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Newsletter of the Indiana PTA



The President's Corner

by Sonja Canterbury

Dear Members,

Wouldn't you do anything possible for your children? The fact that you are members of PTA makes it obvious that you would.

Convention is a time for you to improve your skills and gain new ideas for better serving your PTA in the capacity for which you hold. It is also a time to network with other dedicated volunteers from around the state, exchanging ideas, sharing individual success stories and best of all, returning home recharged and ready to tackle all the PTA challenges in the coming year. At Convention, you will discover new ideas for running an effective PTA. You will also learn how to stay informed about legislative issues affecting our children's education, and help your family and school with new strategies for a safer school campus.

There's something for everyone – from brand new PTA members and students to experienced state board leaders. You and your PTA will benefit from new program ideas offered at the convention. Take this opportunity to network with award winning PTAs and to meet newly elected officers.

We have an exciting and educational convention planned. Please join us in Indianapolis, May 15-17 for a wonderful growth experience. With your help, PTA can prepare Today's Children to be Tomorrow's Future.

Sonja Canterbury, President
Indiana PTA

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Today's Children ... Tomorrow's Future

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PresidentJan Harp Domene
President ElectCharles J. Saylor
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113th National PTA

Convention

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

June 26th - 29th, 2009

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Indiana PTA Welcomes Chuck Saylor!

Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor is PTA's first-ever male national president-elect. He was elected in June 2007 to a two year term and has been a PTA member for almost 20 years. Chuck joined PTA when his oldest son Matthew (now 24 years old) was in the first grade at Woodland Elementary in Greer, S.C. That's when he and his wife Teresa began volunteering and they haven't slowed down since. Mr. Saylor states: "My motivation is to get parents and family members involved in the educational system showing them that even a little time spent in the school is a valuable investment. I truly believe that a child will succeed if a parent is involved."

Indiana PTA is very excited to have Mr. Saylor attend this year's Indiana PTA Convention! This will be a true highlight of what is shaping up to be a great convention!

The Mission of the PTA

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children;
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

The Purposes of the PTA

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.



97th Annual

Indiana PTA Convention
May 15th - 17th, 2009

"Our lives begin to end on the day we become silent about things that matter."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The New Indiana PTA Convention

by Tina Hartman

Friendship, Networking, Energy, Excitement, Legislation, Resolutions, Advanced Advocacy, Treasurers, Students, Teambuilding, Membership, Awards, Fun . . . Just a few of the things you will walk away with from this newly designed convention. We have listened to your feedback and taken your advice by redesigning the convention program.

We will begin Friday evening with a handful of mini workshops giving you an opportunity to attend two. Immediately following the mini's, join us as Scott Huse provides an inspiring keynote. This keynote will provide a lot of fun with personality types and styles. Then it's time to relax and get to know the delegates who were able to make it in on Friday evening. Join us for networking time as you enjoy food and beverages, meet your state board members and other delegates from around the state. This will be a great time to talk to other PTA members about ideas, programming, issues, etc. ~ you'll want to be in Indianapolis for this alone!

We have packed Saturday with plenty of workshops for adults and students. The Middle/High School Committee is planning some exciting workshops for students to keep them motivated. We have put together an interactive list of workshops to include teambuilding, legislation, advanced advocacy, treasurers/audits, president/vice president, "ask the experts," and many more. Chuck Saylor, National PTA President Elect, will be joining us and presenting a workshop on diversity. We will still have the reflections/citizenship lunch on Saturday as well as the exhibit hall and silent auction of theme baskets.

Perhaps one of the biggest and best changes is the Saturday evening business session. We are uniting all regions for one huge membership celebration. At the Saturday evening session, we will celebrate the accomplishments of all local units across the state as each region vice president distributes awards to their units. We will have the theme baskets to distribute to the winners who purchased them during the silent auction and door prizes throughout the evening. We will end the evening as the side doors open into a reception to continue celebrating the accomplishments of all your hard work over the year.

We will end the weekend of activities on Sunday with a continental breakfast and loads of mini roundtables for you to choose from. In an effort to make attending more cost effective for units and let you get home to your families, we are eliminating the expense of lunch and moving our Awards Celebration to 10:00am – 12:00pm. At this celebration we will honor past presidents and state life members. We will also present the newsletter awards, website awards, citizenship awards as well as outstanding teacher, principal, unit and council.

We truly value your dedication and commitment to the children of Indiana and want to celebrate your hard work with you and your team. Join us at the Indianapolis Marriott East on May 15-17 to network, get new ideas, and celebrate your accomplishments.

Resolutions Coming To Convention

by Sue Switzer, Issues Commission Chairperson

Indiana PTA Convention delegates will have the opportunity to vote on three resolutions. Resolutions are written by units and councils to focus state attention to an issue they feel is very important. This year delegates will consider three issues which are:

- ~ **School Safety and Polling Places** submitted by Warren Township PTA Council, Indianapolis
- ~ **Effects of Media on the Development of Female Self Esteem** submitted by Brookview Elementary PTA, Indianapolis
- ~ **Safe School Buildings** submitted by Jefferson Middle School PTSA, Ft. Wayne

Each resolution will be printed in the convention booklet so be sure and look them over before the Saturday morning General Session.

Indiana PTA Nominating Committee Report

The committee elected by the Board of Managers to select the nominees for the officers of the Indiana PTA to be elected at the 2009 Convention respectfully presents the following:

President – Elect

Barry Jones

Vice President

Debbie Fox

North East Region Vice President

Julie Klingenberger

There were no nominations for the office of Southern Region Vice President. Therefore, **Natalie Jones will continue to serve as Southern Region Vice President.** Elections will take place at the Indiana PTA Convention May 15-17, 2009.

The Official PTA Kit—Register for Yours!

Along with the change in name, there is a change in the kit's delivery. This year, all local, council, district, and region PTAs must register to receive their kit. The registration form allows your incoming PTA president or other authorized leader to provide your unit's preferred shipping address and date. This new process will help ensure that the kit gets into the right hands at the right time. And the kit is still free! Look for a postcard and e-mail with your unit's registration link starting at the end of April. Kits will ship weekly June 19 through the end of October (kits shipped after October 1 will incur a handling cost). For more details about the delivery and contents of *The Official PTA Kit*, go to www.PTA.org/OfficialKit. *The Official PTA Kit* is available exclusively to PTAs in good standing.

Let's Fight Flu Together!

Every year, an estimated 38 million school days are missed by students due to complications of influenza. PTA's can take a step to reducing this number by hosting an influenza vaccination clinic next fall at a school or at a community event. Plan now to support health and wellness initiatives in your community!

All local units in good standing that register their clinic by midnight on May 1 will be entered into a drawing for one of four \$250 prizes! The prize winnings can be used to promote your influenza vaccination clinic and other health and wellness programs you have planned. Local units can register today at www.pta.org/flushotclinics.



Influenza vaccination clinics take place September through January and can easily be a part of other school and community events. Look at school calendars now to find the best date to host a clinic! Whether it is paired with report card pick up, a football game, Homecoming activities, or a family fun night, make Let's Fight Flu Together! influenza vaccination clinics a part of PTA programming for the year!

Influenza vaccinations will cost \$25/vaccination for each pre-registered participant and \$27 for each on-site registration. Flu Mist will be available for those pre-registering and will cost \$30. PTAs will receive \$1 for each injectable vaccination given to be used for other health and wellness programming in your schools! To register for your clinic, go to www.pta.org/flushotclinics.

National School Nurses' Day

Celebrate and thank your school nurse on Tuesday, May 6! School nurses are a wealth of knowledge and resources for all of our school communities. Please take the time to thank them for their service. Take time to visit with your school nurse about ideas for the 2009-2010 school year, including how they might help with plans to host a Let's Fight Flu Together clinic or apply for a Healthy Lifestyles Award. For more information on how to get involved with Let's Fight Flu Together, please visit www.pta.org/flushotclinics.

More than Camp: CampParents.org the Resource for Families

For nearly a century, ACA has worked to promote exceptional programs – providing children and adults the opportunity to learn powerful lessons in community, character-building, skill development, and healthy living. Additionally, ACA works closely with other youth-serving organizations and associations. As part of ACA's continued commitment to give parents and families the best possible information, CampParents.org is ACA's parent resource Web site. This site includes:

[Expert Advice](#) – CampParents.org provides families with expert advice on child development and parent-child relationships in addition to camp-related advice such as the benefits of camp, coping with homesickness, and preparing a first-time camper. With information broken down by age group, parents can review developmental milestones, what is “on their child’s mind,” relationship building tips, and advice on how to get the most out of the camp experience.

[Camp e-News](#) – Through CampParents.org, parents can sign-up to receive *Camp e-News*, ACA's bi-monthly parent e-newsletter on child and youth development, the camp experience, and timely issues concerning today's families. Archived issues of *Camp e-News* are also available on the site.

[Children and Nature Resources](#) – CampParents.org offers parents and families insight into the importance of a first-hand relationship with nature, online environmental resources, and family fun activities to “get green.”

[Healthy Kids and Teens Information](#) – Families can access information on health and safety issues such as bullying, sun safety, avoiding and treating poison ivy and poison oak, developing healthy lifestyles, and [teen specific issues](#) such as driving safety, information on underage drinking and drug use, and online safety.

[Información en Español](#) – CampParents.org is translated for parents and families who are more comfortable reading and searching for information in their primary language. This includes all developmental information, expert advice, and the ultimate camp planner. The *entire* site has been translated – providing non-English speaking families, or English as a second language families, with the same beneficial resource information.

[Camp Planning and Search](#) – Of course, this resource would not be complete without the [ultimate camp planner](#) and ACA's [Find A Camp](#) searchable database. By using these camp resources, families can find the perfect camp experience, see research and information on the benefits and essential quality of camp to a child's development, visit camp Web sites, find information on financial assistance, and read helpful camp tips.

For additional information on the perfect camp experience for your child or to request our parent presentation, *Camp 101*, please contact ACA, Indiana at info@acaIndiana.org or 574-457-4379.

Five Reasons Your Child Needs Camp

There's no doubt that summer camp is fun. Kids get to sing silly songs, play funny games, swim in lakes, and tell spooky stories around a campfire. This is the image of camp that has been captured and memorialized in films, books, and television programs for the past fifty years. But there's much more to camp than just a good time. In addition to fun, you should be aware of these five reasons your child needs camp.

Camp will forever change your child... for the better – American Camp Association® (ACA) research has confirmed that camps build skills necessary to prepare campers to assume roles as successful adults. Campers said that camp helped them make new friends (96%), get to know kids who are different from them (93%), feel good about themselves (92%), and try things they were afraid to do at first (74%).

Camp will teach your child to “move it, move it” – Camp provides children the opportunity to try new things and participate in human powered activities. According to surveys by both the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an American child is six times more likely to play a videogame on any given day than to ride a bike. An estimated 22 million of the world's children under the age of five are already considered obese. According to research conducted by ACA, 63 percent of children who learn new activities at camp tend to continue engaging in these activities after they return home. This leads to continued physical exercise that lasts a lifetime.

Camp keeps all that hard work from going to waste - Camps understand the critical role they play in helping young people learn and grow. Many offer programs that help reduce summer learning loss, bolster academic enrichment and socialization, provide opportunities for leadership development, and ensure that campers achieve their full potential.

Camp allows kids to relax, take a deep breath, and feel the nature – Camp is a great way for your child to unplug from the iPod® and plug into the world around them. According to a study by two Cornell University environmental psychologists, being close to nature can help boost a child's attention span. Additionally, a study conducted by the University of Essex in England concluded that nature can help people recover from pre-existing stresses or problems, has an immunizing effect that can protect from future stresses, and helps people to concentrate and think more clearly. In some instances, camp may be the only time a child is in contact with the natural world.

Camp is fun – It's true; kids do sing silly songs and play funny games at camp. Children are allowed to play in a safe and nurturing environment, and are allowed to *just be kids*. *Play is a powerful form of learning that contributes mightily to the child's healthy physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development*. According to an American Academy of Pediatrics report, creative free play protects a child's emotional development and reduces a child's risk of stress, anxiety, and depression.

For additional information on the perfect camp experience for your child or to request our parent presentation, *Camp 101*, please contact ACA, Indiana at info@acaIndiana.org or 574-457-4379. © 2009 American Camping Association, Inc.

National PTA Standards Implementation Guide

by Dee Jones, Federal Legislative Chairperson

The benefits of family-school-community partnerships are many: higher teacher morale, more parent involvement, and greater student success are only a few. That is why PTA developed the **National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Implementation Guide**, a tool for empowering people to work together with an end goal of building family-school partnerships and student success. For each of the six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, this online guide provides:

- An explanation of each standard and its importance
- Insights to help convince educators of the standard's value
- A success story from a school community
- Action steps for your school community
- Resources to enhance your understanding

The full guide, available in PDF, provides additional details, background, research, and success stories.

Who should use this guide?

Anyone with a stake in improving schools and student achievement can use this tool: PTA leaders, parents, school administrators, school board members, community organizations, and more.

How to use this guide

This guide can assist organizers with implementing programs and policies that encourage these family-school partnerships. Used with the supporting resources, it can help organizers educate their communities about the importance of family involvement and direct the development of effective partnerships. These materials are best used after the formation of an action team focused on promoting family involvement. This team can include parents, other caregivers and family members, school staff, community members, and even students. To get started, go to "**First Steps**" and then examine the online components for each of the National Standards.

To learn more, visit <http://www.pta.org>.

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

April

29th Deadline to get the Early Bird Convention Fee of \$70.00, after this date fee is \$85.00

May

4th-8th Teacher Appreciation Week

5th National Teacher Day

6th National School Nurses Day

10th Mother's Day

15th-17th INDIANA PTA CONVENTION

25th Memorial Day Observed
State Office closed

PTA Deadlines

- APRIL 29, 2009 IS THE DEADLINE TO GET YOUR CONVENTION REGISTRATION IN TO GET THE EARLY BIRD CONVENTION FEE OF \$70.00. AFTER APRIL 29, THE COST OF REGISTRATION IS \$85.00.
- DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR 2009-2010 OFFICERS LIST TO THE INDIANA PTA STATE OFFICE AS SOON AS YOUR OFFICERS ARE ELECTED SO THAT THEY CAN GET IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HELP THEM FOR NEXT YEAR!

Did You Know???

That by attending the Indiana PTA Convention, your PTA will gain training, enthusiasm, new ideas, new friends, and contacts to call on for help? The money your PTA spends on convention is a true investment for the future of your PTA! If your PTA hasn't signed up to attend yet ~ there is still time. The Indiana PTA Convention is May 15th—17th, 2009. You should be there!

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.

Kathie Green, editor

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