitement, partnerships, and momentum build! If you had the opportunity to attend, we would love to have your evaluation if you did not get it turned in or your comments on our Facebook page. If you did not attend this year, you need to make it a priority to attend next year. It **IS** an investment in the future of your PTA! We all are reenergized to begin work for next year and increase membership, awareness, and skills to help our schools!

We want to thank the Indiana PTA Board of Managers and office staff, Julie French and Susie Weaver, for the terrific job they did organizing the weekend for everyone. Special thanks go to National PTA President-Elect Betsy Landers and Nancy Cox, RiShawn Biddle, Linda Sterling, and Nore Hare for representing National PTA so well. It was a pleasure to work with you all! Thank you to Julie Klingenberger and the Northeast Region for organizing the door prizes and being the host region. Thank you to the Region Vice President's Natalie Jones, Sharon Wise, Dee Jones and Julie Klingenberger for holding the first Region Progressive Dinner on Saturday night that was so much fun! Thank you to our workshop presenters, exhibitors, guests, and especially YOU that attended for making this a great event for our PTA's.

We would be remiss if we did not thank our sponsors one more time because they made this possible with their support! Please remember that they are supporting the PTA and thank them for that support. It is with the help of these sponsors that we can keep the cost of convention to a minimum for our local units. Thank you to all of our sponsors!!

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Dee Jones
Forest Park PTA
Fort Wayne Area Council PTA
Indian Village Elementary School PTA
James and Nichole Thomas
Jefferson Middle School PTSA
Joseph Hess PTA
Julie French
Julie Klingenberger
Kathie & Cara Green
Leesa Mecozzi
Marion County Council of PTAs
Morton Elementary PTA
Natalie and Barry Jones
Northrop High School PTSA
Pat Taylor
Perry Township Council of PTAs
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INDIANA PTA AND SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TONY BENNETT

Indiana PTA had the opportunity at our February Board Meeting to talk to Dr. Tony Bennett, the Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction. From that meeting, he offered to meet quarterly with 12 of our leaders from across the state. The first meeting of this group was on Thursday and National PTA President Elect Betsy Landers attended with us. Dr. Bennett brought us up to date on Race to the Top and the budget. We got to tell him about the importance of PTA and parental engagement in his plans. This meeting has set the ground work for a continuing relationship and information pathway that can help our units understand what is going on with education in Indiana and may give us ways to help. One of the things that came out of the meeting is a partnership to highlight great teachers and beginning below we are adding a column to our good news alert called Teacher Success Stories. The Indiana Department of Education is going to get us a teacher story every week to include and we will supplement that with your teacher's success stories. Dr. Bennett then attended our convention on Saturday to bring greetings and when he left he let us know that he wants to talk to our leaders immediately about how to organize PTA's in failing schools to help them. This is a huge opportunity for all of us and details will be coming out on how this can be accomplished in an effective way.

SPECIAL NOTE: HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO INDIANA PTA PRESIDENT TINA HARTMAN ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21ST! IF YOU GET A CHANCE THIS WEEK, PLEASE SEND HER AN EMAIL TO vballmom67@yahoo.com!

PTA SUCCESS STORIES

Congratulations to the following awards winners that were announced at the Indiana PTA Convention this weekend:

Outstanding Council: **Fort Wayne Area PTA Council** for it's Father's Being Involved Campaign.
Outstanding Unit: **Cynthia Heights Elementary School PTA** for it's Celebration of Reading Program.
Outstanding Principal: **John Skinner from North High School PTSA**
Outstanding Teacher: **Chris Grinstead from Shawnee Middle School PTSA**
Outstanding Volunteer: **Tony Distelrath from Jefferson Middle School PTSA**
Honor Units: **Northrop High School PTSA, Forest Park Elementary School PTA, Jefferson Middle School PTSA, Cynthia Heights Elementary School PTA, Reitz High School PTSA, O'Bannon Elementary School PTA, Harding Elementary School PTA, Twin Branch Model School PTA, and Brookview Elementary School PTA.**
Outstanding Membership Campaign: **Shawnee Middle School PTSA**
Outstanding Website Awards: **Croninger Elementary School PTA, Shawnee Middle School PTSA, Gavit Middle/High School PTSA, and Fort Wayne Area PTA Council.**
Outstanding Journalism Awards: **Brookview Elementary School PTA, North High School PTSA, and Perry Township PTA Council.**
Citizenship Award: **O'Bannon Elementary School PTA**

The following schools won membership awards at the 2009-2010 Indiana State PTA Convention: 25% increase over 2008-2009

Arlington Elementary School PTA
Bunche/Towles PTA
Franke Park Elementary School PTA
Jefferson Middle School PTSA
M.K. Holland Elementary School PTA
Shawnee Middle School PTSA
Frank O'Bannon Elementary School PTA

Fred J. Hums Elementary School PTA
G.R. Clark Middle School PTSA
Irving Elementary School PTA
Lafayette Elementary School PTA
Lew Wallace Elementary School PTA
Monnett Elementary School PTA
Morton Elementary School PTA
A. Lincoln Elementary School PTA
Homecroft Elementary School PTA
Pleasant Run Elementary School PTA
Rosa Parks-Edison Elementary School PTA
Cynthia Heights Elementary School PTA
Daniel Wertz Elementary School PTA
Dexter Elementary School PTA
Harper Elementary School PTA
Helfrich Park Middle School PTSA
Signature School PTSA
Vogel Elementary School PTA

50% increase over 2008-2009

Brookview Elementary School PTA
Columbia Elementary School PTA
Elmhurst High School PTSA
F. Price Elementary School PTA
F.W. Critchfield Elementary School PTA
Forest Park Elementary School PTA
Gavit Middle/High School PTSA
Harding Elementary School PTA
Indian Village Elementary School PTA
Kenwood Elementary School PTA
LaPorte High School PTSA
Lew Wallace Elementary School PTA
Liberty Park Elementary School PTA
Lowell Elementary School PTA
Memorial Park Middle School PTSA
Miami Middle School PTSA
Morton Elementary School PTA
North High School PTSA
Northwood Middle School PTSA
Pittsboro Elementary School PTA
Portage Middle School PTSA
R. Harris Elementary School PTA
Raymond Park Middle School PTSA
Rise Learning Center PTA
School #2 Center for Inquiry PTA
School #56 PTA
Shawnee Middle School PTSA
Stonybrook Middle School PTSA
Study Elementary School PTA

100% Matching Membership

Brookview Elementary School PTA

Outstanding Membership Achievement Award

Forest Park Elementary School PTA
Harding Elementary School PTA
Stonybrook Middle School PTSA
Vogel Elementary School PTA

500 Club

Northrop High School PTSA
Hebron Elementary School PTA
Oak Hill Middle School PTSA
Scott Elementary School PTA

Congratulations to all the winners for an outstanding job this year! The membership efforts mean that for the first time in awhile, Indiana PTA is showing a 6.6% membership increase and we are one of the few states in the nation to show an increase! Thank you all!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SUCCESS STORIES FROM YOUR PTA! Just send us your success stories and good news items by Sunday at noon every week and we will include the recognition you deserve and also a place to possibly get new ideas for programs for others. It's easy! Just send us a note to kathie.green@verizon.net and we will promote your school state-wide!

TEACHER SUCCESS STORIES

What better way to kick off a new feature of the Indiana PTA Good News Alert that will feature your teacher success stories than to let you know about this year's Indiana PTA Outstanding Teacher of the Year. **Chris Grinstead** from Shawnee Middle School has been a teacher for four years after being in management. Shawnee PTSA wrote: "Every once and awhile you get to work with a teacher who heart just comes out in so many ways to improve student's lives at the school. Chris is that type of teacher. We don't know what he did before he became a teacher but he is in exactly the right career. The number one reason our PTSA nominated Chris is because of the absolute and total support he has given our PTSA in encouraging students and families to participate in our events and for putting his money where his mouth is by being in attendance and bringing his family to every event. Chris walks the walk and doesn't just talk the talk. He's always thinking about how he can become a better teacher for his students. It is an innate characteristic in his very personality that we wanted to reward. He loves our kids and our school and it shows every day!"

WE ARE LOOKING FOR TEACHER SUCCESS STORIES FROM YOUR PTA! Just send us your teacher success stories by Sunday at noon every week and we will include the recognition you deserve and also a place to possibly get new ideas for programs for others. It's easy! Just send us a note to kathie.green@verizon.net and we will promote your school state-wide!

NATIONAL PTA UPDATE

Taking Care of Business: New Convention Rules to Empower Delegates

Based on your feedback, new convention rules will be proposed for approval by delegates in General Meeting 1 to further streamline PTA business and empower delegates to debate the issues rather than process. Find specifics and ask questions about the proposed convention rules by [participating in an online discussion now!](#)

The 2010 PTA National Convention will be held at the Memphis Cook Convention Center in Memphis, TN. Memphis is the home of Graceland, the National Civil Rights Museum, Beale Street, great barbecue and the blues! Plan to attend now and bring the whole family to enjoy the many sites Memphis has to offer. Visit the [Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau website](#) for more information.

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN INDIANA PTA! WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE NEW IDEAS AND PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP YOUR UNITS!

NOTE: How do I get my school featured in an Indiana PTA Good News Alert? If you have a great story that you would like us to use, contact us directly at the above email or let your Region VP know and we will highlight your PTA in one of our weekly emails! **Contact your Region VP at: Northwest: Dee Jones (ptadee@yahoo.com), Northeast: Julie Klingenberger (jklingenberger04@comcast.net), Central: Sharon Wise (swise36@comcast.net); Southern: Natalie Jones (twinmama02@yahoo.com).** Also don't forget to check out the Indiana PTA website at www.indianapta.org for some great information and the National PTA website at www.pta.org. The new format for the "PTA Great Idea Bank" could also be really useful for your unit - it can also be found on the National PTA website