

Indiana PTA[®]

everychild.onevoice.

May 2010
Volume 5, Issue 5

Indiana PTA
2525 N. Shadeland Ave., D4
Indianapolis, IN 46219
Phone: (317) 357-5881
Fax: (317) 357-3751



PTA Officers

2009—2010 Officers

<i>President</i>	Tina Hartman
<i>President Elect</i>	Barry Jones
<i>Vice President</i>	Deb Fox
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Burke
<i>Secretary</i>	Theresa Distelrath
<i>Central Region VP</i>	Sharon Wise
<i>NE Region VP</i>	Julie Klingenberger
<i>NW Region VP</i>	Dee Jones
<i>Southern Region VP</i>	Natalie Jones

Inside this Issue

President's Corner	1
New INPTA Officers	1
Outstanding Awards	2
Convention Photo Recap	3
Resolution Passed	4
PTA Votes	4
Host a Legislative Event	3
Did You Know?	4

The President's Corner

By Tina Hartman

As we closed convention, the excitement of the year's successes, as well as the plans for next year, filled the room. It was a great opportunity to see so many people engaged in the business of Indiana PTA along with the training opportunities available at this convention. The Convention Chair and I have reviewed evaluations and will be touching base with those of you who had specific questions.

Indiana PTA will be well represented at the National PTA Convention in Memphis, Tennessee. We are extremely honored that the Fort Wayne Area PTA Council has been asked to present their male involvement program at the Male Engagement Summit during National Convention.

The Emerging Minority Leaders Conference will also be held during National Convention and we are proud to have Celia White from Hammond and Jimella Harris from Fort Wayne representing Indiana.

During the 2010-2011 year, Indiana PTA will focus on male engagement as role models for our children. We are proud to be a contributing partner for the Indiana Fatherhood Summit to be held in June 2010.

We have some amazing opportunities for Indiana PTA over the next year as we continue to increase the number of voices representing the children of Indiana. As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to another great year!

2010 Convention Recap

It is hard to believe that our 98th PTA Convention has come and gone! What a great convention we had! The networking session and Town Hall Meeting with President Elect, Betsy Landers was very thought provoking. It was great seeing our future national president at the helm discussing National PTA's Strategic Plan. Once again, our friend Victor Pacini graced us with his presence and kicked off our weekend with his exciting and entertaining program. The Friday night barbecue was delicious and our friends at the Marriott set up a yummy "candy bar" for all to enjoy!

The Exhibit Hall was filled with great vendors highlighting their offerings. As we know, there must always be a business session or two during convention and this convention was no different. We had bylaws to update and a resolution to talk about. Great progress was made!

There were many interesting work-

shops to choose from. Delegates were treated to information that will help PTAs across the state in their mission. New this year was the Region Progressive Dinner on Saturday night. Even with a little overcrowding in some rooms, it was a huge hit. There was ample food, great fellowship and lots of new friends. The always exciting membership awards and Saturday night reception were also delightful!

Sunday's roundtable discussions brought a lot of information. For the first time, we had a brunch to honor all the outstanding work across the state. Many of the comments were positive on the evaluations. We tried to have something for young and old alike. It was a pretty exhausting weekend for many, but as always, we learned a lot to take back to our units! Please join us for our 99th anniversary in 2011. We are sure to see some new changes before we turn 100!

Convention

Notes

Indiana PTA Outstanding Principal John D. Skinner, Evansville North High School

It is an incredible honor to receive this prestigious award from the Indiana PTA. The relationship between the school and home is paramount to a student's ability to succeed. When that relationship is nurtured, everyone wins: parents, educators, and students. North High School PTSA parents have been models of how to encourage academic preparedness, the importance of a quality education, and the need for school involvement. The mutual trust of parents, students, and educators have benefitted individuals and the school as a whole. We are proud partners in the Indiana PTA network.

Indiana PTA Outstanding Volunteer Tony Distelrath, Fort Wayne

What an honor to be selected by the Indiana PTA for outstanding volunteer. I am excited and humbled and feel grateful to be extended such an honor. There are a lot of outstanding people who dedicate their lives to making a difference in all of our children's lives and to be included or thought of as outstanding is truly humbling. I am in the company of many dedicated and selfless people. The PTA is truly an organization that fights everyday for our children's welfare and success. I believe in this association and to be recognized for the work that I do for our children is Awe-inspiring. I am truly proud to be a member of the PTA and to be a part of such an association. Thank you Indiana PTA for this award.

Indiana PTA Outstanding Council Fort Wayne Area Council PTA

The Fort Wayne Area Council PTA is elated to be named Indiana PTA's Outstanding Council this year, as we celebrate 50 years of advocacy. This year we have focused on diversifying our membership. With this intention we launched our FBI (Fathers Being Involved) initiative, focusing on the importance of male involvement in a student's education. We were fortunate to partner with many local businesses who shared our beliefs. Together, we have increased membership in our corner of the state by nearly 30%. We are also proud to honor local leaders through our "Big Heart" Program. Training to our unit leaders is offered year round, and we have tried to attend a meeting at every school to show our support of their programming. This Board consists of wonderful leaders who truly believe in the power of positive parents working together. We thank Indiana PTA for acknowledging the work we are doing on behalf of the children in our area. We celebrate this recognition and look forward to the part we will play in our community in the years to come.

Indiana PTA Outstanding Teacher Chris Grinstead, Shawnee Middle School PTA

As the recipient of this year's award, I would like to thank everyone involved. Thank you to the committee for choosing me, thank you to my PTSA for nominating me, and thank you to my family and school for supporting me. I could not be the teacher I am without many wonderful people. The positive effect our PTSA has at Shawnee Middle School is special, and their hard work make our school a great place to be. The importance of the PTSA in our schools continues to grow each day, and I will always do my part to help keep it strong.

Indiana PTA Outstanding Unit Cynthia Heights Elementary School PTA

Cynthia Heights PTA in Evansville is very excited about winning the Outstanding Unit Award. Celebrating reading achievement for all students is our main goal. The Celebration of Reading has been an annual event for many years which encourages and rewards reading at all grade levels. The gym is filled with carnival games, inflatable activities, raffle items, cotton candy, snow cones, face painting, and a "book walk" (like a cake walk, but with books). The only currency is book bucks, which are tickets earned throughout the year by extra reading. Spending book bucks includes great lessons in choices and budgeting, as students want to make sure they get to participate in all of the games and shop for prizes and food. There is also entertainment for all of the students. Cynthia Heights, on behalf of the parents, grandparents, teachers, community members and students, thanks Indiana PTA for honoring us with this award.



Betsy Landers and Linda Sterling from National PTA



Victor Pacini tells us to reach high for our dreams



Celebrating our membership increase at the Saturday evening awards

"I really liked the meal deal this year."

"Thank you for the experience. We had great time."



Proud award winners!



Convention delegate, Carissa Dollar gets ready for a workshop.

"You did an awesome job! It was a great convention!"



Outstanding Volunteer Award Winner, Tony Distelrath

"Great subjects and workshops. Loved the progressive dinner"

Membership Increases Across the State

Membership awards were given out on Saturday evening during convention at an Indiana PTA Membership Celebration. Many certificates were given to units with membership achievements, including certificates for 25 or more Family & Friends; a membership increase of 25 members; maintaining membership; a 25% increase; 100% Teacher/Principal membership; as well as Certificates of Bright Ideas; Certificates of Achievement; and Certificates of Excellence

Gold Oak Leaf Awards, for growing a school's PTA membership by 50% or more, went to: Brookview Elementary School PTA, Columbia Elementary School PTA, Elmhurst High School PTSA, Price Elementary School PTA, F.W. Critchfield Elementary School PTA, Forest Park Elementary School PTA, Gavit Middle/High School PTSA, Harding Elementary School PTA, Indian Village Elementary School PTA, Kenwood Elementary School PTA, LaPorte High School PTSA, Lew Wallace Elementary School PTA, Liberty Park Elementary School PTA, Lowell Elementary School PTA, Memorial Park Middle School PTSA, Miami Middle School PTSA, Morton Elementary School PTA, North High School PTSA, Northwood Middle School PTSA,

Pittsboro Elementary School PTA, Portage Middle School PTSA, R. Harris Elementary School PTA, Raymond Park Middle School PTSA, Rise Learning Center PTA, School #2 Center for Inquiry PTA, School #56 PTA, Shawnee Middle School PTSA, Stonybrook Middle School PTSA, Study Elementary School PTA

Membership Achievement Awards, for the highest percent increase and percentage of members vs. school enrollment were given to one PTA per region. Winners are: Forest Park Elementary School PTA, Harding Elementary School PTA, Stonybrook Middle School PTSA, Vogel Elementary School PTA.

A 100% Matching Membership Award, for having one PTA member per student, was awarded to Brookview Elementary School PTA.

Members of the "500 Club" were awarded for having over 500 members for two years in a row. Those schools are: Northrop High School PTSA, Hebron Elementary School PTA, Oak Hill Middle School PTSA, and Scott Elementary School PTA.

Thanks to ALL of our units for helping Indiana to a 6.6% membership increase across the state!

Students at Convention

We had 23 students attend this year's convention, which is an increase over last year. We hope to continue to grow this area of convention. Students were offered workshops on legislation, teenage dating violence, hazing, and promoting your PTA using networking tools. We teamed up with Clarian Community Outreach and Engagement, Warren Central High School's Guidance Department and their Social Studies department, Stonybrook Middle School and Wise Solutions to provide some excellent presenters on these topics. Students also attended mini-workshops such as "Show Me the Money!" (How do I get a scholarship?), "What's Your Fit IQ?", "Leadership 101" and "DTWD" Cell phone safety. Read what the students had to say!

To Young to Vote, but Old Enough to Make a Difference

"The workshop was really fun! It makes you want to be involved."

Hazed and Confused

"Fun, interesting and interactive. I learned a lot and I liked it."

I Want to Stay I Want to Leave

"I loved this session. I would love for them to come back next year."

There's No Excuse for Abuse

"The topic was uncomfortable but the way they did it made it a little less awkward. It made me think."

Outstanding Award Winners

Congratulations to the following awards winners that were announced at the Indiana PTA Convention on Sunday, April 18th at the close of convention. Indiana PTA is proud to recognize our units, volunteers, teachers, principals, councils, and other leaders as they carry out the mission of PTA.

Outstanding Council: Fort Wayne Area PTA Council

Outstanding Unit: Cynthia Heights Elementary School PTA

Outstanding Principal: John Skinner from North High School PTSA

Outstanding Teacher: Chris Grinstead from Shawnee Middle School PTSA

Outstanding Volunteer: Tony Distelrath from Jefferson Middle School PTSA

Honor Units: Northrop High School PTSA, Forest Park Elementary School PTA, Jefferson Middle School PTSA, Cynthia Heights Elementary School PTA, Reitz High School PTSA, O'Bannon Elementary School PTA, Harding Elementary School PTA, Twin Branch Model School PTA, and Brookview Elementary School PTA.

Outstanding Membership Campaign: Shawnee Middle School PTSA

Outstanding Website Awards: **Elementary** - Croninger Elementary School PTA, **Middle** - Shawnee Middle School PTSA, **High** - Gavit Middle/High School PTSA, and **Council** - Fort Wayne Area PTA Council.

Outstanding Journalism Awards: **Elementary** - Brookview Elementary School PTA, **High** - North High School PTSA, and **Council** - Perry Township PTA Council.

Citizenship Award: O'Bannon Elementary School PTA

New Officers Elected

New officers were elected to the Indiana PTA Executive Board on Saturday, April 17th at the 98th Annual Convention. Indiana PTA Treasurer-elect Kendra Rakestraw, Northwest Region Vice President-elect Celia White, and Secretary-elect Nichole Thomas were installed by National PTA President-elect Betsy Landers on Sunday, April 18th at the close of Convention. Central Region Vice President, Sharon Wise will continue in the position.



(L-R) National PTA President-elect Betsy Landers, Indiana PTA President Tina Hartman, Kendra Rakestraw, Celia White, Sharon Wise, and Nichole Thomas following their installation.

PTA Votes!

School Board Primary Elections across the state will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. Now is the time to let your voices be heard with your vote!. Do you know how the budget cuts will affect the children and schools that we serve? Do you know where your incumbents and prospective school board members stand on the issues? If not now, when? This is the time that we should all be listening to, reading and watching everything related to education. After the primaries, we need to continue to be vigilant in our advocacy efforts. Save the date for November 2, 2010 for the General Election.

Parent/Teacher Conference Resolution Passed

Our 98th annual Indiana PTA convention was truly exciting and inspiring. Our association is the largest advocacy group for our children and PTA advocates through many venues. Resolutions are a formal way to take a stand on specific issues or concerns.

This year, Shawnee Middle School PTSA of Fort Wayne submitted a resolution regarding Parent Teacher Conferences. Shawnee recommended that we take an official stand regarding the need for parent engagement and protecting and ensuring the rights of parents to meet with their teachers.

The resolution was adopted after a great discussion, and the Indiana PTA plans on taking action and working closely with our policy makers to ensure that our parents are engaged.

Thank you Shawnee PTSA for all your hard work and for your inspiration.

The Official PTA Kit—Discover the Possibilities with PTA!

Register for your free Official PTA Kit—PTA's Big Box of Possibilities—and get the tools you need to serve your community and run your PTA. The kit contains the invaluable PTA Quick-Reference Guides, as well as membership materials, program and advocacy resources, and special offers from national partners.

All local, council, district, and region PTAs must register to receive their kit for the 2010–2011 year. The registration form

allows your incoming PTA president or other authorized leader to provide your unit's preferred shipping address and date—to ensure that the kit gets into the right hands at the right time.

Kit registration started April 26 at www.pta.org/OfficialKit. Kits will ship weekly starting June 18, based on unit orders.

For more details about kit delivery and contents, go to www.pta.org/OfficialKit. The Official PTA Kit is available exclusively to PTAs in good standing.

Host A Legislative Event

As you are making plans for the 2010-2011 school year, please consider hosting a legislative event. This event could be a visit to your school, an information night or a legislative forum. Hosting visits for legislators at the local, state or federal level is an excellent way to build relationships between yourself and your elected officials, but also to establish yourself/your PTA as a resource for them and their staff. Site visits allow elected officials the opportunity to see that PTA is not about bake sales, but about school, family engagement and school reform. Your elected officials can see firsthand the things your local PTA is doing for the school(s) in his or her district. These are the steps that you will need to take:

- Plan the Visit
- Schedule the Visit
- Alert the Media
- Host the Visit
- Evaluate the Visit

You will find the NPTA Advocacy Toolkit at www.pta.org. And remember, your Indiana PTA Board of Managers is here to assist you and your PTA with your event.

Did you Know...

...that Indiana PTA is a participating sponsor of the Indiana Fatherhood Summit? The Summit is designed to increase the capacity and ability of men to be effective fathers by providing them with opportunities to build their knowledge, skills and competencies. Indiana PTA is proud to be a part of this event!

Follow Us...

Indiana PTA is now on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Become a "fan" of Indiana PTA today! You can access them all right from our website at www.indianapta.org. Watch, discuss, and read about the latest news as it happens!



indiana
fatherhood
summit

Dads Making a Difference

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

The IPT is produced by the Indiana PTA PR/Marketing Committee on a bi-monthly basis.