

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 had a very busy and productive week at the National PTA Legislative Conference. **Job Wise** arrived early to participate in the Youth Summit, **Tina Hartman** participated in State President's Training, **Dee Jones** participated in training for Federal Legislative Chairs and **Theresa Distelrath** participated in the National Council of States session on membership. **Barry Jones** and **Barb Eager** joined the group for Legislative training sessions on issues of importance, how to talk to legislators and more. I think the highlight was the luncheon with keynote speaker, Michelle Obama, where she addressed childhood obesity and her goals with Let's Move. The team had a great meeting with Congressman Mark Souder. He spent a great deal of time with us on issues and provided the team with tips for schools in his district. We also made visits to Representative Baron Hill, Senator Richard Lugar, Senator Evan Bayh and Representative Pete Vislosky where we discussed JJDP, IDEA, Title 1, Child Nutrition Act, PIRC and many more issues. It was a great week and Indiana PTA will continue to be the voice for our children in Washington!

Tina Hartman

MARCH MEMBERSHIP DUES DEADLINE FAST IS MARCH 15TH!

March 15th is the last membership deadline for this year! There is no wiggle room on this date! Your dues and membership award form must be postmarked by this date and sent to the Indiana PTA office in Indianapolis.

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

:

Indiana PTA mailed out the convention packets March 1st to all president's on record. The packet included the registration form, information about a new meal package that is available, hotel reservation information, the Reflections and Citizenship state winners, the agenda and workshop listing and more! . 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. Hotel reservations are due this Tuesday, March 16th to get the great rate!

Here's the basic line-up for convention:

We will begin Friday evening with a handful of mini workshops giving you an opportunity to attend two. Immediately following the mini's, we will participate in **National PTA Town Hall Meeting** with Betsy Landers and then we will hear from Motivational Speaker Victor Pacini. Then it's time to relax and get to know the delegates who were able to make it in on Friday evening. Join us for networking time as you enjoy food and beverages, meet your state board members and other delegates from around the state. This will be a great time to talk to other PTA members about ideas, programming, issues, etc. ~ **you'll want to be in Indianapolis for this alone!**

We will start Saturday morning off with our "**First Timers Orientation**" for those of you who have never attended an Indiana PTA Convention. We have brought back "**Ask the Experts**" and added a "**Dad's Workshop**." We have "**You CAN legislate for all Children's Needs**" for those interested in legislation. We will do training with "**Presidents/Vice Presidents**" as well as "**Treasurers and Audits**." Our National PTA President Elect, Betsy Landers, will be presenting a workshop on "**National Standards and How They Apply to Your PTA**." Additional workshops available include "**Teambuilding**," "**Diversity**," "**Special Education**," "**Victor Pacini's Workshop**," "**Facebook, PR and Marketing**" and "**Membership Matters**." Saturday is also the day to visit exhibitors, see this year's Reflections and Citizenship Essay entries and bid on a Theme Basket. That evening the Region Vice President's are hosting dinner in the hospitality suites. Membership awards are given out that evening and the evening finishes with a reception networking event. Saturday is a full day but a really good one! If you are winning a participation certificate for journalism or website or winning membership awards, you need to be there Saturday night to pick up your certificates!

Sunday is a day of celebrating during the **2010 Indiana PTA Convention**. We will begin the day with an opportunity to participate in several mini roundtable discussions to help you in several areas including networking with other PTA's from around Indiana. This year we will be serving brunch during the Celebration session. It is included in the meal plan if you buy that on your registration form or it is \$20.00 if you just plan to attend the Celebration session. We will celebrate our many awards from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. During this time we will honor past presidents and state life members. We will also present the Newsletter Awards, Website Awards, Citizenship Awards, Honor Units, Outstanding Principal, Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Unit, and Outstanding Council. By completing all awards by 1:00 p.m., we hope to enable you to get home to your families a little earlier. This is one of the reasons that attending convention is so important for the success of your PTA: Celebrating the successes of the past year.

By attending the convention, even for one day, your PTA will also get new ideas, resource materials to pass on, top-notch training, and an enthusiasm for the next year. **It is simply the best investment your PTA can make for the future and it is truly affordable for your PTA!** Convention registration information was sent out March 1st. **IMPORTANT:** Room reservations are due to the Marriott by **March 16th!** Convention registrations are due to Indiana PTA by **April 2nd** to get the early bird rate. **Your PTA should be a part of this weekend!**

Is your PTA interested in providing a Theme Basket?

Are you creative and do you enjoy putting together theme baskets? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you to put your creativity to work. The Indiana PTA hosts a theme basket silent auction at our annual convention. PTA's from across the state donate baskets that vary in value from \$15 to over \$100. The baskets are auctioned off in a silent auction with bid sheets in the exhibit hall of the convention. Some examples of baskets that have been donated by local units in the past include: "Game Night"; "Spa Day";

"How does your garden grow"; "Find it in Fort Wayne"; Movie Night", "Wedding Dreams"; "Spaghetti Dinner"; "Beach Fun" and many, many more. If you're not really the creative type and would still like to donate to the silent auction, you can donate a nice item such as a mantle clock, artwork, etc and we can auction it as an individual item. The money raised from these baskets helps to keep the cost of our convention at a minimum to our delegates. We have not raised the cost of registration in many years. So get your creative juices flowing and let's see the works of art you can produce in your theme basket. It is really fun to see what PTA's can come up with! If you have any questions regarding the theme baskets or would like to donate, please contact Kathie Green at kathie.green@verizon.net. P.S. If you have already told me you would do a basket, can you send me an email or send in the theme basket form in the convention packet as a follow up so I have a record of who is sponsoring, the title of your basket and the value?

Upcoming Indiana PTA Dates of Importance

Here are some dates to keep in mind:

- March 15, 2010: Membership Dues deadline, Membership Awards Form Due
- March 16, 2010: Indiana PTA Convention Hotel Reservations Due to Marriott East in Indianapolis
- 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

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

PTA SUCCESS STORIES

Forest Park PTA met their goal of a 200% membership increase! They have 321 members including all 82 staff and their principal!

Gavit Middle/High School PTSA has reached 100% growth in membership! They are still collecting memberships until noon March 15th so they will send us their finals numbers for next week's email.

We made our goal! **Brookview PTA** is now 424 members strong. We have had a 76% growth over last year and have one member for every student in our September ADM count. We have earned 2 FREE registrations for the State PTA Convention thanks to our great membership drive!

Congratulations to **Forest Park PTA**, **Gavit Middle/High School PTSA**, and **Brookview PTA**! We can't wait to see the rest of the numbers that come in tomorrow to meet the March dues deadline. Will Indiana meet our goal of 30,000 members? It's going to be close!!!

Congratulations to **Harper Elementary School PTA** on a phenomenal shampoo drive! They collected almost 900 bottles of shampoo for the Evansville Area Council's Clothing Bank! This will help us through to next fall! The Clothing Bank has already serviced over 1,000 children in the EVSC this year!

Also, Special thanks to the **EVSC Foundation** for their \$10,000 dollar donation to the Council for their work with the Clothing Bank! There are angels everywhere!

I would like to thank all **Pleasant Center PTA** and staff for staying strong during this rough time. It's great to see how many people will stand strong for their children. FWCS is losing 2 wonderful teachers after this school year: Mrs. Quick(over 25 yrs. at Pleasant Center) and Mrs. Shannon(over 30 yrs. at Pleasant Center) They have both decided to retire. They will both be missed greatly. Pleasant Center would love for everyone to come to our meeting on the March 16th to support the future of our children and school. I'm sorry that this isn't really good news, it's kind of hard right now. Thank you, Amanda Landers

Great Membership News! The judges have narrowed their choices down to eleven **Indiana PTA Outstanding Membership Campaigns** but they had to choose the best! After a lot of reading and scoring they got it down to just three schools that will be considered for the Outstanding Membership Campaign of the Year. Once they looked at the scores, only ONE POINT separated the final three! Can we have a drum roll please.....the winner will be announced at the Celebration of our PTA's on Sunday, April 18, 2010. Note: The following eleven schools were finalists in the membership campaign contest for this year: **Price Elementary PTA, North High School PTSA, Cynthia Heights Elementary PTA, Vogel PTA, Highland Elementary PTA, Reitz High School PTSA, Frank O'Bannon Elementary PTA, Forest Park PTA, Shawnee Middle School PTSA, Northrop High School PTSA, and Brookview Elementary PTA.** Who will be the one winner of this year's Outstanding Membership Campaign?

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](#)

THANK-A-TEACHER: PTA CELEBRATES THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OF TEACHERS"

Teachers:

- * Spend approximately 1/3 of their salary on resources for their classrooms... 1/2 in their first year
- * Teach the language of thought, morals, values, socially accepted behavior, social interaction, government systems, legal systems, and independence
- * Spend tens of thousands of hours each year to make sure that 30 children receive the highest quality education possible
- * Spend more hours on work-related tasks than any other profession... even the ones with 12-hour shifts
- * Want a simple thank you most of all

Surgeons are paid \$600,000 a year to put you back together again when you get yourself in trouble. Teachers are paid \$30,000-70,000 a year to create the next generation of potential surgeons!

Since 1984, PTA has designated the first full week in May as National Teacher Appreciation Week, a special time to honor the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children. PTA events at the national, state, and local levels celebrate the outstanding contributions teachers make.

PTA Teacher Appreciation Week 2010 will be May 2-8. Plan to host a teacher appreciation event in your school or community. Download activity ideas, posters, timelines, and other resources from the links below.

- Also: [Join PTA's Thank-A-Teacher group on Facebook](#)

To learn more, visit http://www.pta.org/teacher_appreciation.asp. National Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated the first full week in May; National Teacher Day is celebrated the Tuesday of that week.

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