

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**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH 11TH!** **Help Indiana PTA's Voice be Heard on Capitol Hill!**

**Tina Hartman**, Indiana PTA President; **Barry Jones**, Indiana PTA President Elect; **Theresa Distelrath**, Indiana PTA Secretary; **Dee Jones**, Indiana PTA Board Member and National PTA Legislative Chairperson; and **Sue Switzer**, **Barb Eager** and **Job Wise**, Indiana PTA Board Members are on our Indiana team that is getting ready to head to Washington DC for the National PTA Legislative Conference this week.

**March 11th is going to be a PTA Takes Action Day!** Get your thoughts on ESEA and PIRC funding ready and get ready to blitz Capitol Hill with YOUR voice! Call or email your legislators in DC on March 11th!!! 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](http://www.pta.org) and **TAKE ACTION** on March 11th!

Watch for a special edition Good News Email on Wednesday, March 10th with more details and links to help you contact your legislator on March 11th!

### **MARCH MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 this week 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.

#### ***Why Should Your Leaders and Students Attend Convention ?***

- **Train** your future PTA leaders to continue the work your unit is doing now with top-notch Leadership and program workshops

- Get new **ideas** to take back to your unit
- Make new **friends** from across the state
- In the Exhibit hall filled with **vendors**, you'll find new opportunities to raise funds for unit
- Celebrate with **award winners** and more!

***NEW This Year!! Include A Convention Meal Plan:***

The Convention meal plan is a GREAT option, and saves you money! You get:

- Light appetizers Friday evening
- Continental breakfast Saturday morning
- Progressive Dinner Saturday evening
- Saturday reception and hors d'oeuvres
- Buffet Breakfast Sunday morning

Save over \$50.00! Send 2 people to convention and save over \$100.00!

Sign up for your meal plan on your registration form!

Only \$20.00 per person!\* \*Reflections luncheon/Saturday lunch excluded

**CONVENTION OPPORTUNITIES**

**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 15<sup>th</sup>**. **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](http://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.**

## Upcoming Indiana PTA Dates of Importance

Here are some dates to keep in mind:

- 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

**INDIANA PTA IS NOW ON TWITTER. JUST GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT [www.indianapta.org](http://www.indianapta.org) TO FOLLOW US TODAY!**

## PTA SUCCESS STORIES

Hammond Council PTA celebrated it's 73rd Founder's Day with a dinner on February 12, 2010. We had 10 PTA/PTSAs honor 17 volunteers with a Life Achievement award for exceptional service to children in our community. Those receiving the Life Achievement award were: **Gavit MS/HS PTSA: Michelle Biel Ondas; Columbia PTA: Nancy Martinez; Edison PTA: Allison Allen-Lenz, Kimberly Doppler, and Ruby Hagler; Hess PTA: Veronica Ramirez and Eva Lawrence; Jefferson PTA: Eva Combs; Lafayette PTA: Onteria Fornett, Kay Goins and Collette Weitknecht; Lincoln PTA: Heidi Plavec; Morton ES PTA: Monica Garza; Morton HS PTSA: Janet Benson and Doug Friend; and O'Bannon PTA: Susanne Companiott and Debbie Musto.** We honored our local Outstanding Unit, **Frank O'Bannon PTA** for their work with students, parents and the community. We thanked our seven attending past presidents and honored them with a rose and gift. **Nore Hare**, National PTA representative, attended as well as Indiana PTA president **Tina Hartman**, NE Region Vice President, **Julie Klingenberger** and Secretary **Theresa Distelrath** who joined our celebration. Thank you Nore and Tina for giving wonderful greetings to our over 200 attendees. Thank you Hammond Units for doing a wonderful job for Hammond students.

In January **Gavit PTSA** had a 25% membership increase and was just short of a 50% membership increase. We started 3 new incentives:

- Breakfast on PTSA: The classroom ( 1 MS and 1 HS) with the highest percentage of NEW student memberships, with teacher also a member, received donuts and juice from the PTSA. The contest ended Feb 26th and the winning HS class was Mrs. Crawford. Donuts, juice and a thank you were delivered on Thursday March 4th. MS had a tie so thier tie breaking date was Monday 3/1. Mr Orsorio's room won and will celebrate on Fri 3/12 with their breakfast.
- Night out on PTSA: This drive is to increase teacher/staff membership. PTSA will draw a name from the MS, HS and support staff members after the March 12th deadline. The MS, HS and staff member whose name is drawn will receive a \$20 gift card to our local theater complex and \$25 toward dinner/post movie enjoyment. Winners will receive their gift at the April meeting.
- Finally, the PTSA Jean Day incentive: Any student who has joined PTSA (prior to and after Jan 13th) by March 12 (Jean Day) will be able to forgo uniforms for jeans on that day. PTSA

will be in the school during the lunch hour the day before and at breakfast to facilitate final opportunities for students to join.

Our hope: To have a 100% + membership increase this year. We are very close: only need about 30 more.

**Brookview Elementary PTA** has had a very busy and amazing week! On Saturday 2/27 we had 347 members. We did a membership blitz this week to try to earn matching membership (424) before the deadline. We developed a new community partnership with Dimick Family Chiropractic. They are giving a certificate for a free 30 minute massage to every new member we get between now and March 12th. (They will also partner with us to give our teachers massages during Teacher Appreciation Week!) We are giving away coupons to Olive Garden and Fazoli's as well as free passes to our final Open Gym Night. And we will be drawing from all our membership for two gift cards. Seven classrooms have already achieved their membership goal (4 new members) and will get popcorn parties after Spring Break. Four more classes are getting close. We gained 60 members in one week, with a total of 407 members on Friday 3/5! Just 17 more members needed for matching membership! Friday was also the annual Father/Daughter Dance held by our Dads' Club. There were around 200 dads and daughters in attendance. Thanks to Healthy Smiles of Indiana for providing an Olive Garden spaghetti dinner for the event. Community partner Best Buy took free pictures of each father with his daughter and our 5th grade class sold carnations.

**Reitz PTSA** is feeding their students due a need expressed by their Principal that there are a lot of students that don't get enough to eat. She suggested to their PTSA that they 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. Here is the follow up to last week's Good News: "Reitz students helped at 6:00 am Friday March 5th to load 52 dozen boxes of donuts. We'll do it again next Friday. This was such a rewarding morning. The kids were very grateful and asked why we were doing this? My reply was "Because we love you and care about you." This was the first time we have ever done this. I'm looking to next month when we hand out ice cream sandwiches during lunch." Submitted by Kim Merkel, PTSA President.

**Forest Park PTA** is aiming for a 200% membership growth goal and President Julie Klingenberger will be meeting with staff at the school this week to make one last appeal for membership before the March 15th deadline. Forest Park PTA has been really innovative with family events for PTSA members that has really driven their membership total up. They have held a "Dogs with Dudes" and "Bahama Mama" events instead of the typical Donuts for Dads and Muffins with Moms that were simply incredible. Information on these programs will be available in the "Bright Idea's" booklet that will be given out to all convention participants. PS: It's worth going to convention to learn about innovative events such as these!!!

**Shawnee Middle School PTSA** added 21 members this week during their "March Membership Madness" campaign. They are drawing for prizes every day to give to PTSA members and homerooms are participated in a "Bracket" Competition to see which homerooms add the most members leading up to the March 15th dues deadline. Shawnee is really happy this week as they increased membership to 265 people and we will get two free convention registrations for meeting 100 more members than last year and 50 more members turned in between November 16th and March 15th!

**Miami Middle School PTSA** has made a 25% increase in membership from last year!

Price PTA added 10 male members at their Donuts with Dads event!

**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!

## [NATIONAL PTA UPDATE](#)

### Why Reauthorization of NCLB Is So Important

No Child Left Behind. There aren't many educators or parents who haven't heard of NCLB, the principal federal education law affecting elementary and secondary education. Over the years, NCLB has drawn criticism from PTA members: "*All they do is teach to the test,*" "*States are lowering their standards,*" or "*It penalizes schools, taking away resources where they are needed most.*"

The truth is, NCLB is only the latest version of legislation that President Lyndon Johnson signed into law in 1965. During that time, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was a landmark victory for education advocates, providing much-needed resources for schools serving low-income students.

ESEA authorizes funds and outlines provisions to support education initiatives, such as:

- After-school programs and school social workers
- Professional development for teachers
- State assessments
- Parent and family engagement

The reauthorization process is a golden opportunity that advocates get every five years to educate Congress on changes needed in the law. ESEA-NCLB's reauthorization, which should have been completed in 2007, provides an opportunity for dissatisfied policymakers and education advocates to improve the law. PTA is working with Congress and the Department of Education to address the widely recognized challenges posed by NCLB, including strengthening its parent involvement provisions and safeguarding the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs), which have been consolidated with charter school programming in the President's FY 11 budget request. Consolidation not only directs funding away from the program, but also signals PIRC's removal from law.

**ESEA is an important law and is beginning to move on the Hill. The U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor is requesting comments as it begins a bipartisan overhaul of ESEA. The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is holding hearings. Now is the opportunity for advocates to tell Congress to improve this principal federal law to ensure that all children receive a high-quality education.**

#### ***Take Action Now!***

You can help! Please urge both of your Senators and Representative to **reauthorize ESEA now and to safeguard PIRCs under ESEA. PIRCs improve parental and family engagement in children's education, which is a cornerstone of what PTA supports.**

[PTA's Take Action Center](#) makes it easy to send an automated alert to your members of Congress telling them you want them to act **right away** on this important law.

**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