

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

### INDIANA PTA AWARDS DEADLINE IS TOMORROW: FEBRUARY 1ST!

Tomorrow, **February 1st**, is the deadline for the majority of Indiana PTA's Awards Programs. Local unit president's need to deliver their President's Report to their Regional Vice President either by hand or mail (postmark must reflect 02/01/10, check with your local post office as they are not required to postmark any longer, you may need to ask). Council level president's need to submit their reports to Ms. Traci Davis, IN PTA Council Coordinator. Outstanding Principal, Teacher, Volunteer, and Membership Campaign all need to be sent to the IN PTA business office in Indianapolis. Once reports have been received, all information is verified and the reports are submitted for judging. In an effort to offer the most bipartisan judging process, the Indiana PTA Awards Committee has partnered with Michigan PTA. Michigan PTA will read all reports and score them using a rubric developed by IN PTA's Award's Committee. The values will be tabulated and the winners announced at the IN PTA Convention April 16-18, 2010.

If your unit or council has advanced to the essay portion of the reports please consider applying for National recognition in the form of the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Award. It inquires how successfully your PTA is achieving the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships? Share your success story by applying for the [Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards!](#) The [National Standards](#) provide a roadmap to help PTAs, schools, and communities work together to more effectively connect family and community engagement to student success. All local PTAs that submit a complete award application demonstrating achievement in one or more of the National Standards will receive a Family-School Partnership Award of Merit. For representing the best in one of the six National Standards, six PTAs will receive an Award of Excellence, with a \$500 monetary award. One PTA will receive the Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award, with a \$2,000 monetary award, for demonstrating significant achievement in all six standards. The application deadline is **11:59 p.m. EST, Monday, March 1**. Learn more and apply online at [www.PTA.org/Hearst](http://www.PTA.org/Hearst). Best of luck to all!!!

### THIS IS IT ~ THE LAST CHANCE TO GET YOUR RESERVATION IN FOR THE ANNUAL INDIANA PTA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE!

It is not too late to attend the Indiana PTA Legislative Conference in downtown Indianapolis on Wednesday, February 10th. Indiana PTA members from across the state will join for a day of briefings on the issues, lunch, learning activities, a statehouse tour, and a chance to connect with legislators from YOUR area. The cost to attend is \$25 (usually covered by your PTA) and there are still seats available. Registration forms are available on our website at [www.indianapta.org/LegDay.html](http://www.indianapta.org/LegDay.html).

If you can't attend, please consider helping by sponsoring a Legislator's lunch for only \$10. All checks can be made payable to Indiana PTA. Hurry - spots are filling up FAST! We are going to have a great turnout of legislators! **NOW WE NEED YOU!**

### "LUNCH FOR A LEGISLATOR"

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Last year we had an amazing response from legislators participating in our Legislative Conference lunch and this year is looking to have the same kind of turnout. This has created a unique opportunity for PTA's across the state. **We are looking for PTA's to sponsor "Lunch for a Legislator."** For just \$10.00 per lunch, we will recognize your school at Indiana PTA Legislative Conference as being one of the sponsors of "Lunch for a Legislator." Several schools have stepped up to

sponsor several lunches to help us! This is a great way to support this great event! 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

**We are getting down to the "crunch time" and we need schools from across the state to help us get these lunches covered!** If your school would like to help in this effort, please contact Kathie Green at [kathie.green@verizon.net](mailto:kathie.green@verizon.net). We want to have enough sponsors for 40 lunches for our special guests (reservations are now coming in fast and furiously!), so the sponsorships will be first come, first serve until we reach 40. 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! If you have any questions, please call Kathie at 260-415-4523. Note: We are finding that an easy way to donate to a legislators luncheon is just to add the lunch to your reservation form!

The representatives and senators who have already replied include:

**Senator Ron Alting**  
**Representative Dennis Avery**  
**Representative Kreg Battles**  
**Senator Bob Deig**  
**Representative Tom Dermody**  
**Senator Gary Dillon**  
**Representative Phil Hinkle**  
**Senator Travis Holdman**  
**Senator Lindel Hume**  
**Representative Sheila Klinker**  
**Senator Dennis Kruse**  
**Senator James Lewis**  
**Senator David Long**  
**Representative Mark Messmer**  
**Representative Tim Neese**  
**Senator Scott Schneider**  
**Senator Connie Sipes**  
**Representative Vernon Smith**  
**Senator Marlin Stutzman**  
**Representative Peggy Welch**  
**Senator Richard Young**  
**Representative Tom Saunders**  
**Representative Dennis Avery**  
**Representative Paul Robertson**

## Representative John Barnes

In addition: **Representative Terri Austin, Representative Suzanne Crouch, Representative Jacque Clements, and Representative Randy Truitt** would like to know if they have someone attending from their area before they commit fully to attending. We have received regrets from **Representative Phyllis Pond and Representative Bill Friend**.

If your representative or senator is not on this list, feel free to give them a call and invite them!

## LEGISLATIVE ALERT



**Ask Congress to Reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Now!**

### **Contact Both of Your Senators and Representative Today!**

The word on the Hill in 2009 was that the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), formerly known as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), would begin in January and be wrapped up by the end of the 2010. However, this legislation shows no signs of moving through Congress. Let's increase the momentum for ESEA! Please urge both of your Senators and Representative not to wait any longer and reauthorize ESEA now.

You can contact and email your Members of Congress in less than 5 minutes. Just go to <http://capwiz.com/npta2/home/>!

### **NEW SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION FOR INDIANA PTA IS AVAILABLE!**

**YOU OR YOUR PTA OR COUNCIL NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A "FRIEND OF INDIANA PTA!"**

Each year the Indiana PTA seeks ways to raise non-dues revenue to support the work of this great association for the children of our state. Since our annual convention is our main source of income in addition to membership, it is critical that we seek ways to reach out to councils, school districts, businesses and organizations to help us in this mission.

There are several ways that we can receive the needed support to continue our efforts for **everychild.onevoice**.

- Businesses/Organizations may purchase advertising space in our Convention program, seen by all attendees from across the state.

- Businesses/Organizations may become a sponsor of the Indiana PTA and our mission, with sponsorship levels to fit every budget.

- Businesses/Organizations may promote themselves to all Convention delegates with an exhibitor's booth throughout the Convention weekend.

Information on sponsorships can be found at <http://www.indianapta.org/Sponsors.html>.

One of the new categories is especially interesting: You or your PTA can become a **"Friend of Indiana PTA."** This category of sponsorship is available to Local Units, Councils, and Members and for a \$25.00 donation to Indiana PTA you will get:

- Recognition in the Convention Program
- Recognition in IPT (Indiana Parent Teacher) Newsletter
- Recognition on the Indiana PTA website

We actually have four friends already! **Sylvia Ostos** from Texas PTA and National PTA who attended our Board of Managers meeting as a mentor for our board members and **Kathie Green. Pat Taylor and Tina Hartman** contacted us after last week's email and stated they were also sending in there "Friends of PTA" sponsorship.

**Extra sponsorships will help us keep the cost of attending Legislative Day and the Indiana PTA Convention as low as we possibly can. There is a level for any business that would like to sponsor Indiana PTA and now there is a great way for schools, PTA's, retired board members, current board members and others to support our efforts for the schools in Indiana. Indiana PTA is reaching more and more people every day and trying new things to grow our association for you. Please consider passing on the sponsorship information to any businesses you think might be interested and consider becoming a "Friend" today!**

### **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.

PTA's founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world. They had a simple idea—to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTA's keep it alive. National PTA was founded on February 17, 1897.

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

**Hammond PTA Council:** February 12, 2010

**Fort Wayne Area PTA Council:** February 16, 2010 (50th Anniversary Celebration) Note: This event is going to "sell-out." Get your reservation in soon!

**Evansville Area PTA Council:** February 25, 2010

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

**Marion County PTA Council:** March 24, 2010

### **INDIANA PTA CONVENTION SPOTLIGHT...**

#### **INDIANA PTA 98th ANNUAL CONVENTION April 16-18, 2010**

Here's just a snapshot of what you will get if you attend the 2010 Indiana PTA Convention to be held on April 16-18, 2010 at the Indianapolis Marriott East. Friday evening will be the ever popular mini roundtable discussions followed by a National PTA Town Hall Meeting hosted by Betsy Landers, National PTA President Elect. We will end Friday evening with a fun, inspirational guest speaker and a networking session with light snacks.

On Saturday, get ready for a day filled with two general business sessions and workshops, workshops, workshops. Once again we will open the exhibit hall with the famous theme basket silent auction. In the exhibit hall will be a wonderful display of Reflections and Citizenship entries. We will honor the students who did such a fantastic job at the Reflections/Citizenship Luncheon. Be sure to attend the general business sessions where we will give you an opportunity to make your voice heard with by-law amendments, resolutions and the report of the nominating committee. Also plan to participate in the excitement as we honor your local units with membership awards for the outstanding job you have all done. Don't forget about the Saturday evening reception!

On Sunday, after the continental breakfast, join in the discussion at more mini roundtables. We will wrap up the convention with the formal presentation of Honor Units, Outstanding Unit, Teacher, Principal and

Council. Then it's time for you to take all the information you collected back to your unit as you prepare for the 2010-2011 school year. We look forward to seeing you in April!

### **Upcoming Indiana PTA Dates of Importance**

#### **Here are some dates to keep in mind:**

February 1, 2010: President's Reports, Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Principal, Outstanding Volunteer, and Outstanding Membership Campaign Forms Due  
February 10, 2010: Indiana PTA Legislative Day  
February 17, 2010: PTA Founder's Day  
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**

**Forest Park PTA** celebrated Bahama Mama Wednesday on January 20th, with nearly 250 in attendance. This was a different take on the traditional Muffins with Mom event that is specially difficult for our school. We also used this event to promote membership to our unit. Bahama Mama was free to all of our PTA members or \$5.00 a family, which included dinner, entertainment, and a PTA membership. This was a luau themed event including palm trees, leis, and tiki's. We offered Subway Sandwiches, chips, cookies, and "kid friendly" frozen strawberry daquiris. We had clowns dressed in grass skirts, painting faces and creating balloon art. Many of our teachers as well as our building Principal served the meal and mingled with our families. Fun was had by all and we now have 30 additional members. Bahama Mama Wednesday was win, win for all!!!

From Indiana PTA's Facebook page: **Warren Township's Legislative Forum** on Saturday was very well attended. Good to see many familiar faces from the various Warren Township PTAs (at least 4 of us who stood to speak were from PTAs) and to see some of our **Brookview** staff there as well. There was much discussion about SB309, HB1367, SB150 and the third grade retention bill. I made sure to plug the Indiana State PTA Legislative Day to the legislators who attended. :-). Thank you for this update Carissa! Note: Hopefully some of the PTA representatives will be able to continue the conversations about those bills at Indiana PTA Legislative Conference. What a GREAT example of PTAs in action!

**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](mailto: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**

#### **Take Your Family to School—For the Week, For the Year**

**PTA Take Your Family to School Week**, February 7–13, is fast approaching, and you've got great events and activities planned to engage families in the school. Across the nation, parents will be visiting their children's classrooms; having coffee with teachers, lunch with principals; celebrating school diversity; taking on math and science projects with their kids; challenging other families in physical and mental contests; learning how to support their children's success in school; and more. Help families continue their involvement after the week is over. Invite all Take Your Family to School Week participants to join PTA.

- Have a PTA membership table at the school entrance and every event throughout the week. Provide information on how PTA programs and efforts benefit students and families.
- Ask the principal to talk to families about the value of PTA membership.

- Distribute the "[Follow the Signs to Family Involvement](#)" membership form.
- Recruit PTA volunteers to serve as greeters or tour guides to acquaint families with the school and PTA.
- Add flavor to your events and celebrations for the week by hosting a Jamba Juice Smoothie fundraiser. Find out how PTAs can earn a percentage of sales at <http://www.jambajuice.com/index.cfm?dd=fundraising>.

Don't forget about the "Follow the Signs to Family Involvement" posters, and the customizable poster to help you promote your events. They're available at [www.PTA.org/FamilyToSchool](http://www.PTA.org/FamilyToSchool).

### **2010 National PTA Convention Offers New Learning Tracks**

*New in 2010: PIRC, Minority Leaders, Male Engagement, and Youth Workshops*

Join thousands of parents, teachers, students, and leaders who come to national convention each year to enhance their skills, connections, and success! The **114th Annual National PTA® Convention and Exhibition** will take place Thursday, June 10 through Sunday, June 13, 2010, at the Memphis Cook Convention Center, Memphis, Tennessee.

Convention benefits include:

- **Education**—choose from 50+ workshops
- **Exhibits**—visit more than 200 exhibits
- **Issues**—raise your voice on national business and emerging issues
- **Resources**—gather hundreds of ideas, handouts, giveaways
- **Connections**—interact with thousands of other PTA leaders from around the country
- **Memphis**—stay and play in the home of the blues and the birthplace of rock 'n' roll

**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](mailto:ptadee@yahoo.com)), Northeast: Julie Klingenberger ([jklingenberger04@comcast.net](mailto:jklingenberger04@comcast.net)), Central: Sharon Wise ([swise36@comcast.net](mailto:swise36@comcast.net)); Southern: Natalie Jones ([twinmama02@yahoo.com](mailto:twinmama02@yahoo.com)).** Also don't forget to check out the Indiana PTA website at [www.indianapta.org](http://www.indianapta.org) for some great information and the revamped National PTA website at [www.pta.org](http://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.