

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](#)

PTA MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Great news! Membership is soaring across the state! If your local unit needs additional Membership Cards, please contact the Indiana PTA Office at 317-357-5881, or indianapta@sbcglobal.net. We will be delighted to hear from you and we will make sure your cards go out in the mail that very day! You're all doing such a wonderful job for the kids! Thank You! Keep in mind the first membership dues deadline is November 15th. To be a "Unit in Good Standing" and qualify for awards, your PTA must have your dues postmarked by November 15th and sent to the Indiana PTA office. You can find the membership dues remittance form on our website at this link: <http://www.indianapta.org/Document%20for%20Download/Nov%2015.pdf>.

INDIANA PTA OUTSTANDING WEBSITE AWARD

Indiana PTA wants to honor units and councils that take the time to have a website or page on a school corporation website that lets its members keep informed of the PTA happenings and contact information for their unit. To apply for the award, check out the information on your President's CD or go to the Indiana PTA website for details and the form you can submit for this award. The deadline to submit your website for this year's award is **November 15, 2009**. After you inform us of your web presence we will be checking your site periodically during the year to get updates and to monitor the criteria for the award. To be eligible for possible consideration by the online and awards committee a unit/council must:

1. Develop a website or web page
2. Inform the Indiana PTA Webmaster and online committee of your site by **November 15, 2009**, via email with the application form attached, (or you can mail your application form to the Indiana PTA, address below on or before November 15th). (15 pts)
3. Qualify for the award by including the following on your website:
 - a. the correct PTA logo for your unit (10 pts)
 - b. include contact information for the school (10 pts) and for the officers of the unit (10 pts)
[at least 2 officers (via a current email or phone number)]
 - c. link the Indiana PTA (5 pts) and the National PTA from your website. (5 pts)
 - d. share legislation (10 pts) and other knowledge the parents need to know (5pts)
 - e. keep site updated regularly (at least once a month) (10 pts)
4. Other items the team will be looking for will be ease of navigation (15 pts), appealing content, fun and/or interesting extras (5 pts)

Indiana PTA Journalism Award

The Indiana PTA will also recognize those who give their time, talent and effort to share the PTA story with not only other PTA members, but also the public.

A Journalism Award will be presented to the winners at the Indiana PTA State Convention. Each and every unit and council that published a newsletter publicizing PTA activities throughout the year is eligible to submit copies of the newsletter.

Entries will be judged in the following areas:

- ~Overall Appeal
- ~School or Council Clearly Identified
- ~Readability
- ~PTA Officers Listed

- ~Purpose of Newsletter
- ~Note or notes from Principal/Administrator
- ~Informative – PTA Issues, Public Recognition, Up Coming Events, Current Topics, School Issues, and Calendar of Up Coming Events

There are no additional forms or reports that need to be filled out for this award. Just send your newsletter to Kathie Green , 8510 Victoria Woods Place , Fort Wayne , IN. 46825 below each time it is published (weekly, monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly). Newsletters received on or before **March 1, 2010** will be eligible for this award. **A minimum of 2 different issues of your newsletter is required.** There are no periods between PTA, so any newsletter with periods will be disqualified. The Journalism Award is given to one elementary, one middle/jr. high school, one high school and one council for the state.

PTA SUCCESS STORIES

Holy Cow! **Oak Hill Middle School PTSA** hosted their annual Back to School Blitz and they signed up 497 new members in just one afternoon! Wow! That is wonderful! This is one of the reasons that Oak Hill continues to be one of the longest standing members of the Indiana PTA's 500 Club! Keep up the Great Work!!!

Shawnee Middle School PTSA has reached 203 members so far (already above last year's 144 members) and continues to push for 500 members by March 15th! We also have 120+ dads and students signed up to attend our annual "Donuts with Dads" day on October 14th and we are busy planning for a "Shawnee Community Dinner" on October 29th, our annual Student/Staff volleyball game and dance on November 6th, and a "Pyramid Dinner and Healthy Lifestyles" event on November 19th to get pedometers for the PE classes. It's fun to watch the PTA spirit take hold in our school! Note: Shawnee PTSA was one of two schools in Indiana to apply for the National PTA Healthy Lifestyles Award.

The **Irving School PTA** in Hammond hosted the 6th Annual Latino Resource Fair. The Hammond Hispanic Community Committee in partnership with **PTA, School City of Hammond, Latin Media, The Lake County Drug Free Alliance and Centier Bank** hosted the event. **NWI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, First Midwest Bank, Home Depot, St. Catherine's Hospital, Calumet College of St. Joseph, Hammond Boys & Girls Club, Jan-Pro of NWI, Inc., and St. Augustine College** were event sponsors. Over 500 parents, children and community members participated in this year's event. Approximately 56 vendors including the following were on hand to talk to families and provide services relating to health, education, literacy, finances and community services: Alcance; American Red Cross; Books, Brushes, and Bands; Calumet College of St. Joseph; Centier Bank; Child Care Resources/Workforce Development Services; Clark High School Latino Club; Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs; CCCS of NWI, Inc.; Crisis Center; Drug Free Alliance of Lake County; Farmers Rosa Cazares Agency; First Midwest Bank; Girl Scouts of America; Hammond Adult Education; Hammond Boys & Girls Club; Hammond Police Department; Hammond Public Library; Healthy East Chicago; Indiana University Northwest; Indiana Wesleyan University; Internal Revenue Service; Ivy Tech Community College NW; Jan-Pro of NWI, Inc.; Kool Smiles Dentistry; Lake County Auditors; Lupus Foundation of America; MOTTEP; National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; National City Bank/PNC; National PTA; North Township Trustee's Office; NWI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Northwest Indiana Healthy Start; Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance; Office of the Indiana Attorney General; Our Family Center; PrimeAmerica; Purdue EFNEP; School City of Hammond Bilingual Department; Shelter Insurance; St. Augustine College; St. Catherine's Hospital; Social Security Administration; Su Casa/International Community Alliance; The Times of NWI; UBM – Union Benefica Mexicana; United Neighborhoods, Inc.; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Food & Drug Administration; We Care from the Heart; and Wells Fargo. Activities included a presentation from the Drug Free Alliance

of Lake County, Children's ID and finger printing, face painting, animal balloons, DJ Effie Hernandez, performances by Ballet Greater Hammond Ballet Folklorico and Ballet Folklorico de Santa Maria. Bags for attendees were provided by Home Depot. An ethnic lunch was provided by area food vendors Chela's Cocina, La Chiquita, First Choice Market,, Nuevo Leon, Las Aztecas Paleteria, Cueramaro GTO Bakery and Pepsi. A very special thank you to our volunteers from **Irving PTA, Hammond Council PTA, Hammond HS Spanish Club/AP Spanish Class Students, and Clark HS Latino Club**. This was the best attendance/participation to date, a great time was had by all and we are already working on the 2010 Latino Resource Fair.

Special thanks goes to the 46 attendees at the **NE Region Leadership Conference** on Saturday October 10, 2009 at Forest Park Elementary in Fort Wayne. The following schools were represented: **Prince Chapman, Levan Scott Academy, Croninger Elem., Brentwood Elem., Study Elem., Fort Wayne Council, Jefferson MS, Shawnee MS, Northrop HS, Northwood MS, Miami MS, Forest Park Elem., Lane MS, Nebraska Elem., Paul Harding HS, Portage MS, Woodburn Elem., Irwin Elem., Blackhawk MS, Snider HS, New Haven Elem., Leo Jr/Sr. HS, Shambaugh Elem., Weisser Park Elem., and Waynedale Elem.** These local leaders were treated to presentations on diversity, male involvement, community partnerships, the Fort Wayne Area PTA Council Clothing Bank, the Parent Resource Center (PIRC), National PTA initiatives, Federal Legislation, Reflections, Resolutions, and Awards. The NE Region team thanks **Denita Washington, Barb Eager, Dee Keywood, Jennifer Schuler, Lynn Silvey, Tina Hartman, Dee Jones, Theresa Distelrath and Ellen Laughlin** for their inspiring talks. This was a day full of pertinent PTA information and a little fun, too! Thanks again to all who made this event such a success!

We would love to hear YOUR school's PTA events and membership stories! How's membership going at your school? Make sure to send in your school's story so that we can recognize your efforts here in the coming weeks!

REGION NEWS

See below for details for the last of the region trainings for this year.

MISHAWAKA TRAINING

The training has been scheduled for **Tuesday, October 20th** at 6:00 p.m. at the **Mishawaka PTA Council Meeting**. The meeting will be held at Mishawaka High School . Check back for more info as the date gets closer.

National PTA Update

National PTA[®] is proud to announce a strategic partnership with *Parenting*, the nation's premier magazine for moms!

Parenting introduced ***Parenting School Years***, a new edition of its magazine, to help moms of school-age kids deal with the complex issues families face once their children start school. *Parenting* is partnering with PTA to serve as the **national media sponsor of Reflections**, and will feature the program in *Parenting School Years* and online at Parenting.com throughout its 40th anniversary year. Be sure to pick up the November issue to review the article on arts in education, featuring Reflections, which will hit newsstands at Barnes & Noble on October 13th. *Parenting* has also created an online gallery that features Reflections entries from across the country, which can be viewed, along with the November issue article, at www.Parenting.com/PTA

Parenting is offering PTA members an **exclusive discounted subscription rate** for *Parenting School Years*: **11 issues for \$9.97** – a savings of 77% off the cover price! For every PTA member who subscribes, *Parenting* will donate \$1 to support National PTA. To subscribe just go to this link: <https://secure.palmcoastd.com/pcd/!e.S?m=38902&k=HCPA>

Driven by the role parents like you play in creating positive change in our nation's schools, *Parenting* also launched an initiative to celebrate and connect moms advocating for education reform, **Mom Congress™ on Education and Learning**. *Parenting* School Years will highlight moms who have made a difference, so visit www.Parenting.com/momcongress to become a member and share your story!

2010 National Advocacy Awards Applications Now Available

Applications for **PTA's Outstanding Advocacy Awards**, for state and local advocacy, and the **Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award** for federal advocacy, are now available online at http://www.pta.org/pta_outstanding_advocacy_awards.asp. For more than a century, PTA's members have been a powerful voice for the health and education of children. Your advocacy efforts have ensured that all children have the opportunity to meet their potential in safe and nurturing settings. In recognition of the hard work and dedication of PTA members, we will again present the annual **PTA Outstanding Advocacy Awards** to one outstanding state PTA and one local, district, council, or regional PTA this coming March at the National Legislative Conference. The Outstanding Advocacy Awards will be presented to a state PTA and a local, district, council, or regional PTA that, through their dedication, leadership and efforts, affected child-related policy, regulation or legislation compatible with PTA's mission and goals. The state and local, district, council, or regional PTA chosen will receive two all-expense paid* trips to the 2010 Legislative Conference and will be recognized at an awards ceremony on Capitol Hill. In addition, the state PTA and the local, district, council, or regional PTA will receive \$1,000, which may be used solely to cover direct expenses for PTA work. The Legislation Committee and National PTA President will review all submissions and determine the award winners.

The deadline for nominations is December 4, 2009.

An Invitation

The 3rd annual Girl Power! event is quickly approaching!

Date: Saturday, November 14th, 2009 (9a-3p)
Location: Indiana State Fairgrounds, Agriculture/Horticulture Building
Presented by: Clarian Health & Riley Hospital for Children
Keynote speaker: Tamika Catchings of the Indiana Fever
Admission cost: \$5 per participant (including adult chaperones)
Register early! Register early and avoid long lines the day of the event by calling (800) 265-3220 between Sept. 21st and Nov. 1st. On-site registration is also available!
On-site service project: Clothing drive to support Goodwill Industries & the Julian Center
More Information: www.clarian.org/girlpower

Featured activities & exhibitors:

- Ø Radio Disney
- Ø Indy Airbears
- Ø Girl Power Photo Booth
- Ø On-site Art Project
- Ø Indiana Youth Institute: Trip to College
- Ø Art with a Heart
- Ø Girl Scouts of Central Indiana
- Ø Follow-along Healthy Cooking Demonstrations
- Ø Youth Skin Care Tips
- Ø IU School of Dentistry
- Ø Clarian Lifeline
- Ø Careers in Healthcare
- Ø Basketball activities with Tamika Catching's *Catch the Stars Foundation*
- Ø Food & Nutrition Activities
- Ø Women & Hi-Tec
- Ø Riley Community Education & Child Advocacy

- Ø Mad Science of Central Indiana
- Ø Health & Fitness Obstacle Course
- Ø Keep Indianapolis Beautiful
- Ø AND MANY, MANY MORE!!!

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN INDIANA PTA! WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE NEW IDEAS AND PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP YOUR UNITS!

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 phone number 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 revamped 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.