

Dear Convention Delegates,

It is my pleasure to invite you to share in Illinois PTA's 108th Annual Convention! This leadership opportunity will be held Friday through Sunday, March 12 – March 14, 2010 at **Holiday Inn Select Naperville – Hotel & Conference Center**. Illinois PTA President, Debra Strauss, and the State Board of Managers have spent the last year developing a program that will allow you and your unit to implement this year's theme: *Ensuring Every Child's Future by Engaging Each Child's Community*. Here are some tips that will help you make this convention a fun and learning experience.

Packing for Convention

Casual or business casual attire is appropriate for most workshops and general sessions. Comfortable shoes are a must! Remember to pack your PTA Membership Card for delegate registration.

Convention Outline

Changes to this year's event have enhanced the delegates' experience in workshops, exhibits, and the opportunity to network. In lieu of the traditional Artists' Showcase, presenters will be included in the Exhibits area and will share their talents with some of the youth.

On Thursday evening delegates may take advantage of pre-convention workshops including informal discussion with the President and *PTA Road to Success* (combined Information & Advanced Courses), to be offered in both English and Spanish.

We are pleased to have **Betsy Landers**, *National PTA President-Elect*, participating in this year's convention. Mrs. Landers will be a workshop presenter on Friday and will hold a town meeting on Saturday. Exhibits and the PTA Store open on Friday morning, and the first workshop session begins at 10:15. Once again, we invite you to attend dinner Friday evening followed by the presentation of PTA Awards. We will close the evening with our own Fun Fair.

Saturday will offer workshops, exhibits and general sessions, preceded by morning district caucuses. *Kids' Kamp* will host a variety of activities on both Saturday and Sunday to entertain and involve children ages 6-12, while parents participate in these and other PTA venues.

Sunday will bring more events for children, an Inspirational Service, and another workshop session. The Student Award Celebration and ice cream social to recognize Reflections Award recipients will serve as the grand finale to Convention 2010, beginning at 1:00 pm.

General Sessions

Two General Sessions will be held on Saturday. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Chris Koch, Illinois State Superintendent and Kevin Rutter, Illinois' Teacher of the Year, as keynote speakers. The important business of addressing the Illinois PTA Budget, Scholarship Program and Budget, proposed changes to the Illinois PTA Bylaws, Resolutions and Legislative activities will inform, motivate, entertain and inspire you. We count on your involvement in deciding the future of Illinois PTA.

Workshops

Pre-convention workshops on Thursday evening, and an additional six workshop sessions from Friday – Sunday will allow plenty of opportunity to focus on a variety of topics including diversity, leadership, health/safety and membership.

Questions

Remember: There is no such thing as a "silly question." In fact, your state board of managers welcomes the opportunity to share their experiences and expertise.

Special Events

Friday: **PTA Awards Dinner & Fun Fair**

Saturday: **Election** of the 2010-2012 members of the Board Development and Nominating Committee (**NOTE: you must be registered by 12:30 p.m. Saturday, to have the opportunity to vote in elections**)

Saturday and Sunday: **Kids' Kamp**

Sunday: **Reflections Awards Ice Cream Social**

Meet New People

...and greet past acquaintances as PTA members from across the state join together to share their mutual concerns and commitment to children, youth, education and parent involvement.

Exhibits

Ideas for programs, services and fundraising necessary to meet your budgeted program needs are available from non-profit and commercial exhibitors. Bring your business cards or return address labels, ideal for filling out information requests and door-prize entries.

PTA Shopping

Proceeds from the purchase of special Illinois PTA souvenirs and gifts, publications and official PTA Jewelry support the Illinois PTA Scholarship. Stop by the PTA Store to purchase your official Convention Pin, as well.

Please make sure to say "Hello!" We look forward to greeting you at this year's convention as we work, share and celebrate, *Ensuring Every Child's Future by Engaging Each Child's Community*.

Donna Anderson, General Arrangements Coordinator

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