

## A Message From Our President

### Happy Birthday to Illinois PTA!

May 30<sup>th</sup> marked the 108<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Illinois PTA and we have so much to celebrate as we work to “ensure every child’s future.” There are events and programs taking place all across the state throughout the year and to make the most of this effort I am hoping that everyone will share their highlights with Illinois PTA. So, let’s start a **“Share Your Success”** campaign! Put a paragraph or two together and send it your Illinois PTA web master at [mdaugherty15@comcast.net](mailto:mdaugherty15@comcast.net) – we’ll post it on the website and perhaps include it in an upcoming edition of BULLETIN. Your local unit or council will get some well-deserved publicity and others can replicate what you’re doing and sparking new ideas for everyone. For example, what did you do to celebrate and honor teachers during the National Teacher Appreciation Week? Did you have a special theme or do something “outside the box” to honor your teachers? Remember, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!

In the meantime, summer is quickly approaching and though school will be out this is the time for all PTA’s to plan for a new school year. June is the time to attend the National PTA Convention - this year the convention is being held in Memphis, June 10-13. Honor your outgoing board members, plan your budget, form your new board, put together a membership campaign but most importantly...**CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESSES!!!!**



Debra Strauss  
Illinois PTA President

### Inside this Issue:

Message from the President	1
National PTA	2
MORE	3
Award Recipients	4-5
Value of PTA	6-7
Resolutions	8-10
Website	10
Welcome PTAs	12



And once again, Happy Birthday Illinois PTA!

*~ Deb*





## Where are the men?

Having a hard time getting more men involved? Well think of it from our end. How likely is it that a guy is going to walk into a room filled almost all with women?

Yes, there are a few of us who have done it. In my case, I suppose it was because I got use to being around a bunch of women. When I started dating my wife, she was a girl scout and worked at the summer camp for 10 years. So between helping getting the camp ready at the beginning of the summer, visiting a few times during the summer, and then getting the camp ready for winter, I spent a lot of time where I was definitely in the minority. So walking into that first PTA meeting and being the only guy in the room was doable for me.

So here is one idea for getting more men.

Start by gathering the men you have or if you need to grab a male relatives or friends. Have them work with you to identify volunteer tasks through out the year that would attract guys. To start, go with the stereotyped ideas. So don't ask them to help at the bake sale, but do ask them to barbeque. Need something built or painted plan on getting the guys. Usually, when men volunteer, they want to know ahead of time what they will be doing.

At the beginning of the year at a school event, such as a curriculum night or open house have a table that is manned by the guys you have. The table and area should be decorated in a masculine manner such as a sports, hunting, or military theme, whatever the guys think is appropriate for your area and for the time of year.

Have a sign up sheet for the volunteer tasks that you have identified for the men and ask them to help out. When they do volunteer make sure there are some other guys there.

Once you get them in the door a few times and if they are not coming to the regular PTA Meetings then invite them. Again, it is important to make sure the original group of core guys is there, besides staff members. Once the men start showing up, they will get more comfortable coming regularly. With the meetings, make sure you run them in a professional manner and stay on task. This should always be the case, but I remember going to several meetings with our new male School Board Representative and he asked if the meetings always got off topic and meandered all over the place.

In fact, there is nothing wrong with having a "men only" meeting. One PTA would meet at the school for an hour to take care of business and then move the meeting to a local establishment to enjoy what ever game was on and a few adult beverages.

Once you get a few of these men participating regularly they will start asking others to be involved. You can also start asking them to take on more leadership roles.

I'm not smart enough to know why, but the fact is that men and women are different. We each bring something different to the table, so just as it is very important to have a male role models when raising children, it is important to have men involved in your PTA.

If you are interested, please contact:

**Bruce Bohren**

*Illinois PTA President-Elect*

*Phone: 847-362-1279*

*Email: engbruce@earthlink.net*

While I will get the initial meetings started, I hope the Committee will appoint their own chairman.



# Get**MORE**

## Involved!

## Environmental Concerns

Honorable Mention: Hunting Ridge D 37  
 Chesic Martin D 2

Outstanding: Emerson D 30  
 Lions Park D 37  
 Fairview D 37

## Juvenile Protection & Safety

Honorable Mention: Lincoln D 19  
 Outstanding: Robert A. Black D 25  
 Outstanding Council: NWSC D37

### Positive Parent Award

Beginning Level: Emerson PTA D 28  
 Lincoln PTA D 37 (Palatine)  
 Outstanding: Lincoln PTA D 19  
 Hunting Ridge D 37

## Website

Honorable Mention: Hunting Ridge D 37  
 Stuart R. Paddock D 37

Outstanding: Eisenhower D 37

District Honorable Mention: District 28

## NEWSLETTERS

Honorable Mention Local Unit: Eisenhower PTA D 37  
 Outstanding Local Unit: Stuart R Paddock D 37

Honorable Mention District: District 28  
 Outstanding District: District 37

## *Healthy Kids*

Honorable Mention: Adolph Link D 37  
 Chesic Martin D 2  
 Fairview D 37  
 Homestead D 22  
 Hunting Ridge D 37  
 NorthEast PTAD 34  
 NWSC D 37

First Place  
 Second Place  
 Council Award

Outstanding Council  
 Northwest Suburban D37

## Legislation

Sharon Volva Award: Edison PTA D 28  
 Legislative Partnership: Hunting Ridge D 37  
 District 28

Membership was printed and distributed at Convention

# 2009|2010 Award RECIPIENTS

# Congratulations!

## Illinois PTA Reflections Award Winners Good luck at National

Category	District	Division	Name	PTA
<b>Music</b>	24	Primary	Chloe Leung	Decatur Classical PTA
	35	Intermed	Jurnie Hinde	Riverdale CUSD #100 PTA
	36	Mid/Jr	Catherine Blume	Franklin Mid. Sch. PTA
	34	Senior/H.S.	Ashley White	Oak Lawn Com. H.S. PTA
<b>Dance</b>	37	Primary	Mary Tang	Whiteley PTA
	36	Intermed	Divya Rea	Longfellow PTA
	36	Mid/Jr.	Teal Russeau	Edison PTA
<b>Photography</b>	36	Primary	Steven Ball	Abraham Lincoln PTA
	37	Intermed	Tyler Mercurio	Link PTA
	22	Mid/Jr	Becky Bagdocimo	District 113A PTA
	36	Senior	Rhea Pande	Neuqua Valley High School PSTA
<b>Film</b>	22	Primary	Kevin Katauskas	District 113A-Oakwook PTA
	30	Intermed	Madison Venkus	Whittier School PTA
	22	Mid/Jr	Becky Bagdocimo	Dist. 113A-Old Quarry PTA
	10	Senior	Cody Bralts	Urbana High School PTA
<b>Visual Arts</b>	24	Primary	Michael Puczko	O.A.Thorp PTA
	8	Intermed	Jordan Wellman	Madison School PTA
	21	Mid/Jr.	Emily Moy	East Prairie Elem. PTA
	34	Senior	Brittany Hewing	Evergreen Park Comm. H.S. PTSA
<b>Literature</b>	37	Primary	Delaney Garcea	SR Paddock School PTA
	36	Intermed	Natalie Scurio	Pleasant Hill Elem. PTA
	36	Mid/Jr.	Sarah Swiston	Hadley Jr. High School PTA
	36	Senior	Daniel Pang	Waubonsie Valley High School PTA

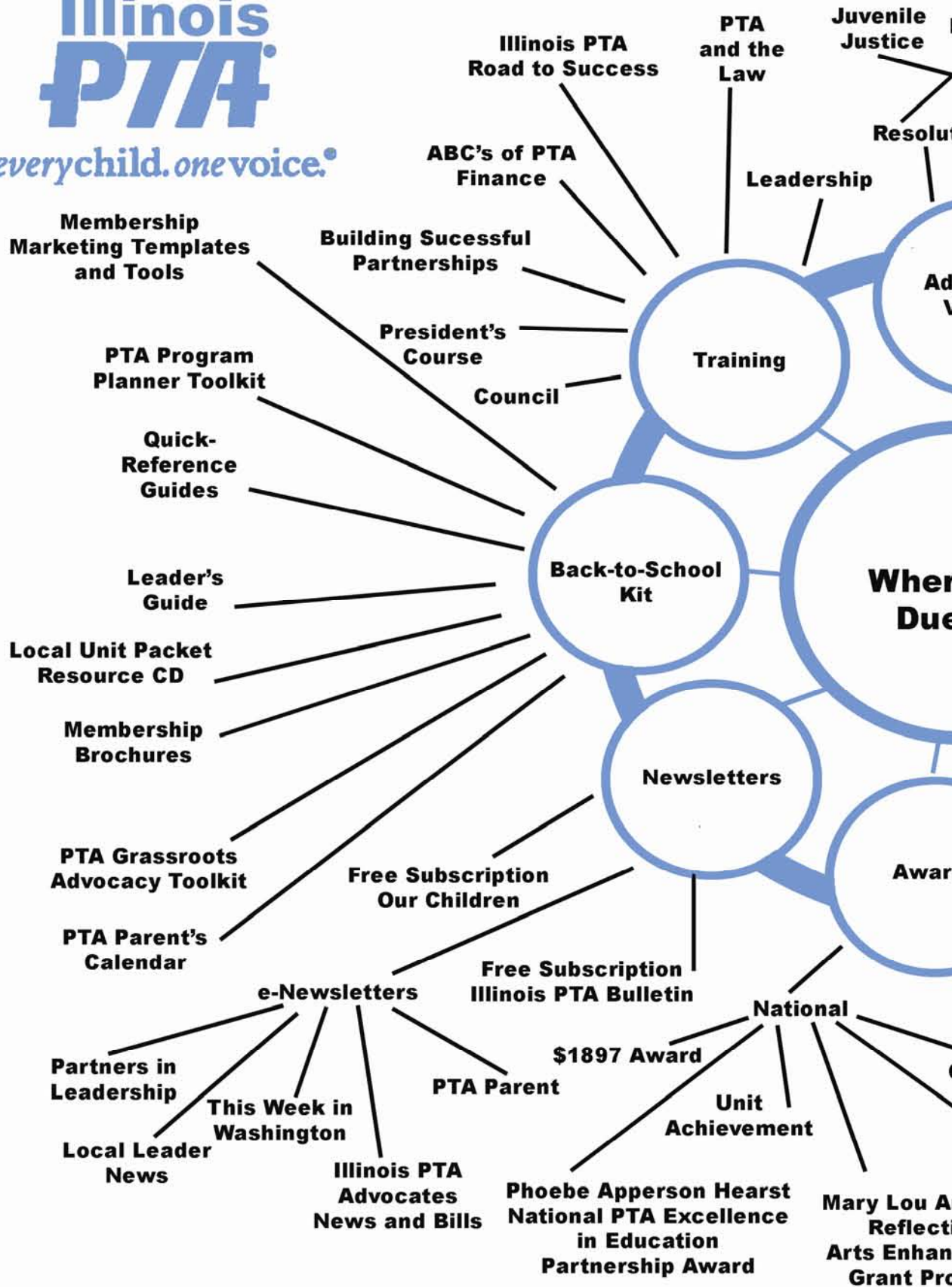
**2011–2012 PTA Reflections Program theme will be:**

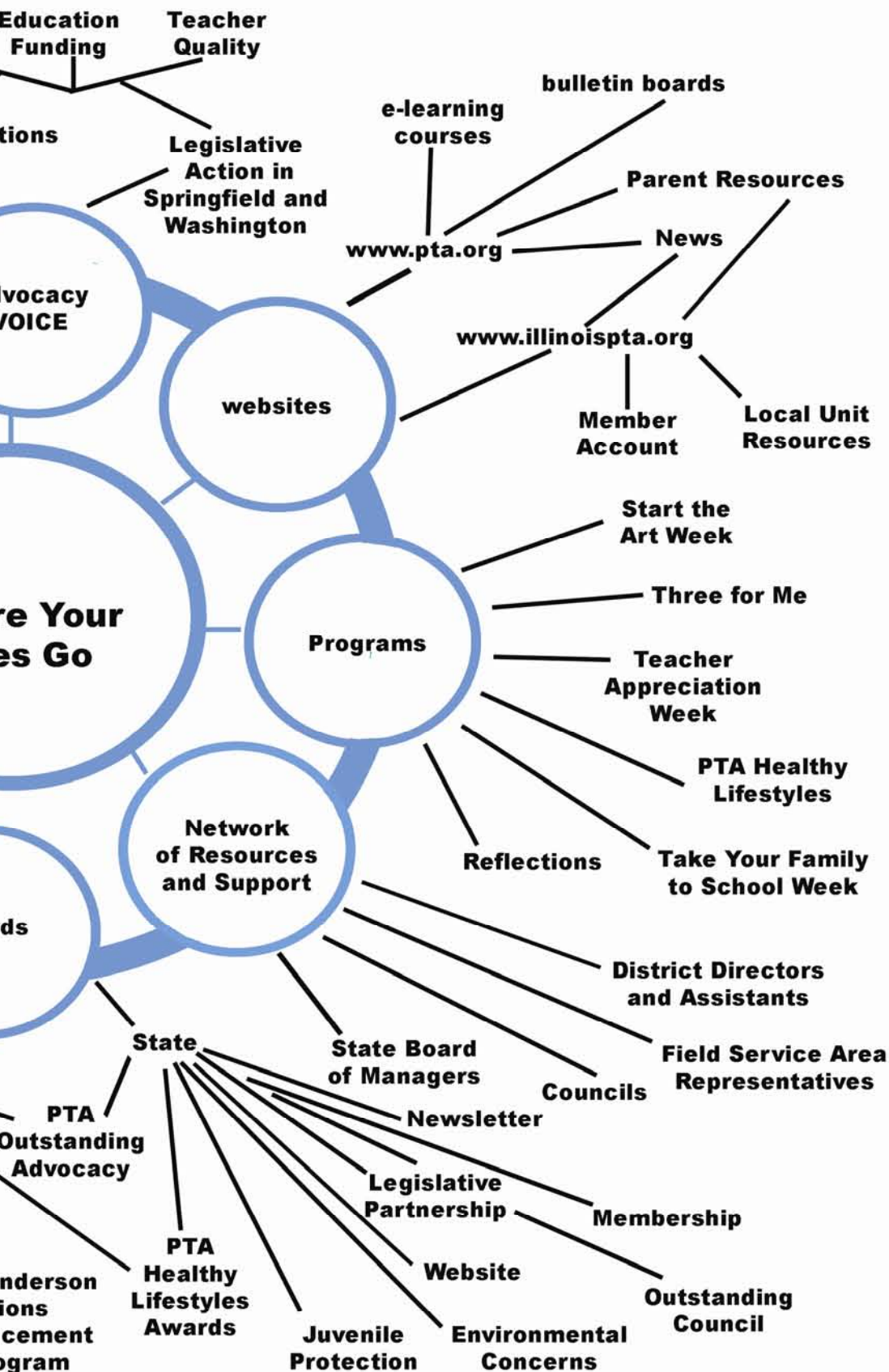
**"Diversity means..."**

The theme was selected from among 128 student entries from 27 states and will inspire all the artworks for the 2011–2012 program year. Please join us in celebrating this outstanding student contribution.

Remember, the 2010–2011 theme is

***"Together We Can."***





# The Value of PTA

## **MAKING IT REAL**

- ◇ Establishing the Juvenile Justice System...
- ◇ Advocating for youths aged 18 and under (instead of 17 and under) to be considered juveniles...
- ◇ Ensuring complete vision examinations for children before starting school...
- ◇ A Parents' Guide to the Illinois Graduated Driver's License System...
- ◇ Food allergy and anaphylaxis awareness...

Like the items listed above, many things which have made a difference for kids and parents began as a resolution. According to Webster's Dictionary the definition of "implement" is "to carry out; accomplish: to give practical effect to and ensure of actual fulfillment by concrete measures". In order for resolutions to be effective and for great things to happen for kids each local unit/council is asked to incorporate the "implementation" of current resolutions into their plan of work.

## **REMEMBER**

### **Registration Forms Due May 15, 2010**

The deadline for registering new officers for 2010-2011 is May 15th this year.

- ⊗ Local Unit forms are pink
- ⊗ Council forms are green

★ A new form must be sent to the office by this date. If an election results with a different than anticipated name after the due date, the form may be updated and resubmitted to the office at that time.

Registration forms can also be downloaded from the Illinois PTA website, [www.illinoispta.org](http://www.illinoispta.org) at your convenience.

## **2009 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS ACTION**

**Resolution on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)** has been assigned to the following Illinois PTA Standing Committees for action—Juvenile Protection and Safety, Health, Education Issues and Parental Engagement. This resolution requests the Illinois PTA actively distribute information on and promote the inclusion of Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) content, skills, evaluation and assessment standards within school curricula as has been developed by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE); and to encourage and support the education of students, parents, teachers, administrators and legislators in SEL working in a collaborative manner with other organizations of similar interest. It also asks that Illinois PTA seek and support increasing the efforts of the Illinois State Board of Education to educate local school districts in the importance and requirements to implement SEL standards. In 2004 the Illinois State Board of Education adopted standards in social and emotional learning (SEL). Drafting of the ten SEL standards, along with goals, age-appropriate benchmarks, and performance descriptors, was a collaborative effort between ISBE and the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership with technical support from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). ISBE is now focusing on helping educators across the State provide high-quality education in SEL to their students. These standards have been developed in accordance with Section 15(a) of Public Act 93-0495. [http://www.isbe.net/ils/social\\_emotional/standards.htm](http://www.isbe.net/ils/social_emotional/standards.htm) Illinois PTA has also been partnering with the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership's SEL team, providing parent representatives in SEL workshops. Representatives from this organization presented a workshop entitled "The Nuts and Bolts of SEL" at the 2010 Illinois PTA Convention. Illinois PTA has a representative on a statewide initiative committee, including other state agencies, working on a partnership to facilitate SEL services for families. An Illinois PTA state board member provided testimony at a House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee hearing on Social and Emotional Learning on March 10, 2010, in Springfield. Refer to the Spring Edition of the Illinois PTA Bulletin for an article that provides resources to help your local unit implement SEL standards in your schools.

Note: View an article on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) on our website under "Parent Engagement".

**(Resolutions Continued)**

**Resolution on Tax Increment Financing Districts** has been assigned to our Education Issues Committee.

Contact your local County Clerk’s office and find out if you have a TIF District near you. Ask for the total amount of tax dollars which is being diverted from other taxing bodies (including your school district) for use by the municipality for TIF projects. You will be very interested in what you find out! FYI - many County Clerk’s Offices

**UPDATE ON PAST RESOLUTIONS:**

**2008 Resolution on Children With Food Allergy:** requests that Illinois PTA disseminate information to its constituent bodies on food allergy including suggestions for identifying dangers such as anaphylaxis, possible solutions and appropriate PTA activities which involve food. It encourages the Illinois State Board of Education and local school districts to incorporate information on food allergy into school wellness policies, including but not limited to educating staff members and parents; and that the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies support legislation which addresses concerns on food allergy. On August 13, 2009, Governor Quinn signed into law House Bill 0281 creating Public Act 96-0349. This legislation amends the School Code to require that the State Board of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, develop and make available to each school board guidelines for the management of students with life-threatening food allergies. It further recommends that each school board be required to implement a policy based on these guidelines no later than January 1, 2011. It requires the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Health to establish an ad hoc committee to develop the guidelines. Provides that at least every 2 years, an in-service training program for school personnel who work with pupils must be conducted by persons with expertise in anaphylactic reactions and management.

**2007 Resolution Banning the Use of Cell Phones While Driving in Illinois:** requests the Illinois PTA provide information to its members regarding the dangers of using cell phones while driving and to urge support of legislation banning the use of cell phone while driving in the State of Illinois, with some exceptions in case of emergencies and in the case of a parked motor vehicle. It also urges legislators and law enforcement officials to support stronger penalties for drivers causing an accident while distracted while using a cell phone.

HB 5454 was introduced in the recent session of the General Assembly. It amends the Illinois Vehicle Code and provides that a person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device (rather than only prohibiting the composing, sending, or reading of electronic messages while operating a vehicle) unless the electronic communication device is used in hands-free or voice-activated mode or meets one of five other limited exceptions. Effective January 1, 2011. Illinois PTA supports this bill, and as of the printing of this update, it has been assigned to the House Vehicles & Safety Committee. Watch your Illinois PTA Bill List for further developments!

House Joint Resolution 0097 requests State, county and municipal law enforcement personnel to include in police reports information pertaining to automobile accidents involving the use of a cell phone. This data is to be collected by the Department of Transportation over a two-year period beginning July 1, 2010 and findings reported to the General Assembly no later than September 1, 2012.

Questions: Contact Rhonda Jenkins,  
 Illinois PTA Resolutions Chairman  
 (618) 476-3183 or [rgjenkins@charter.net](mailto:rgjenkins@charter.net)



RESOLUTION ON THE DANGERS OF INAPPROPRIATE  
USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Whereas the Illinois PTA holds a continuing position regarding the prevention of bullying;

Whereas Item 7a of the Illinois PTA Legislation Platform provides support for the protection, health and welfare of children and youth;

Whereas cyber bullying is willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices;

Whereas certain characteristics inherent in new technologies increase the likelihood that they will be exploited to cause harm to others; e.g.

- ★ electronic bullies can remain “virtually” anonymous
- ★ internet venues can make it very difficult for adolescents to determine the identity of aggressors
- ★ individuals can hide behind some measure of anonymity when using electronic devices to bully another individual
- ★ cyber bullies do not have to deal with the immediate emotional, psychological or physical effects of face-to-face bullying on their victims
- ★ hurtful or humiliating content can be sent to a large number of people in a short period of time;

Whereas in a cyber safety survey conducted by the Illinois Attorney General, the first of its kind to focus exclusively on youth from all across *Illinois in grades 3 to 12*,

- ★ 24.34% reported receiving an inappropriate picture of someone over a cell phone or computer; this statistic rises to 40.93% in grades 7 – 12.
- ★ 18.55% reported having been threatened by someone online or by text
- ★ 21.20% reported ever feeling uncomfortable with a conversation they have had with someone online or by text
- ★ 25.15% reported having said something inappropriate to someone online or by text
- ★ 24.53% reported having ever been approached by a stranger online or by text

Resolved that the Illinois PTA will disseminate to its constituent associations up-to-date information regarding evolving trends in the dangers inherent with inappropriate use of electronic communications by children and youth;

Resolved that the Illinois PTA will work with other like-minded organizations to raise awareness of the dangers inherent in inappropriate use of electronic communications; and

Resolved that the Illinois PTA will seek to raise awareness of legislation regarding electronic communications and its specific implications regarding consequences and affect on future opportunities for children and youth and support legislation which aligns with our platform and positions in protecting children and youth.

## What about the Web site?

Our new Web site has been in existence about a year. Have you enjoyed the experience? Have there been times that you are frustrated? First of all, most of the links across the top will take you to those pages listed. Then use the sub-menus. Perhaps the following can help you in the future.

- Want to know about the PTA? Then click on **“About Illinois PTA.”** The **“InFORMATION”** link will take you to the forms that are need by local units and councils. There are also trifolds and brochures to help you market your PTA. Take a look at the **“Vacancy”** page and think about becoming part of the State Board of Managers.
- The **“Program”** link lists some of the programs available. There is a lot of information about Reflections and Scholarship. There's also a link to the Volunteer Recognition Awards - so important to those who help us throughout the year - both in school and the community.
- The **“Take Action”** link has a lot of information on advocacy. It has up-to-date information on the bills in Springfield and the convention delegate-directed focus that the Illinois PTA will take on these bills. Don't know who your legislator is? Access the Legislation sub-menu and go to **“General Assembly Contact List.”** You can also find information on current and past resolutions.
- The **“Membership”** link will allow you to access several forms needed by the unit. The Membership Marketing Guide can also be found as a sub-menu. There are a lot of good ideas in this Guide. Recently, a link was put up for MEN and the *MORE* Program. Print out this pdf and get your Dads involved.
- The **“Leadership”** tab takes you to the courses and workshops that are provided by the Illinois PTA to increase leadership in your unit. There are brochures presenting each of the courses. There is also a form that you can send to the Illinois PTA state office to request the courses be given.
- **“Parent Engagement”** will take you to the program, *Three for Me*, which can be set up at your school. There is also a link to *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) and the National Standards.
- Do you have questions for the treasurer? That tab will explain the courses that can be given at your unit and help with money matters. The sub-menus have a lot of information needed for the IRS and fund raisers.
- The **“Special Events”** link to the Illinois PTA Convention and the National PTA Convention have important information that changes as each convention is due to begin. You can also view pictures of this year's convention and the Reflections Award Celebration.
- The **“Links”** page is still being developed.
- And then, there's the **“Home”** page. This page always contains the most recent and urgent information that is needed by local units and councils.

Lastly, but quite important are the links at the top to the current **“Illinois PTA Bulletin,”** **“Questions,”** and **“Can't Find It.”** This is where I come in. Click on these links and an email will come to me. I will send your questions to the appropriate persons so that you'll receive the most correct answer. I'll also help you find something on the site or, if it's not there and appropriate, it will be added.

If you have any questions about the site or about Web site development, please contact me and I will do my best to guide you in the process.

Mary Ann Daugherty, Technology Specialist  
mdaugherty15@comcast.net

**2010 National PTA Convention**

**7 reasons to join us in Memphis this summer:**

- 1 One free registration for each new PTA unit (a \$225 value)\*
- 2 More than 50 workshops
- 3 Over 200 exhibits
- 4 Hundreds of ideas and resources
- 5 Connections with leaders and experts
- 6 Voting on national business
- 7 A great vacation destination

Photos courtesy of the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau

**114th Annual National PTA<sup>®</sup> Convention and Exhibition**  
Thursday, June 10–Sunday, June 13, 2010  
Memphis Cook Convention Center  
Memphis, Tennessee  
[PTA.org/Convention](http://PTA.org/Convention)

Advance registration ends May 14.  
Register now and save!  
Save even more with group rates.\*\*

Questions? Contact [nptameetings@PTA.org](mailto:nptameetings@PTA.org)

\*Local units established in the 2009–2010 membership year qualify for one complimentary registration for the 2010 National PTA Convention. Register online by May 14, 2010, using the special link and instructions to be sent in April, or send an e-mail to [nptameetings@PTA.org](mailto:nptameetings@PTA.org) for more information.

\*\*Group rates are for multiple registrants from the same local PTA unit. Registrations must be submitted together.

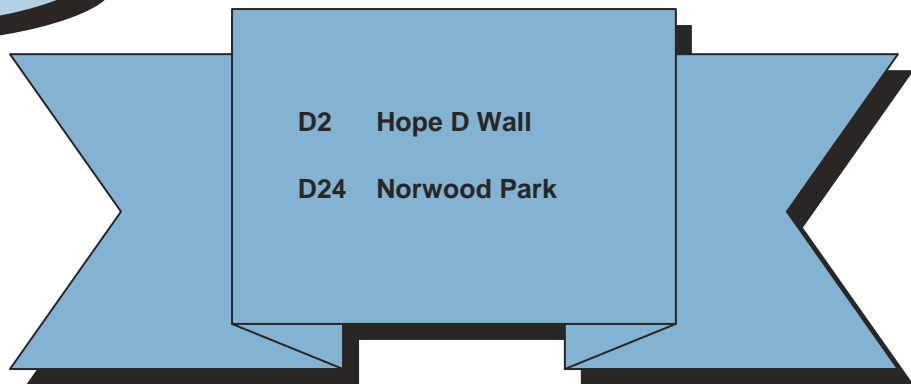
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**Debra Strauss**, Illinois PTA President  
**Jolene Lowder**, Executive Director  
**Nicole Fentem**, *Illinois PTA Bulletin*, Editor

Office e-mail address: [ilpta@ameritech.net](mailto:ilpta@ameritech.net)  
Website: [www.illinoispta.org](http://www.illinoispta.org)  
Phone: (800)-877-9617 Fax: (217) 528-9490

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Illinois PTA Office  
PO Box 907  
Springfield, IL 62705-0907

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