

# Indiana PTA<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.onevoice.*

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*Indiana PTA*  
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## PTA Officers

### 2009—2010 Officers

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## The President's Corner

*By Tina Hartman*

It's hard to believe that Convention is right around the corner. Some exciting changes have been made to convention this year so please be sure to review your convention packet thoroughly and feel free to contact your Field Service Representative or the Indiana PTA office with questions.

The Board of Managers had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Tony Bennett, Superintendent of Public Instruction, on February 27. Dr. Bennett spent nearly two hours with the Board members so that we had a better understanding of the goals Indiana has for education and "Race to the Top" funds.

I am extremely excited that so many units have shown an increase in membership this year. This will be a huge benefit as we talk with Legislators and let them know the number of voices representing the children of Indiana. Indiana PTA wants to properly recognize your local unit for the many accomplishments you have made this year so we hope that you will plan to attend the 98<sup>th</sup> Indiana PTA Convention on April 16-18. It's a time for celebrating, networking, making new friends, gaining new ideas and improving the skills you already have as well as learning new ones. I look forward to meeting each of you!

## Get Ready for Convention 2010!

*By Natalie Jones*  
*Convention Committee Chair*

Can you believe it is only five weeks until convention? If I was ever going to attend an Indiana PTA Convention, this would be the year! We have some awesome sessions set in place for our adult and student delegates. Once again this year, we have our Friday night networking session. This year, we are going to have our first ever **Town Hall Meeting with National PTA President- Elect, Betsy Landers.**

If you have been to convention before you may remember the fabulous sights and sounds of our keynote speaker, **Victor Pacini.** Victor has been a familiar face at many past conventions and this year, we decided to bring him back as our keynote speaker. If you haven't heard him, make sure you come for the beginning of convention on

Friday night, you won't be disappointed!

We have a **great benefit** for our delegates this year. We have a fabulous, money saving meal deal that cannot be beat! For a fee of **\$20.00**, you will get the Friday night networking meal, Saturday morning continental breakfast, the Region Hospitality Suites for dinner on Saturday night, the Saturday night appetizer reception and the brunch buffet before the Awards Celebration on Sunday. We figure **it would cost you over \$100.00** if you ate out for all these meals. **So check off that you want the meal plan for \$20.00 on your convention form this year!**

Plan on joining us for a great weekend of PTA fun and networking! You'll come home ready to hit the road running with all you will learn at this year's Indiana PTA Convention!

## What to Expect from Convention

### Before convention

- Plan to enjoy the convention thoroughly. It is your meeting as much as anyone's and you have an opportunity to help make it a success.
- Be informed. Study the proposed amendments to the bylaws and the report of the nominating committee. Be prepared to vote intelligently.
- Make thoughtful preparation for the convention. Know the special needs of your PTA and try to determine the type of help you will be expected to bring back to your local unit.

### During convention meetings and workshops

- Arrive on time for all meetings and workshops.
- Wear your badge at all times so others may get to know you.
- Take adequate notes to use in preparing your report to your local unit or council.
- Take part in all events, discussions and voting.
- Consider the needs of the PTA rather than your own personal interests.

- Be friendly. Everyone at the convention is there for the same purpose — we believe in children and youth.
- Share ideas and concerns that you have and seek out ideas and concerns from others.
- Plan to stop by the exhibit hall and visit with our exhibitors who offer a broad spectrum of ideas, products and services.

### When you return home

- Prepare your report while ideas are fresh in your mind.
- Include the business transacted, the

theme, main points of speeches and workshops, and information on the newly elected officers.

- Share with your officers and building principal the materials contained in your packet and any other materials distributed to the delegates.

Convention is a time for both learning and fun. There are many opportunities to learn and take back valuable information to your PTA leaders. There is also officer training available. But, while learning is the main goal, making friends and sharing ideas is the best part!

## Why Should You 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
- Find new opportunities to raise funds in the Exhibit hall filled with vendors
- Celebrate with award winners and more!

## Convention Workshops for Everyone

Convention is the time of year to think about the future. At convention you get new ideas for future events, receive training for future leaders, and bring back ideas on how to grow your membership. What a GREAT way to use your PTA dollars! Sending even one delegate benefits your PTA significantly, and we hope you will consider sending someone from your unit to the 2010 convention in Indianapolis.

There will be many opportunities for learning with mini-round tables, a National PTA Town Hall meeting on Friday, and in-depth workshops on Saturday.

Take a look at the sampling of Convention workshops and roundtables available to your PTA, not to mention an Exhibit Hall packed with vendors and goodies! You won't want to miss it!

### Sample Convention Workshops

Growing Your Membership  
Ask the Experts  
So You Want To Be President?  
Facebook, PR, and Marketing  
You and Me, Learning About Diversity  
Male Engagement  
Legislate for ALL Children  
Treasurer's Basics  
Plus MANY Youth Workshops!

### Sample Convention Round tables

Citizenship  
Reflections  
Membership Idea Sharing  
PIRC (Parent Involvement Resource Centers)  
Procedure Books/ Secretaries  
Girls Inc.  
Healthy Children  
Parliamentary Procedure  
Middle and High School Idea Sharing  
Elementary Idea Sharing  
Male Involvement and MORE!

## Meal Plan Saves Money

### 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
- Region Dinner Saturday evening
- Saturday reception and hors d'oeuvres
- Brunch 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!

*Saturday Reflections and Citizenship luncheon is excluded.*

**ONLY  
\$20.00  
per  
person!**

## Share in the Awards at 2010 Convention

By Julie Klingenberger  
Awards Committee Chair

The Indiana PTA Awards Program consists of several opportunities to recognize outstanding achievement in relation to PTA and its programming. The awards program is comprised of accolades that honor students, local units, councils, volunteers, teachers, principals, newsletters, and websites.

This year, in an effort to ensure complete fairness in the judging, Indiana PTA has partnered with Michigan PTSA to judge all submitted essays. Each entry will be verified to ensure the submitting unit is in Good Standing with the state organization before being sent off to Michigan for final judging. Michigan PTSA will determine winners and notify Indiana PTA of their selections. In a great effort of team-work, the Indiana PTA Awards Committee will, in turn, be judging all Michigan entries.

All winners of all contests will be announced at the state convention April 16- 18, 2010. All unit level awards with the exception of the Outstanding Unit are recognized at the Awards Ceremony at Saturday night's General Meeting. The Outstanding unit will be announced and honored at the Sunday Celebration at the close of convention. If your unit submits to any of the awards programs, representation at the convention is important. Indiana PTA is proud to offer our members so many opportunities for recognition. It is our hope that your unit applied, and attend the awards ceremonies at the annual convention. Best of luck to all!!!

### Simply Outstanding

The Outstanding Teacher and Principal Awards are special awards presented to the teacher and principal that show an unwavering support for their school, their PTA, and establishing a strong partnership between home and school. The awards parallel one another. They both ask to have questions answered in essay form by the nominating unit as well as the nominee. The applications and essays are submitted to the Indiana PTA for judging and the finalists are sent to Michigan PTSA to choose a winner. The winners are notified and asked to accept their award and offer comments during the Celebration at the close of convention.

New this year is an Outstanding Volunteer Award. This awards highlights all of the great work done for children across the state by PTA volunteers. This application asks for a short one page essay on the nominees PTA affiliation and their extraordinary contributions to PTA. A photo of the nominee needs to be attached to the application for display at Convention. This Outstanding Volunteer Award will be presented at the Celebration at the Sunday Awards convention celebration.

Student's awards programs are highlighted through **National PTA's Reflections Program** and **Indiana PTA's Citizenship Essay Contest**. The Reflections Program gives students of all ages the chance to express themselves through art in six different mediums reflecting the nationally chosen theme. These pieces are initially judged at the school level and then submitted to the state for judging. A panel of qualified judges evaluates the work and chooses winners in each of the categories at each of the age levels. Students whose entries have been chosen as statewide winners will advance to National competition. The Indiana PTA's Citizenship Contest is tailored for students in grades 4-12. The students are asked to write an essay that incorporates the yearly theme. Each school is permitted two entries per competition level. The winning students and their families will also be invited to the Annual Reflections/Citizenship Luncheon hosted during the Indiana PTA Convention to celebrate their success.

Local units have a chance to boast about their programming through the annual President's report. The President's Report is an awards form that is broken into four parts. There are multiple opportunities for recognition throughout this report. If your unit has met the most basic requirements asked of Indiana PTA, you are an **Award of Merit** winner. Units with a successful program or idea may write a paragraph description and receive a certificate of **Bright Ideas**. If your unit has met the basic requirements, contacted your state and federal legislators, and took part in several of the Indiana PTA sponsored programs your unit will qualify as an **Award of Excellence** winner. The final level of competition at the unit level requires you have met Award of Excellence criteria plus submitted an essay depicting your school's best program. These essays are judged and a maximum number of three per region will be named as **Indiana PTA Honor Units**. From the twelve Honor Units, one **Indiana PTA Outstanding Unit** will be awarded.

Council's have a similar report to submit for awards. Once a Council has achieved the **Awards of Merit**, and **Award of Excellence**, they must write a report detailing how they have offered training, membership encouragement, and beneficial programming to the units that belong to their Council. These reports are judged and one Council will be named as an **Indiana PTA Outstanding Council** and recognized at the Celebration on Sunday of the Convention weekend.

**The Website Award** recognizes one PTA that has offered their local members the benefit of an updated, secure webpage. This award is offered at the unit and Council levels. Submission for this award was due by November 15, 2009. The Indiana PTA PR Committee members routinely monitor the submitted websites in search of qualifying criteria. The winning website will be announced at the Indiana PTA Convention in April.

**The Journalism Award** asks applying units to submit two different month's newsletters for consideration by the committee by March 1, 2010. They are looking for specific information to be listed in each copy as well as overall appeal. One award is given to an elementary, middle school, high school, and council PTA at the annual convention.

## Student Members Also Benefit from Convention

Students do you feel like nobody listens to you? Do you feel like your ideas aren't taken seriously? Are you not sure how to even get your ideas across to people? We know how you feel and want to help empower you to be an important part of your PTSA and your school! Come join us at convention to learn about programs and projects you can implement at your school.

As a PTSA member, students have all of the same rights and responsibilities as adult PTA members. Young people's viewpoints and ideas are essential because all PTA programs focus on youth. Likewise, seeing adults in action gives students a better understanding of adults and what they do to advocate for the children of Indiana. This learning from one another really does help to bridge the generation gap.

Students are genuinely interested in improving their communities, their education and the world in which they live. PTA offers them the means to realize these goals through legislative advocacy and other programs. It is for that reason that the Indiana PTA encourages students to attend, learn, and grow as a student leaders at the annual convention. Take a look at some of the upcoming convention workshops aimed at students.

Grades 6-8

### **Too Young to Vote, But Old Enough to Make a Difference**

A legislation workshop presented by Leona Glazebrooks, a Social Studies Teacher at Warren Central High School.

### **There's No Excuse for Abuse**

Education workshop to help prevent teenage dating violence. Materials and activities from the Safe Dates curriculum, a research based program being used in 11 cities in the U.S. as part of the Start Strong initiative. Presenters: Susan DeMunbrun & Kelly Bremer, Program Coordinators, Clarian Community Outreach and Engagement

Grades 9-12

### **How Today's Teens Tackle Today's Educational Issues**

A legislation workshop presented by Leona Glazebrooks, a Social Studies Teacher at Warren Central High School.

### **I Want to Stay, I Want to Leave**

Education workshop to help prevent teenage dating violence. Presenters: Susan DeMunbrun & Kelly Bremer, Program Coordinators, Clarian Community Outreach and Engagement

## Indiana PTA Partner Spotlight

Fun Services of Mishawaka is the newest Indiana PTA convention sponsor! They are our first champion sponsor, pledging a financial donation, games, and prizes for our convention! A BIG THANKS to Fun Services for making our convention both cost effective and FUN!



## Important Convention Info

Pre-Registration (Before April 2nd)	\$70.00
One-Day Pre-Registration	\$60.00
Convention Meal Plan	\$20.00
Registration (After April 2nd)	\$85.00
Non-PTA Member Registration (1 Day)	\$85.00
On-Site Registration for EVERYONE	\$85.00

Room reservations can be made at Indianapolis Marriott East, 7202 E. 21st and Shadeland Ave, Indianapolis, IN. A block of rooms is set aside for Indiana PTA at a special Convention Rate of \$99.00 per night (plus 17% tax) for up to 4 people per room. Reservations must be made by Tues. March 16th to guarantee the special rate. Please call (800) 228-9290 to make reservations or see your Convention packet with information on alternate accommodations.

## Did YOU Know...

Indiana PTA Convention registration and information was sent to all local PTA units during the first week of March?

If your unit hasn't received their packet, please call the Indiana PTA office at 1-317-357-5881 or visit our website and download the registration packet online at [www.indianapta.org/Convention.html](http://www.indianapta.org/Convention.html)

## Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter

Indiana PTA is now on Facebook with information, discussion boards, event listings, good news stories, and a great way to keep informed! Become a "fan" of Indiana PTA today! You can become a fan from our website at [www.indianapta.org](http://www.indianapta.org).

Join us on Twitter, too! Read our tweets and stay up-to-date on all Indiana PTA happenings at [www.twitter.com/indianapta](http://www.twitter.com/indianapta).

The IPT is the official newsletter of the Indiana PTA. It can be downloaded from the Indiana PTA website. Its purpose is to educate, inform and share PTA information with members and the general public.

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