

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

WE DID IT!!!!

Due to your hard work at the local level, Indiana State PTA has its first increase in several years in membership. This is due to the following:

- **103 schools maintained or grew membership**
- **6 new schools were added as PTA's this year**
- **4 schools are in the 500 club**
- **22 schools had a 25% increase**
- **28 schools had a 50% increase**

These are tremendous statistics! Your help in making this possible is truly appreciated.

The Indiana State PTA Membership Team also issued a membership challenge for schools to increase their membership by 100 new members and for a push of 50 more members between November 15th and March 15th. If the school took the challenge they could send up to two people to the 2010 Indiana State PTA Convention **FREE**. The Indiana State PTA would waive that school's registration fee.

Congratulations to the following schools for meeting this challenge in their regions.

100 member increase over last year

Northeast: **Forest Park Elementary – 210 members**
 Shawnee Middle School – 129 members

Northwest: **Gavit Middle/High School – 126 members**
 Harding Elementary School – 100 members

Central: **Brookview Elementary – 184 members**
 Liberty Park Elementary – 105 members
 Lowell Elementary – 100 members
 Raymond Park Middle School – 103 members
 Stonybrook Middle School – 333 members

Southern: **Vogel Elementary – 107 members**
 North High School – 101 members

50 more members after November 15th

Northeast: **Forest Park Elementary School**
 Shawnee Middle School
 Indian Village Elementary School
 Northwood Middle School

Northwest: **Gavit Middle/High School**
 Harding Elementary School

Central: **Brookview Elementary School**

Rosa Parks-Edison Elementary School

Southern: **Reitz High School**

Saturday night at convention is Membership Awards time. We look forward to calling each of your schools up for awards this year!

[INDIANA PTA CONVENTION SPOTLIGHT...](#)

INDIANA PTA 98th ANNUAL CONVENTION

So, how much does it cost for your PTA to attend the Indiana PTA Convention?

We thought we would give you a heads up because it is not as much as you would think it is and it is a great investment in the future of your PTA/PTSA. The best news is that the registration cost is the same as in previous years, just \$70.00 per person for the weekend if you send in your reservation by the April 2nd deadline. (Reservations after April 2nd are \$85.00 per person. Also note: There is a one day rate of \$60.00 if your PTA just wants to attend on Saturday, but you would miss the great awards celebration on Sunday.) The hotel rate is \$99.00 a night plus tax. Split that between two (or more) people attending and it is a true bargain! Munchies at the networking event on Friday, continental breakfast on Saturday morning, Region dinners, the reception on Saturday night as well as brunch on Sunday morning at the Celebration meeting are all included in the \$20.00 meal package per person. The cost to attend the Reflections/Citizenship luncheon is just \$25.00 to attend and that is optional. The \$20.00 meal fee is a bargain or your PTA could set a meal allowance and decide how you want to handle this. The same goes with paying mileage or just paying straight out for the gas to attend. Your PTA can decide how to handle this also. All told, your PTA could get by with a \$400 - \$450 investment depending on location you are coming from and how you handle the meals and gas for 2 people. If you live in Marion County and do not need to rent an overnight room, the cost would be much less. **The training, materials, ideas, and contacts you would make is worth every penny of that!**

Indiana PTA mailed out the convention packets March 1st to all president's on record. The packet included the registration form, information about the 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.

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?

So far we have the following baskets or items that will be donated to the silent auction:

Hammond PTA Council: (will have three baskets: one is a bath & body basket, one is a wine basket, one is TBA)

Forest Park Elementary PTA: Blooming Basket

Fort Wayne PTA Council: Father's Being Involved cooler and items

Price Elementary PTA (Fort Wayne): Appley Awesome Basket

Shawnee Middle School PTSA (Fort Wayne): Deliciously Debrands Basket

Northrop High School PTSA (Fort Wayne): Fun in Fort Wayne basket

Innisbrook Fundraising

Tina Hartman

Jefferson Middle School PTSA: For Men Only Basket

Evansville PTA Council

We know this list will grow, so watch for updates on this as convention time grows closer!

Sponsors of the 2010 Indiana PTA Convention:

The following sponsors are critical to the success of the 2010 Indiana PTA Convention. As you see these businesses in the exhibit hall or even when you are out around town, 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. We are still accepting sponsorships for our 2010 Convention in any amount so if you, or someone you know, has a business and would like to support the children of Indiana as well as leadership development for our delegates, have them go to www.indianapta.org/sponsors. Thank you and thank all of our sponsors for your support!!

Grand Champion (\$5000)

Champion (\$2500)

Fun Services- Indiana / World's Finest Chocolate

Patron (\$1000)

Association Insurance Management

Advocate (\$500)

Partner (\$250)

Hammond Council of PTAs
Evansville Area Council PTA

Associate (\$100.00)

In-Kind Sponsor

CIM Audio Visual

Friend (\$25.00)

Blackhawk M.S. PTSA
Dee Jones
Forest Park PTA
Fort Wayne Area Council PTA
James and Nichole Thomas
Julie French
Julie Klingenberger
Kathie & Cara Green
Leesa Mecozzi
Natalie and Barry Jones
Pat Taylor
Sylvia Ostos
Theresa Distelrath
Tina Hartman
Traci Davis

We are still accepting sponsorships for our 2010 Convention in any amount so if you, or someone you know, has a business and would like to support the children of Indiana as well as leadership development for our delegates, have them go to www.indianapta.org/sponsors. Thank you and thank all of our sponsors for your support!!

Your PTA should be a part of this weekend! We hope to see you In Indianapolis in just 26 days!

-
WELCOME!

Finally, please join us in welcoming Susie Weaver to the Indiana PTA office as the Office Assistant. Susie has been active at Lowell Elementary PTA. Susie was the Marketing/Communication Assistant at Community Hospitals Indianapolis. She will join Julie French at the office beginning Monday, March 22nd. Welcome Susie to our team!

Upcoming Indiana PTA Dates of Importance

Here are some dates to keep in mind:

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

Fort Wayne Area PTA Council is hosting an Father's Being Involved (FBI) Skating party at Roller Dome North from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Monday, March 22nd. All FBI dads and their families are invited to attend! Download the flier at <http://fortwayneareacouncilpta.org/Skating%20Party%20flier.pdf>. Note: The Fort Wayne PTA Council has done an amazing job this year to grow membership numbers and especially male members! You will definitely want to come to convention to hear Julie Klingenberger speak about this exciting program!

Gavit MS/HS PTSA is extremely happy this year: We were able to have a 150% plus increase in membership. Last year due to incidents in the families of our membership co-chairs we only achieved 74 members. This year everyone stepped up and helped to achieve our goal of 100% increase as the minimum. We held the usual October/ November push which netted us just under the 50% increase mark, 105 members. This included invitations to teachers in their mailboxes, a welcome table during registration days and at open house. When the announcement came for a free registration and knowing we needed more students and teachers we decided on a January triathlon of drives: We offered a **Jean Day** for our uniformed students, if they joined PTSA by March 12th. We also reminded our juniors and seniors that by joining for jean day they also started or finished part of their qualifications for the Senior PTSA Scholarship. We offered a **first hour HS/ advisory MS class contest**: The class that had the highest increase in student membership with teacher also a member, from Jan 15 to Feb 26 would receive breakfast from our PTSA. Finally we offered a **"Night out on PTSA" to the teachers and staff**. This was a gift certificate of \$20 to the local movie consortium in our area and \$25 in cash. We will draw one HS teacher, one MS teacher and one staff member's name from all who joined by March 12, at our April meeting. All these efforts gained us another 95 members, thus we increased our membership by more than 150%. We are extremely happy that this effort paid off. In fact, we actually received about 6 more junior memberships because when the HS class received their breakfast (a mix of 10 thru 12th graders) I was able to explain the benefits of PTSA and how we work the scholarship, that a couple joined then and more later. For the first time in 10 years we may need to do a lottery for our scholarship offering of 2011, if all re-join in their senior year as required and fulfill the rest of the qualifications needed.

PTSA Asks: What do you know about Gangs? **Gavit PTSA** hosted a informational evening on March 9th in the school library. We had advertised it for the cafeteria but some glitch in the calendar had us doing a last minute room change. Signs were made to show parents and students the way to the Library and we hoped we didn't loose anyone who wished to join us there. Our executive board has a short business meeting and then our program started. An officer from the Hammond Police department provided a excellent power point on the history, activity and signs of gangs that populate our area. He related those student's dress and actions that could be a sign that they have joined gangs. He also showed us the latest government efforts to keep track of gang members and how a student is placed on a list when they know that person is a gang member. The student's name is never removed from the list, but as long as he stays legally straight, it won't hurt him. Gang membership is not a crime, doing illegal activities is! We had several non active and new members attend our program, but I do know that a few did not see our signs of room change and so did not make the meeting. We were conflicting with the Wrestling Honors Dinner. We plan to work more diligently to make sure calendar glitches do not occur next year.

Shawnee Middle School PTSA: We got a "shout out" from Schools And Families Engaged (S.A.F.E. TEAM on Campus) on their Facebook page: "#2 PTA Membership for Schools And Families Engaged (S.A.F.E. TEAM on Campus) goes to Shawnee Middle School PTSA!! Proud of those with a vision, set goals and taking action." Scott is joining one PTA per state IF they answer his questions. We are proud that Shawnee is the 2nd in the country to get this done and we are the school he is joining for Indiana!

Scott wrote this: "I think you need to share this membership as an IN PTA good news story for Sunday. You helped someone believe in your mission from 728 miles away. But first someone had to ask."

Brookview Elementary School PTSA also got a shout out from SAFE and Scott Huse: "A quick shout out to Brookview Elementary School PTA in Indianapolis, IN. One of their leaders recently sent us an update on the success story they are having in regards to membership growth and parental involvement. Do you know why they are successful? Because they have a plan and the focus and commitment to make it happen. Do you?"

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](#)

National PTA Reacts to Obama Administration's Blueprint for the Reauthorization of ESEA **Statements can be attributed to National PTA** **President Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor**

CHICAGO (March 15, 2010)—The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA®) agrees with the President that "a parent is a child's first teacher," and that a shared partnership among parents, students, and educators is essential to improve our nation's schools.

However, we are deeply concerned that the blueprint contains no comprehensive plan for meaningful family engagement in education. The blueprint, which is aligned to the President's FY11 budget, signals that the Administration lacks a clear vision and strategy to build capacity of states, districts, and schools to partner with parents and families. The budget proposes the elimination of the sole federal program dedicated to family engagement, and the ESEA blueprint removes essential mechanisms for engaging parents in the education of their children. The blueprint limits parent engagement to afterschool programs and programs administered by the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools – programs that already require parent involvement under the current law. Engaging parents in decision-making and school reforms is essential to all school turnaround strategies.

The research is clear—school and community-based family engagement is critical to student success. Without parents, we cannot close the achievement gap or implement effective education reforms. National PTA will work to ensure that family engagement is a cross-cutting priority in the reauthorization of ESEA.

Apples to Apples: Update on Common Core State Standards

On March 10, the draft of the common core state standards for English-language arts and mathematics for grades K-12 were released for public comment. [The Common Core State Standards Initiative \(CCSSI\)](#) is a state-led effort coordinated by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Thanks to generous funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, National PTA, as an endorsing partner of this education reform, is mobilizing parents and

members to support this effort.

[Read more](#)

PTA leaders can help educate and mobilize members and parents by sharing information on CCSSI available at PTA.org/common_core_state_standards.asp. The public will have through **Friday, April 2** to comment on the draft standards. PTA leaders and parents are encouraged to write a letter to their chief state school officer urging adoption and implementation of the standards.

CCSSI is a first step to leveling the playing field for the nation's students by increasing rigor in underperforming schools and setting equal expectations for what all students will need to know and be able to do once they graduate from high school.

PTA's efforts to advance the common core state standards builds on the association's rich history in advocating for key education, health, and child welfare reforms, while complementing National PTA's current [Public Policy Agenda](#).

New Leaders WANTED at Convention: Registration Opens March 31st!
114th Annual National PTA Convention and Exhibition

Thursday, June 10–Sunday, June 13, 2010

Memphis Cook Convention Center

Memphis, TN

The [2010 National PTA Convention](#) is a great opportunity for new and seasoned leaders to learn how to make the most of their involvement in children's lives. In addition to providing PTA basics, this year National PTA has developed specialized workshop tracks which focus on male engagement, Parental Involvement Resource Centers (PIRC), engaging Emerging Minority Leaders and youth.

View the complete schedule of events and additional convention details at PTA.org/convention. Select the workshops that are right for you as a leader and [child advocate](#). Here are a few examples of what's NEW at convention in 2010:

- Family Matters: Building Policies for Effective Family Engagement in Education
- Turning Your School's Fathers into All Pro Dads and Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great [Students](#))
- Strategic Collaborations: Building Capacity and Maximizing Resources
- Creating a 21st-Century PTA in Today's Diverse Communities
- Teen Group Dynamics: Defining a Role and Accomplishing a Goal
- What's Happening on the Hill: National PTA's Legislative Agenda
- Grow Your Council PTA: Innovative and Inclusive Methods
- Tween Confidence and Self-Esteem

Start [recruiting](#) new leaders to attend convention today, and encourage them to bring the whole family. 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 info.

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 Klingenberg (jklingenberg04@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