

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 CONVENTION SPOTLIGHT...](#)

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

##### ***Do you want to save your PTA some money?***

Don't forget to send in your convention reservation by the **April 2nd deadline!** The early bird registration fee is just \$70.00 per person with reservations after April 2nd at \$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.) 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.

##### ***Did you know that middle and high school students have their own workshops that they can attend?***

Below is the line up of the workshops that students will be able to attend at this year's convention:

Student Workshops: 10:45 am -11:45 am

**Grades 6-8: Too Young to Vote, but Old Enough to Make a Difference:** Presenter: Leona Glazebrooks, Government Teacher, Warren Central High School

Students, you will be presented an interactive and lively presentation that demonstrates the simple but effective ways that middle school aged young people can become politically active. This workshop will promote the idea the young people can make a difference and have a political voice through new and old methods of communication. Locally elected state legislators will assist Ms. Glazebrooks in answering questions and giving first hand advice in political persuasion.

**Grades 9-12: I want to Stay, I want to Leave:** Presenters: Susan DeMunbrun & Kelly Bremer, Program Coordinators, Clarian Community Outreach and Engagement

Education workshop to help prevent teenage dating violence. We will use materials and activities from the Safe Dates curriculum, a research based program being used in cities across the United States as part of the Start Strong initiative. Indianapolis is one of 11 cities chosen to receive a Robert Wood Johnson grant as part of Start Strong, the largest initiative ever funded to prevent teenage dating violence.

Student Workshops: 1:40 pm- 2:40 pm

**Grades 6-8: There's No Excuse for Abuse:** Presenters: Susan DeMunbrun & Kelly Bremer, Program Coordinators, Clarian Community Outreach and Engagement

Education workshop to help prevent teenage dating violence. We will use materials and activities from the Safe Dates curriculum, a research based program being used in cities across the United States as part of the Start Strong initiative. Indianapolis is one of 11 cities chosen to receive a Robert Wood Johnson grant as part of Start Strong, the largest initiative ever funded to prevent teenage dating violence.

**Grades 9-12: How Today's Teens Tackle Today's Educational Issues:** Presenter: Leona Glazebrooks, Government Teacher, Warren Central High School

Students will be presented a lively presentation with participatory discussion on how teenagers can effect educational policy today. This workshop will promote the idea the young people can use their political voice through new and old methods of communication. Locally elected state legislators will assist Ms. Glazebrooks in answering questions and giving first hand advice in political persuasion.

Student Workshops: 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

**Grades 6-8: Promoting your PTA using Facebook, Twitter and Your Website!** Presenters: Jacob Wise, Wise Solutions & Job Wise, Field Service Representative

Learn how use Facebook, Twitter, and a website to help promote your local PTSA. Get more members, stay connected and have more fun using these networking tools. If you have ever wondered how you can use Facebook and Twitter to help attract more attention to your cause then you have come to the right place.

**Grades 9-12: Bullying/Hazing “What is it any way?”** Presenters: Jeff Massey, Guidance Department, Warren Central HS and Bre England, Counselor, Warren Central HS

Have you ever been bullied? Have you ever participated in a hazing? You will be discussing what bullying and hazing are and the consequences and affects that both can have on a person. You will be given the knowledge to know when your actions are “all in fun” or you have “crossed the line into an illegal act.”

Student Workshops: 3:50 pm - 4:50 pm

**Grades 6-8: Bullying/Hazing “What is it any way?”** Presenters: Jeff Massey, Guidance Department, Warren Central HS and Bre England, Counselor, Warren Central HS

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#### **Friday Student Mini-Workshops**

1. Leadership 101-Shirley Dorsey
2. What’s your Fit IQ?- Job Wise

#### **Sunday Student Mini-Workshops**

1. Show Me The Money! Where to look for scholarships.
2. What’s your Fit IQ? - Sharon Wise
3. Leadership 101-Shirley Dorsey
4. “DTWD”- Cell phone safety.

The Indiana PTA Convention has included leadership and learning opportunities for students for the past 5 years. Last year we expanded our offerings by having student mini-workshops along with student workshops. Students were also encouraged to attend the keynote speaker session and the general business sessions.

Some comments students had about the workshops last year were:

“Learned that bullying can have a lasting affect on the victim”

“Enjoyed learning how to write a check”

“Very inspiring, makes you think that no matter what you can accomplish whatever you put your mind to.”

“It opened my eyes about the internet.

General thoughts students had about the last year's convention:

“I had a lot of fun and it was very relaxed. I felt I learned some valuable things that I will actually remember past an hour. I hope to come back next year.” Rachel Daugherty, Warren Central High School

“This was a good PTA conference.” Andrew Fiengo, Northrop High

Our only regret is that more students do not attend to take advantage of this awesome experience so they could be more involved in there PTSA units. We hope to have many more students participating in this year's convention. After all this is an association for the children and it is important that they know that they can have a say for the well being of their education and future. Even the smallest group of children can make the biggest difference, so let’s get them here to start making a difference!

**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](mailto: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 Tower

**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**

**Kathie's Kreations:** Nice Notes Basket

**Brentwood Elementary School PTA:** Family Game Night Basket

**Nebraska Elementary School PTA:** Family Fun Night Basket

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](http://www.indianapta.org/sponsors). Thank you and thank all of our sponsors for your support!!

### **Grand Champion**

### **Champion**

Fun Services- Indiana / World's Finest Chocolate

### **Patron**

Association Insurance Management

### **Advocate**

## **Partner**

Hammond Council of PTAs  
Evansville Area Council PTA

## **Associate**

A Part of Something Big  
IU Credit Union

## **Friend**

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  
Marion County Council of PTAs  
Natalie and Barry Jones  
Pat Taylor  
Perry Township Council of PTAs  
Price Elementary PTA  
Sylvia Ostos  
Theresa Distelrath  
Tina Hartman  
Traci Davis  
Warren Township Council of PTAs

## **In-Kind Sponsors**

CIM Technology Solutions  
Kroger  
Prairie Farms  
Aunt Millie's  
GT South  
GFS

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**Your PTA should be a part of this weekend! We hope to see you In Indianapolis in just 19 days!**

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

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

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 GETTING READY TO CONVERT OUR EMAIL SYSTEM TO CONSTANT CONTACT!**

Indiana PTA is getting ready to move towards sending out the Indiana PTA Good News Email by Constant Contact and we really need your help! We need an updated list of those in your school who should receive this email. We want to confirm we have the correct email addresses for your principal, current officers, future officers, and any one else you want to include. Please take a minute to return the following information to us so that we can have a good list in the system when we start this up. We need to have it returned by April 5<sup>th</sup> so that we can get the new addresses in and ready to go for our April 18<sup>th</sup> email. You will love the new look of the email and the ease of reading it. With one send, we will be able to get our weekly email out to everyone across the state including principals, superintendents, legislators and the media as well as all PTA leaders who want to receive it. It's going to be an incredible tool for us to use, however the success of it rests with you and getting correct addresses in the system from the start.

Thank you for your help with this!

**SCHOOL NAME :**

**CITY:**

**PRESIDENT'S NAME:**

**PRESIDENT'S EMAIL:**

**PRINCIPAL'S NAME:**

**PRINCIPAL'S EMAIL:**

**OTHER OFFICERS: (names, title, and email address):**

**ANY OTHERS? (Future officers, superintendents, special volunteers, etc. We need name and email address):**

Please email this back to [kathie.green@verizon.net](mailto:kathie.green@verizon.net) or [flowernicki@yahoo.com](mailto:flowernicki@yahoo.com).

## **PTA SUCCESS STORIES**

**Warren Township Council of PTA's** met this week. We had a full agenda with planning for our upcoming School Board Candidate Forum and our annual May Luncheon. Even with these two big events coming up on our calendar, we've chosen to tackle something even bigger. Thanks to State-imposed budget cuts prompting school closings, elimination of calendar choice, and reconfiguration of grades, approximately 50% of our elementary families may be in new schools in August. This means that many of our PTA units are losing board members and their most reliable volunteers to other schools. Many of our families are nervous about moving to a new school or moving their students into the new intermediate academies. Our Council wants to find ways to make this transition easier for everyone. We've come up with a theme – **Many Voices, One Team, Warren Township Council of PTAs** – that we will be using as we attempt to help our families make connections in their new schools. Our Council officers will be contacting unit presidents and building principals to collect lists of volunteers who are switching schools. These names will be shared with the PTA/PTSA unit at the family's new school. Each building will be having an open house to welcome new families. The PTA/PTSA units will be encouraged to host these events and create a welcoming atmosphere for the new families. Council officers will also try to attend each open house to speak to families. Council will have a booth at the district's Warren Wellness Extravaganza where we will have signup sheets for volunteers for each school in the district. Those people who sign up will then receive a personal contact from their new school to help them get involved. Our Council has also voted to provide the following support to each of the three brand new PTA units to be formed at the intermediate academies:

- \$1,000 in start up funds
- Council will send 3 officers from each new unit to State Convention if they can be identified in time.

Big changes can be scary, especially when they are happening as a necessity rather than a choice. Over the next few months, our Council plans to continue to react in a proactive manner to help ease this transition. We also hope to support and encourage the new level of parent connectedness we are seeing in our district. We will make the most of the adversity that we have been handed, and do it in the Warren Way!

**Marion County Council PTA** had their Founder's Day Dinner last Wednesday and it was a lovely event! The dinner was terrific, the entertainment done by Arsenal Technical High School Technicians was really great and we loved Elleen Laughlin's frog story.

Prince Chapman Academy will be hosting its 2nd annual Parents are "Part of the Equation Too" Parent Conference on Saturday April 24th from 11:00am - 2:00pm. The event is absolutely free and lunch will be served. This is a wonderful event that will provide insightful information to parents and includes a youth roundtable session for students to provide them with the tools they need to be successful. Both parents and children are welcome to this event! You can register on sight at 10:30 a.m. on the day of the event or send your reservation to Denita Washington at [denita.washington@fwcs.k12.in.us](mailto:denita.washington@fwcs.k12.in.us). This event will be held at Prince Chapman Academy, 4808 E. Paulding Road, Fort Wayne IN 46816.

**Sessions:**

**1. Importance of Exercise and Healthy Eating**

Presenter: Ebony Young, Director of South East YMCA

**2. Power of Reading**

Presenter: Charles Cush

Details: Featuring Charles Cush author of "From Acorns to Oak Trees"

**3. Unconsciousness to Consciousness in Education**

Presenter: Denita Washington, Community Advocate and Administrative Assistant at Wayne

**4. Youth Round Table Discussion Break-out - Understanding your Orientation (Girls)**

Presenter: Anita Dortch & Kim Wiley-Journal & Scrapbook Artist

Details: The purpose of this session is to expand the thinking of our youth and to inspire them to achieve. Relevant conversations pertaining to what youth are dealing with will be addressed and students will walk away with goals and tools to achieve.

**5. Youth Round Table Discussion Break-out – Understanding your Orientation (Boys)**

Presenter: Dave Thomas, Guidance Counsel for Memorial Park

Details: The purpose of this session is to expand the thinking of our youth and to inspire them to achieve. Relevant conversations pertaining to what youth are dealing with will be addressed and students will walk away with goals and tools to achieve.

**6. Mission Possible – A Guide to College Expense Planning**

Presenter: Abby Coffel-Frauhiger of West Point Financial

Details: Group/MassMutual to provide parents with the information they need to plan for future college expenses and introduce them to the variety of savings options available to them.

Indiana PTA's own **Dee Jones** was recognized as the 2010 Volunteer at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Midwest Regional Competition in Chicago. Dee has been involved in robotics since 2005 while her son Brandon served on the team. She is on the Midwest Regional Planning Committee where she is secretary, Volunteer and VIP Coordinator. Dee and Brandon continue to work with Team Hammond Robotics as mentors. A possible partnership with PTA and FIRST is pending. The goal is to offer the opportunity for every school to have a robotics team. For more information visit: [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

In addition, Indiana PTA Board of Managers member **Kathie Green** was recognized this week by the Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce as a nominee for their annual Athena Award. The Athena Award program recognizes individuals who demonstrate excellence, creativity, and initiative in their business or profession; for providing valuable service to their community by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community; and for assisting women in their attainment of professional goals and leadership skills. Congratulations to both Dee and Kathie!

**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](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!

Special note: It is with great sadness that Hammond Council PTA mourns the loss of one of their own, Jennifer Kitchens. Jennifer, 34, continued to be an advocate for children until the end. She lost her 17 year battle with cancer, Jennifer served as President, Vice President and Secretary at Wallace Elementary School. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time.

## [NATIONAL PTA UPDATE](#)

**Win \$1,000 for Your PTA!  
Apply for an Arts Enhancement Grant by May 3**

**What could your PTA do with \$1,000 to support arts education? Each year, National PTA offers a limited number of matching grants of up to \$1,000 to help local units establish or enhance student-centered arts education programs. Applications are now being accepted for the [2010 Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grants](#).**

PTAs must match the grant dollar for dollar with PTA or other donated funds and/or in-kind resources. Applications are due by **Monday, 11:59 p.m. EDT, May 3, 2010**.

Special consideration is given to applicants that reach large numbers of at-risk students. "At risk" encompasses a wide range of factors that may make it more difficult for a student or a segment of the student population to succeed in learning. Some factors that make students at risk are financial, familial, health, behavioral, social, and environmental or other community conditions.

Learn more and apply at [www.PTA.org/ArtsGrants](http://www.PTA.org/ArtsGrants).

## **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](http://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](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 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