

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 WAS AMAZING!

The Legislative Committee would like to extend a sincere thank-you to all the Units and Councils that participated in this year's Legislative Conference last Wednesday. We also express our gratitude to **Dr. Tony Bennett**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, **Teresa Meredith**, Vice President of the ISTA, and to **Senator Dennis Kruse** for speaking with us. We thank the more than one hundred students in attendance for their participation in an absolutely terrific Student Panel, their comments were priceless and thought-provoking. We are most thankful for the Legislators who lunched with our attendees. Despite being called into caucus that day at 12:00 and it being the last day for 2nd readings AND going into session, we had a GREAT turnout. We are more than aware how demanding their schedules can be, yet they chose to spend time with our members and our students answering questions and addressing concerns. Overall, it was a wonderful day full of information and insight. As Chairman of the Legislative Committee I wish to whole-heartedly thank the members of my committee for their commitment to this project. Special thanks to **Nichole Thomas, Donna Benirschke, Dee Jones, Pam Stallings, Barry Jones, Maria Wright, Kathie Green and Sue Switzer** I also thank the following Board Members in attendance for their assistance: **Julie Klingenberger, Kim Merkel, Elleen Laughlin, Traci Davis, Marilyn Jones, Michelle Sigg, Sharon Wise, Job Wise, Natalie Jones, CeCe White, and Debbie Fox**. A special thanks to the IN PTA Office Staff, Julie French for handling all of the reservations. I also truly want to thank **Tina Hartman**, the Indiana PTA President, for being a great partner and sounding board while planning this event.

This was a great day because of everyone before-mentioned, but the true task before us is to continue to stay involved legislatively. When concerns arise contact your Legislators participate in Legislative Alerts, plan to attend next year's Legislative Conference and know what's happening at our Indiana State House and in Washington. **Sign up today for the PTA TAKES ACTION CHALLENGE at www.pta.org**. It is our charge to make this world a little better for our children. Being active legislatively is one way we can start to make a positive difference in the lives of all children. Thanks again to all who made this day a success! **Theresa Distelrath**, Legislative Committee Chairman

Again, we want to thank the following school representatives who participated in this year's Legislative Day:

NE Region: North Side High School; Fort Wayne PTA Council, Northwood Middle School, Northrop High School, Snider High School, Jefferson Middle School, Study Elementary School, Forest Park Elementary School, Shambaugh Elementary School, Irwin Elementary School, Price Elementary School, Shawnee Middle School, Blackhawk Middle School, Portage Middle School, Bloomington Elementary School, Bunche Towles School, Lakeside Middle School and Memorial Park Middle School;

NW Region: Gary PTA Council (Banneker Achievement Center, Banneker Middle Honors Program, Glen Park Academy, DeBenard Watson for Boys, Williams School, Lew Wallace School and Webster School), Hammond High School, Hammond Council PTA, Gavit Middle/High School, Columbia Elementary School, Laporte High School, Kessler Middle School, and Boston Middle School.

Central Region: School #56, Pittsboro Elementary School, Hershey Elementary School, IPS #56, Stonybrook Middle School, Marion County PTA Council, Warren PTA Council, School # 74, and Brookview Elementary School.

Southern Region: Reitz High School, Harrison High School, North High School, Oak Hill Middle School, and Harwood Middle School.

We also want to thank the following schools who sponsored "Lunch for a Legislator: 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); Bloomington Elementary School PTA; Arlington Elementary School PTA; Blackhawk Middle School PTSA; Edison Elementary School, Mishawaka PTA Council, Glenwood Park Elementary School PTA, and Hess Elementary School PTA.

These sponsorships really helped cover the increased cost of the legislator lunches. Thank you to these schools for stepping up to help with this!

Hot Issues / Topics for 2010

Below are some of the bills still "alive" at this point in the Indiana General Assembly. If you feel strongly about an issue, **NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR!**

Active Bills

SB309: School Corporation fund transfers. Allows the governing body of a school corporation to adopt a resolution to transfer money for 2010 and 2011 among funds maintained by a school corporation, except to or from the debt service fund, and certifying that no employees of the school corporation will receive a compensation increase for the 2010-2011 school year. The school corporations will be limited to transfers of 5% of their Capital Projects Fund to their General Operating Fund. Permits transfers only in 2010 and 2011.

Here is an update on this bill:

SB 309 passed off of second reading with new amendments

In addition to the provisions allowing districts to transfer money among various funds to help offset their share of the \$300 million cuts to K-12 education, SB 309 now includes the following provisions:

- (1) allows districts to determine whether to stay with calendar year budgeting or go to fiscal year budgeting (currently, districts are scheduled to be required to go to fiscal year budgeting after July 1, 2010, and there could be one-time, up-front costs to going to fiscal year budgeting -- so enabling districts to choose can save districts some money);
- 2) allows districts to bargain different provisions for retirees in order to go to the state employee health plan (current law requires that active and retired employees have the same provisions and that the district cannot pay more than what the state pays for state employees) -- this is not a mandate;

(3) during the next school year, prohibits a school district from paying any part of a school board member's health insurance premium (some school districts provide health insurance to its school board members);

(4) temporarily suspends the scheduled increase in the employer contribution rate for the post-1996 teacher retirement fund (the employer contribution rate is scheduled to increase from 7 percent to 7.5 percent of employee compensation on July 1, 2010)--the effect of this to temporarily disregard the actuarial projections and enable districts to "hold onto" the additional 0.5 percent in order to help offset their share of the \$300 million cuts to K-12 education -- ISTA opposed this amendment -- it passed on a voice vote of the chamber;

(5) requires a study of the effects of Indiana's instructional time debate (days versus hours);

(6) Makes some changes to Indiana's current Youth Advisory Council;

(7) creates a supplemental tuition support appropriation up to a maximum amount of \$150 million to K-12 school districts (excludes charter schools) in the event that the state's actual revenue collected at the end of each of the next three fiscal years exceeds the preceding December revenue forecast--in effect saying that the first \$150 million collected over revenue projections goes to K-12 public school corporations to increase their per student foundation levels;

(8) creates a new \$50 "negative political advertising" fee payable for each instance of negative political campaign ads (print or air)--the fees then being earmarked in a special account to pay for K-2 reading remediation.

SB 309 will be offered today on 3rd reading for passage out of the House -- making it eligible for conference committee debate next week.

HB1367: Education Matters. House bill version of SB309.

Current Status: In Conference Committee

HB1135: Advanced placement exams. Requires state educational institutions to grant postsecondary level academic credit that counts toward meeting the student's graduation requirements to students who receive a satisfactory score on an advanced placement examination.

Current Status:

In Conference Committee

HB1365: Dual enrollment costs and fees. Provides that a student may be charged tuition or fees for a college course or test that the student completes in order to obtain a core 40 diploma. Requires state educational institutions that offer dual credit courses in liberal arts, professional, or career and technical disciplines to be accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships or approved by the commission for higher education. (Current law requires the state educational institutions that offer dual credit courses in liberal arts, professional, or career and technical disciplines to be accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships.)

Current Status: Out of Committee – 2nd House

Property Tax Cap Referendum:

Our State Legislative Body is attempting to add a cap to property tax and have placed in our State Constitution. In order to add, the cap will need to be added to the ballot in November and voters will need to vote yes or no for the cap. If the referendum passes, many of our local services including our public schools will lose funds.

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 Committee had a great planning weekend at the Board of Manager's meeting this weekend and things are really starting to come together for a wonderful convention for you! Watch for your convention mailing this week with a lot of information that can help you plan. Keep in mind that the early bird registration date is April 2, 2010 to get your registration for just \$70.00. After that date it is \$85.00 to attend. Please also check out your mailing for an exciting flyer about a change at the convention that will save your PTA some money!

Here is a listing of the workshops that your PTA will be able to attend at this year's convention:

Friday Mini-Roundtables: (choose two)

Do you know the Way to PTA?

What's Happening with Your Elementary School?

How Can My Daddy Get Involved in PTA?

What's UP With Your Middle/High School PTA?

Get UP and Join the Indiana PTA Board

What can Membership Do For Your PTA?

Two Student Workshops TBD

Saturday Workshops (choose one each session)

Session A:

Dad's Workshop

101 Basics For Treasurers

How Do National Standards Apply to my PTA?

Two Student Workshops TBD

Session B:

Team Building

You Can Legislate for all Children's Needs

You and Me, Come and Learn about Diversity

Two Student Workshops TBD

Session C:

How about Special Education?

So You Want to Be President?

Facebook, PR, and Marketing

Two Student Workshops TBD

Session D:

Victor Pacini Workshop

Ask The Experts

Where Have Your Members Gone?

Two Student Workshops TBD

Sunday Mini Workshops (choose three)

Bylaws
Resolutions
So You Still Want to Join the Indiana PTA Board?
Citizenship
Reflections
Membership Idea Sharing
PIRC
Procedure Books/Secretaries
Girls, Inc.
Healthy Children
President's CD
Parliamentary Procedure
Forms, Forms, Forms (Unit and Council)
Forms, Forms, Forms (Volunteer, Teacher, Principal)
Elementary Idea Sharing
Middle/High Idea Sharing
Four Student Workshops TBD

This is a great line up of workshops and training that your PTA can use to build for the future. We strongly believe this is the best money your PTA can spend!

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**. **We were pleased this weekend to see that several PTA units and councils had submitted ads!**

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!

Here's the latest listing of the "Friends of PTA" sponsorship level: **Sylvia Ostos (National PTA); Kathie & Cara Green, Tina Hartman, Pat Taylor, The Distelrath's, Barry & Natalie Jones, Dee Jones, Traci Davis, Leesa Mecozzi, Sonja Canterbury, Julie Klingenberger, James & Nichole Thomas, Fort Wayne PTA Council, Forest Park Elementary School PTA, and Blackhawk Middle School PTSA.**

Partner Sponsors so far are: **TreeRing, Evansville PTA Council and Hammond PTA Council.**

Patron Sponsor: **AIM (Association Insurance Management)**

Champion Sponsor: **Fun Services**

We are very thankful to have all of these sponsors who are helping us keep costs low for you! Please help us by letting us know if you would like to become a "Friend of PTA" or if you have a business that would like to be a sponsor.

INDIANA PTA IS NOW ON TWITTER. JUST GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT www.indianapta.org TO FOLLOW US TODAY!

Upcoming Indiana PTA Dates of Importance

Here are some dates to keep in mind:

- March 1, 2010: Two copies of your newsletter are due by this date to be considered for Journalism Award
- March 8, 2010: Mishawaka PTA Council Founder's Day Dinner (75th Anniversary Celebration)
- March 15, 2010: Membership Dues deadline, Membership Awards Form Due
- March 24, 2010: Marion County PTA Council Founder's Day Dinner
- April 2, 2010: Early Bird 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

HAPPY MARCH ANNIVERSARY TO THE FOLLOWING PTA'S!

Arlington Elementary PTA	3/17/1976
Battell Elementary PTA	3/3/1939
Georgetown Elementary PTA	3/25/1950
Glenns Valley Elementary PTA	3/6/1944
Harlan Elementary PTA	3/19/1949
Hoagland Elementary PTA	3/30/1951
Indian Village Elementary PTA	3/16/1965
Mt. Tabor Elementary PTA	3/12/1948
School #34 PTA	3/17/1998
Sidener Academy PTA	3/4/2009
Signature School PTSA	3/6/2002
South Side High School PTSA	3/3/1939
Thompkins Middle School PTSA	3/13/1972
Washington Center Elementary PTA	3/23/1939
Waynedale Elementary PTA	3/31/1941

During our PTSA meetings at **Reitz High School**, our Principal Ms. Settle tells us that there are a lot of students that don't get enough to eat. She suggested that we come in either at breakfast or lunch and give the students something additional to eat. On Friday, March 5th and 12th we will be handing out donuts and milk to the students at no charge to them. In April, we will also be coming in during lunch a few days to give a snack after the students eat.

Brookview Elementary PTA's first Girls Inc. program wrapped up this week. We will be starting a new session after spring break. This has been a great opportunity for our young ladies to grow their self esteem and promote positive body images. We submitted our newsletter for the Journalism award this week, as well as filing the application for the PTA Hearst Awards. We are also kicking off a membership blitz between now and our spring break. Thanks to 9 members of the Indiana State PTA Board of Managers stepping up this week, we are now up to 356 members! This earns us both of the 2 possible

free State Convention registrations (+100 over last year and +50 since November). Just 4 more members will earn us our 50% increase over last year. And just 68 more members will earn us matching membership! We plan to encourage every classroom to come up with just 4 more members each in order to meet our goal. We will be doing a drawing for some gift cards for any new members signed up in the next 2 weeks and will also plan a classroom incentive for reaching the matching membership goal.

Shawnee PTSA is holding a "March Membership Madness" campaign beginning tomorrow morning. This is a part of the email that just went out school wide: "Homerooms will get a list of all members who have already joined our PTSA tomorrow. Watch for the Shawnee Homeroom Bracket to determine which homeroom can add the most members by the March 15th Indiana PTA membership deadline. Homerooms will be in competition with each other to see who can add the most members and move ahead in the bracket. Mrs. Van Gessel's homeroom actually gets a bye in the first two rounds because they are already at 75%+ for membership this year! The first homeroom movement in the bracket will be Thursday night, March 4th. Homeroom winners that advance on March 8th will get donuts for their homeroom. Homerooms that advance in the bracket on March 12th will get an ice cream sundae party. It all leads to the "Big Day" March 15th with one homeroom winning a pizza party! EVERY DAY we will be drawing prizes for all members who have joined since the beginning of the year. Tomorrow's prize is two \$25.00 gift cards going to two PTSA members! Tuesday's prizes are movie tickets. Watch for details every night by email on who has joined our PTSA that day and what the next day's prize will be. The sooner you join, the sooner you get your name in to win prizes. On March 15th, one member will get to pick a box and our PTSA will declare that member the "Let's Make A Deal" winner for this year. We are still striving to be one of the best PTSA's in the state for membership by getting 500 members. We made a deal at the beginning of the year that if our PTSA gets 500 members, we will hold a carnival for all Shawnee students at the end of the year. Memberships in our PTSA are just \$6.00 each or 2 members for \$10.00. Anyone can join: Parents, Students, Grandparents, Friends and Family who support Shawnee! Send your money in to school with your child and take them to the office. We will announce the winners at the end of the day for each day's prizes. Our PTSA has had a phenomenal year and we are very excited to finish off the membership year big! Let the March Membership Madness tournament begin!"

HOW DO I GET MY SCHOOL LISTED HERE??? 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! Anyone running a "New Year New Opportunity" Membership Campaign? We would love to hear about it!

[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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH 11TH!

March 11th is going to be a "**PTA Takes Action**" Day to contact your federal legislators in Washington D.C. by email or phone. That is when National PTA will be holding it's National Legislative Conference and will be visiting the offices of the representatives and senators. For those of us back home, March

11th is a day to email or call the offices of your federal legislator to let them know what issues are important! National PTA is particularly interested in the Family Engagement laws within the ESEA reauthorization (formerly the No Child Left Behind law) and funding for PIRC (Parent Information and Resource Centers) funding. To get more information on these two issues, visit www.pta.org and **TAKE ACTION** on March 11th!

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

Delete