

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 ANNUAL INDIANA PTA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE IS THIS WEEK!

The 2010 Indiana PTA Legislative Conference was rescheduled for **Wednesday, February 24th**. Registration will still begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis. The conference then begins at 9:30 a.m. Although we will not be doing the official State House Tour that day, we have been able to reschedule most appointments and now we will get a chance to hear from Dr. Tony Bennett, Superintendent of Public Schools, whose schedule is free that day. We are looking forward to a great day!

"LUNCH FOR A LEGISLATOR"

We are very thankful to the schools who have agreed to sponsor a "Lunch for a Legislator." The following schools have already agreed to donate money to help us cover this cost:

Price Elementary School PTA
Shawnee Middle School PTSA
Portage Middle School PTSA
Kesling Middle School PTSA
Brookview Elementary School PTA
Forest Park Elementary School PTA
Brentwood Elementary School PTA
Northwood Middle School PTSA
Jefferson Middle School PTSA
School # 56 PTA
Fort Wayne Area PTA Council
Shambaugh Elementary School PTA
O'Bannon Elementary School PTA
Croninger Elementary School PTA
Northrop High School PTSA
Reitz High School PTSA
Hammond PTA Council
Hammond High School PTSA
Irving Elementary School PTA
Lowell Elementary School PTA
Lane Middle School PTSA
Pleasant Center Elementary School PTA
Snider High School PTSA
Lakeside Middle School PTSA
Fishback Creek Public Academy PTA
Twin Branch Elementary School PTA
Maywood (Hammond) PTA
Eggers Middle School PTSA
Gary PTA Council
Hums Elementary School PTA
Lakeside Elementary School PTA (Indy)
Bunche/Towles PTA

**Price Chapman Academy PTSA
Memorial Park Middle School PTSA
Pat Taylor
Dexter Elementary School PTA
Moorhead Elementary School PTA
Harding Elementary School PTA (NW)
Bloomingdale Elementary School PTA
Arlington Elementary School PTA
Blackhawk Middle School PTSA
Hess Elementary School PTA**

This has been a truly great response from schools across the state! We would like to thank the schools who have already stepped up to help us with this effort and we appreciate your support as we work to advocate for children and schools across the entire state!

Here is a current list of Legislators that have replied that they will attend:

**Senator Jim Arnold
Rep. Dennis Avery
Rep. John Barnes
Senator Phil Boots
Senator Jean Breaux
Senator Ed Charbonneau
Rep. Nancy Dembrowski
Rep. Tom Dermody
Senator Bob Dieg
Senator Sue Errington
Rep. Phil Giaquinta
Rep. Doug Gutwein
Rep. Phil Hinkle
Senator Travis Holdman
Senator Lindel Hume
Rep. Sheila Klinker
Senator Dennis Kruse
Rep. Linda Lawson
Senator Jean Leising
Senator James Lewis
Senator David Long
Senator Frank Mrvan
Rep. Joe Pearson
Rep. Paul Robertson
Senator Earline Rogers
Senator Connie Sipes
Rep. Vernon Smith
Rep. Milo Smith
Senator Karen Tallian
Rep. Jeff Thompson
Rep. Vern Tincher
Rep. Dennis Tyler
Rep. David Yarde**

Regrets: Rep. Ed Delaney, Senator Ryan Mishler, Rep. Pat Bauer, Senator Vi Simpson, Rep. Kreg Battles, Rep. Bob Cherry, Rep. Cleo Duncan, Rep. Bill Ruppel, Senator Miller, Senator Waterman, Senator Allen Paul, Senator Johnny Nugent, Rep. Messmer, Rep. Koch, Rep. Bosma, Rep. Clements and Rep. Niezgodski.

PTA FOUNDER'S DAY DATES

Founders Day is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be:

- a powerful voice for all children,
- a relevant resource for parents,
- and a strong advocate for public education.

National PTA was founded on February 17, 1897. As we reflect and celebrate the founding of this great association PTA, there is one thing that stands out in my mind. On the night of the very first meeting 200 people were expected, over 2,000 showed up to be advocates for the children. The work that PTA was founded on is more relevant than ever before. What better time than the week of Founder's Day to stand up and join the PTA Takes Action Challenge? Join fellow members at the grassroots level to be actively engaged in the work of our association. Visit www.pta.org to join the network of advocates. Our children are counting on us!

Below are some dates for Founder's Day Events across Indiana:

Evansville Area PTA Council: February 25, 2010

Mishawaka PTA Council: March 8, 2010 (75th Anniversary Celebration)

Marion County PTA Council: March 24, 2010

JOURNALISM AWARD DEADLINE IS MARCH 1ST!

Does your PTA send out a newsletter to your membership? Would you like to have your PTA considered for the Indiana PTA Journalism Award this year? If so, just send two copies of your newsletter to Kathie Green at 8510 Victoria Woods Place Fort Wayne, IN. 46825 by **March 1st**. For those that are asking: You must mail two copies. They can not be sent by email. For more information go to: <http://www.indianapta.org/Document%20for%20Download/Journalism.pdf>.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING

March 15th is the last membership deadline for this year! Your dues and membership award form must be postmarked by this date and sent to the Indiana PTA office in Indianapolis. There is still time to do one last push to get the free Indiana PTA Convention registrations! PTA's that do a membership push tend to grow by 18-20%! Remember: You get one free convention registration for turning in 100 more members than last year or for turning in 50 more members since November 15th, 2009. You can actually win two free registrations!

INDIANA PTA CONVENTION SPOTLIGHT...

INDIANA PTA 98th ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 16-18, 2010

The Indiana PTA Convention is a legitimate expense for your PTA to budget for. We truly believe it is the best money your PTA can spend for the future of your PTA! You may make the one contact that can help you or get the one idea that you need. Your leadership will get training so they can begin planning. It is well worth your time! You should start making plans now to attend! **Early bird registration is \$70.00 per person until April 2nd.** After that it is \$85.00. Your PTA can also win free registrations (up to two) if your PTA gets 100 more members than last year and/or 50 more members between November 15th and

March 15th. Your PTA should be talking about who will attend convention for your unit now so you can meet the deadlines for registration and the hotel.

Program Ads:

Did you know your PTA can take out an ad in the Indiana PTA Convention Program to thank your officers, promote your school or an event, or anything you wish. There is an ad level that fits every budget! Just go to the Indiana PTA website to check this out! Ads will be due to Indiana PTA no later than **March 15th**.

Sponsors:

One of the main reasons we can keep the cost of our convention as low as possible is sponsors. Indiana PTA has many levels that businesses and organizations can fit into to support our efforts. It can be as simple as being able to put something in our convention "goodie bags" or advertising in the program or as big as sponsoring our overall convention and being involved in many levels. We are contacted often by businesses who want to promote their business to our members. This is the perfect opportunity. For more information, check out www.indianapta.org/convention.html!

Upcoming Indiana PTA Dates of Importance

Here are some dates to keep in mind:

- February 24, 2010: Rescheduled Indiana PTA Legislative Conference
- March 1, 2010: Two copies of your newsletter are due by this date to be considered for Journalism Award
- March 15, 2010: Membership Dues deadline, Membership Awards Form Due
- April 2, 2010: Pre-registration ends for Indiana PTA Convention (it's only \$70.00 if you register by this date!)
- April 16-18, 2010: Indiana PTA Convention

PTA SUCCESS STORIES

Don't forget to 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! Anyone running a "New Year New Opportunity" Membership Campaign? We would love to hear about it!

As the Fort Wayne Area Council PTA celebrates its 50 years of supporting and advocating for the children of our city, I feel compelled to thank the group of very dedicated parents that have served this organization throughout my term as President. I have been very fortunate to work alongside some amazing people. I have been mesmerized by their commitment and grateful for their unshakeable support. It has been through their efforts that our region is leading the state in membership growth. They have stepped out of comfortable and familiar situations for the sake of development and change. Certainly, we have taught one another, as well as learned from each other's experiences. They have made my job seem effortless. Therefore, it is with my sincerest gratitude I thank **Theresa Distelrath, Gail Brown, Criss Fiengo, Lisa Beber, Laura Ramsey, Kathie Green, Diane Brow, Nichole Thomas, Kim Sands, Vicky Walchle, Rose Hillery, Tony Distelrath, Tina Hartman, Deb Fox, Michelle Davis, Stacey Patalita, and Jennifer Schuler** for their service to the Fort Wayne Area Council

PTA and the children of Fort Wayne Community Schools. Julie Klingenberger, FW Area Council PTA President

The Ft. Wayne Council PTA celebrated 50 years of advocating for the students in the Ft. Wayne area last Tuesday Night, February 16th. The event was wonderfully planned and executed by chairman Kathie Green at the Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce. We were graced with the presence of our **Superintendent Dr. Wendy Robinson, School Board Members Mark GiaQuinta, John Peirce, and Becky Hill, US Congressman Mark Souder, Mike Green representing the County Commissioners Office, and Area Administrators Dan Bickel, and Rita Turflinger.** South Side HS PTSA under the supervision of **PTSA President Terry Stephens and PTSA Treasurer Denise Stephens** along with **Principal Thomas Smith** played host for the evening. Their wonderful students served in many capacities. Their hospitality crew, the Green Coats, were greeters and ushers. We enjoyed the stylings of both their jazz ensemble and jazz choir as entertainment. To mark this special anniversary, **Diane Brow**, Snider HS PTSA President produced a video documentary of the Council's work through the years entitled "50 Years, a Step into the Future". We were treated to a power point presentation on Race to the Top by our Superintendent as a keynote. Many individuals were recognized with State Life Awards. Congratulations to **Lisa Beber, Claire Fickenscher, Gail Brown, Adam Swinford, Bill Fiengo, Criss Fiengo, Michelle Lutz, Julie Klingenberger, and John Peirce.** The Northeast Region Field Service Team was proud to present for the first time, awards to six schools for Outstanding Achievement. Each Field Service Rep was asked to choose one school from the list they service that had made great strides this year. The criteria was left to them. The choices included a school that had not had their bylaws updated in over a decade, a school who finally has more than one officer, a school embracing diverse parent population and adopting programs that center around that diversity, two school who's PTA's were practically non existent last year, and a school who has accomplished marvelous membership feats. Honored with this award were **South Wayne Elementary PTA, Memorial Park MS PTSA, Shawnee MS PTSA, Portage MS PTSA, Prince Chapman Academy PTA, and South Side HS PTSA.** These schools are wonderful examples of the good things happening in the Northeast Region. Finally, we awarded our much beloved Big Heart Awards to **Chuck DeFord (North Side HS PTSA), Andrew Fiengo (Northrop HS PTSA), Kelly Cumberland (Shawnee MS PTSA), Lisa Thompson (Jefferson MS PTSA), and Michelle Davis (Snider HS PTSA).** All in all this was a terrific event. Very special thanks goes to Kathie Green for all of her hard work in putting together this Golden Anniversary Gala! It was a night we will all cherish! Congratulations FW Area Council PTA!!!

Shawnee Middle School PTSA is very excited that we just reached the 100 more members than last year level and that we will now get a free Indiana PTA Convention registration. Our PTSA has grown 467% in just two years! We are just 12 members away for being able to turn in 50 more members from November 15th to March 15th to win the second free convention registration! On March 1st we are kicking off our last minute membership push: "March Membership Madness." We will be drawing for prizes every day from March 1st to March 15th for PTSA members to win. The sooner people buy a membership, the more chances they have to win! Anyone want to join our PTSA and help us try to reach our goal of 500 members?

Brookview PTA is busy getting the word out to parents about our district's current budget crisis and state legislative issues. We are advocating to try to get more parents to our school board meetings and the upcoming community dialogues about budget cuts. We sent out a newsletter this week featuring legislative issues including SB150, SB309 and HB 1367 as well as the national concern about the funding of PIRCs. We are also gathering information about the upcoming school board election to share with our families. We hope to make sure our members have the chance to make their voices heard on these important issues.

Price Elementary School PTA is excited (and a little scared) that we have over 150 dads and students signed up for Price PTA's first ever Donuts with Dads. That's a LOT of donuts!! Donuts, juice, milk, and coffee will be at 8:00 A.M. followed by a guest speaker talking about the importance in dads getting involved! There is still a whole week for MORE to sign up! A GIANT thanks goes to Ephraim Scott Smiley III who is the Guest Speaker for Price PTA's first Donuts with Dads! We can't wait to hear what he has to

say to energize the dads at our school and get them excited about their student's education! Next Friday will be GREAT!

BY THE WAY – Do you read this email every week? The following people read the email last week and will get a “PTA surprise” in the mail for letting us know: **NE:** Melonie Cawvey (Shawnee); Amanda Landers (Pleasant Center), Yolanda Austin (Prince Chapman) Bill Fiengo (Northrop) Megan Lytle (Brentwood) and Katie Berkey (Waynedale) **NW:** Kaitee Silva (Lincoln Elem –LaPorte) and Becky Lively (O'Bannon) and **C:** Carissa Dollar (Brookview), Kelly Bowser (Perry Meridian), April Bohbrink (Pittsboro), Jennifer Wooldridge (Pleasant Run) and Marti MacKenzie (Warren Central). Thanks to all who replied.

[NATIONAL PTA UPDATE](#)

March 1 Deadline: Family-School Partnership Awards

The application deadline for National PTA's Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards is 11:59 p.m. EST, Monday, March 1. We encourage you to apply today!

For demonstrating exemplary all-around achievement of the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, one local PTA will receive the Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award, with a \$2,000 monetary award. Six PTAs, each representing the best in one of the six National Standards, will receive a Family-School Partnership Award of Excellence and a \$500 monetary award. All local PTAs that submit a complete award application demonstrating achievement in one or more of the National Standards will receive an Award of Merit.

For more information, go to www.PTA.org/Hearst.

2011–2012 PTA Reflections Theme Selected

National PTA is proud to announce the 2011–2012 PTA Reflections Program theme: "Diversity means..." This winning theme was submitted by a student at Ozark North Elementary PTA in Ozark, Missouri.

The theme was selected from among 128 student entries from 27 states and will inspire all the artworks for the 2011–2012 program year. Please join us in celebrating this outstanding student contribution.

Remember, the **2010–2011 theme is "Together We Can."**

To learn more about the PTA Reflections Program theme search, go to www.PTAreflections.org.

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN INDIANA PTA! WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE NEW IDEAS AND PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP YOUR UNITS! WE ARE VERY CLOSE TO REACHING 30,000 MEMBERS AND THE FIRST MEMBERSHIP INCREASE IN AWHILE! WE CAN DO THIS!

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