

“Reach for the future by reaching for the horizon”

The PTA

Established in 1897, the National Congress of Mothers was developed to look at the needs for children and youth in this country. In 1900, Illinois Congress of Mothers was formed to assist the National Congress in the state of Illinois. Over the years, the names have changed but the premise remains the same – our concern for the welfare of the child. Only thru dedicated efforts by our membership can we make our voices heard. Each of us has the right and duty to do whatever we can to make our schools, homes, and communities a better place to live for ALL children. We must look beyond our own neighborhoods to learn what is needed. Each community touches upon another and, in turn, affects the other in what happens over time. Are there gangs in your neighborhood? Maybe yes, maybe no, but that doesn't mean that they won't be there tomorrow. Are there homes sitting empty inviting trouble? Maybe yes, maybe no, but all of us need to be vigilant. Are the schools equipped with the 'needs' that will equip the child to be ready for the future? Maybe yes, maybe no, but we need to assure thru advocacy that they will be. Only by knowing what we, as PTA members, should do to assist children can they become prepared to be a productive part of the future society.



Jean Razunas
Illinois PTA President

We invite all of you to become aware members by participating in the events that are being planned across the state. In September and October there will be Leadership Events (PTA Road Trips) held to give you training to become effective leaders. Legislative alerts concerning issues which Illinois PTA is watching will keep you posted as to current events. Information will be posted on our website and/or mailed to you concerning our Convention to be held March 13-15 in Naperville. Events will be somewhat different this year so be on the look-out for change.

The PARENT

You play a key role in helping your child acquire their educational goals. Studies show people achieve what is expected of them, good or bad. Assisting your child to set realistic goals is a great way for them to attain academic success. Not all children can be straight A students, but ALL children can be their best with our support and direction. Encourage your child to set goals and work with them - rewarding and recognizing their successes and short comings along the way. Failure is when we don't recognize that falling short of our goals can teach us lessons. Learning from mistakes along the way will result in future success.

Goals can be more than grade driven. **Get active! Get involved!** Club, sport and intramural participation can be a goal set each quarter. Learn about the many activities in your schools and community that can be of assistance to your child's future. Set long term and short term goals to celebrate success and reflect along the journey.

The EDUCATOR

You have in your hands the lives of the children for approximately six hours each school day. We encourage you to utilize that time to help nurture the creativity that is hidden inside of each child. Ask the parents to assist you when there is concern. By reaching out to them you touch ALL aspects of a child's life.

Ask for volunteers when needed. There are people out there who want to help you. Besides the fact that parent involvement is part of the No Child Left Behind Act, it can assist you in developing programs that will make the learning experience one that will have an affect on the child's life.

TOGETHER

All these groups – PTA, PARENT, EDUCATOR – together can make a difference as children look to the future, the horizon, of their lives. Together they are a group of people who have the opportunity to Reach for New Horizons.

Hugs,
Jean Razunas

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Jan Harp Domene
PTA National President

Get Ready (for Back-to-School)

You could say that back-to-school time is the “busy season” for parents (but really, it’s *always* busy season for parents, isn’t it?). With the beginning of the school year comes all sorts of preparation. For parents, it’s getting their kids ready to return to the classroom. For PTA leaders, it’s ensuring that students will be able to learn and families able to participate in the life of the school.

While establishing the programs and policies that will define your coming school year, remember that the underlying intention of all PTA work is to get families, schools, and communities to work together. The *National Standards for Family-School Partnerships* can be your guide as you work with the entire school community in support of student achievement.

This fall will also bring some great PTA programs and events—many of which you can start preparing for now. PTA Start the Art Week will be celebrated again the first full week of October, and followed shortly by the National Student/Parent Mock Election at the end of October and PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month in November. You can learn more about all these wonderful initiatives on www.pta.org, which itself will be an exciting new site just in time for back-to-school this year.

Of course the best way to prepare for the school year is to take advantage of all the resources in the *2008 PTA Back-to-School Kit*. The *PTA Quick-Reference Guides* have been updated, and the *Program and Advocacy Resource Guide* and *Membership Marketing Templates and Tools* CD-ROMs are packed with calendars, handouts, fliers, and more.

PTA is prepared to give you all the support you need for the 2008–2009 school year, and with nearly 50 million students expected to enroll in U.S. public schools—a record-setting number—we’ll need all the help from parents, schools, and communities that we can get. Ready or not, here they come!

Jan Harp Domene
PTA National President

THERE ARE 4 PHASES TO GO THROUGH TO HELP YOU CREATE AN EXTRAORDINARY PTA

Phase one is Discovery

What are your passions? What attracted you to PTA and what are the things you love most about your parental involvement work? What are the times you feel most passionate about your work, the most ALIVE? What is one moment or story that stands out as a high point for you, a time when you felt most engaged, on fire, and learning new things? Has there been a time of innovation in your past experiences with PTA or other parental involvement? What made it exciting, how did it happen? Write it down and discuss it as PTA leaders. Now figure out how to re-create those high points, those innovative times by using the other phases.

Phase two is Dream

On a scale of 1-10, with “10” representing the kind of PTA in your community that you would most like to see, rate where you feel your PTA is today. _____ Now, more importantly, what does your “10” PTA look like? What is happening in your PTA in the year 2016? What is new, changed or better? Can you describe the vision of what you see and what you want? What is happening in your PTA, the other local schools, and districts and across the state, the country, the world?

Phase three is Design

Now meet as a board and define the vision you see in the Dream phase. Design the PTA you envision. Decide how to construct your dream. What will be included, what steps can you take? How will it be organized? Think architecture, construction. This phase includes goal setting (short term and long-range) and strategic planning.

Phase four is Destiny

Ask: What is the smallest first step YOU can take that might have the largest impact in moving your PTA in the direction of your future vision? Is there a bolder step we might take together - a possibility that exists that we have not yet thought about? What COMMITMENTS to ACTION can we make? This phase is personal commitment to the goals set.

Borrowed from the Utah PTA

CALL FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Local unit members, council members, region members and state board members:

Did you know that you may make recommendations for amendments to the bylaws of the Illinois PTA, the local unit or council bylaws? This is YOUR opportunity to submit suggested amendments which you feel are relevant to the governance structure of the association.

In accordance with ARTICLE XXV, AMENDMENTS, Sections 2a and b, any proposed amendments must be submitted to the state bylaws committee chair not later than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the annual convention.

As the 2009 Convention will begin March 13, which means the deadline for proposed bylaw amendments to be considered by the committee is November 20, 2008.

Please submit your suggestions for consideration, in writing, to:

Bylaws Committee Chairman at ilpta@ameritech.net.

CALL FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE ILLINOIS PTA LEGISLATION PLATFORM

In accordance with Illinois PTA Bylaws – Article XVIII -Section 2, proposed amendments to the legislation platform must be received ninety (90) days prior to the annual convention for consideration at the convention.

Our convention begins March 13, 2009, therefore, the deadline for proposed amendments to be considered by the committee is December 13, 2008.

Please send your proposed amendments to:
 Illinois PTA
 Attention: Legislation Policies Committee
 P.O. Box 907
 Springfield, IL 62705-0907

Members who wish further information or assistance are invited to contact the Illinois PTA State Office at 800-877-9617 or email at ilpta@ameritech.net.



RESOLUTIONS – REAL SOLUTIONS!

“Resolutions are building blocks for Illinois PTA positions.”

Hello All and Welcome Back to School!

Do you have an issue affecting your school that would be common to all schools across the state? If so, you can bring that issue to the forefront by creating a resolution to present to the delegate body at the 2009 Illinois PTA Delegate Convention. If adopted by the delegate members present, the Illinois PTA will work with you and local units across the state to advocate for change.

All you need to do is look in your Local Unit Packet, received recently by your local unit president, and find the Call for Resolutions Packet. This packet guides you step by step in the process of resolution writing. If you have any questions, you are always welcome to contact me. Remember, the deadline for submission is January 1, 2009!

If you want to review Illinois PTA Resolutions from the past, please visit our website, www.illinoispta.org, click on Legislation (on the left) and then on Resolutions (also on the left). You must be a member to log into this section. Follow instructions on the website to obtain a username and password. This takes only a couple of days.

You may also find it interesting to view some of the current National PTA Resolutions! Please follow this link to see 2008 National PTA Convention Resolutions: <http://www.pta.org/Documents/2008Conventionresolutions.pdf>

Don't hesitate to call if you would like more information!

Have a Wonderful Year!

Rhonda Jenkins
 IL PTA Resolutions Chairman
 (618) 476-3183
rgjenkins@charter.net

Let's Think About PTA Membership

- M**ore volunteers available!
- E**ligible for Illinois PTA Membership Awards
- M**ore teachers, administrators, and community members involved in PTA
- B**uilds leadership
- E**nhances the educational environment
- R**ecruiting members makes your PTA stronger
- S**chool communication is stronger because of PTA
- H**elping children is the PTA Mission
- I**llinois PTA increases your voice in Springfield and Washington, DC
- P**TA advocates for ALL children

Information for your Local Unit:

- Return the local unit and council **Registration Form** to the state PTA office ASAP. This form allows us to communicate with you.
- Begin to plan your strategy for increasing membership in the coming year.
- Final dues and list of 2008-2009 members is due on June 25, 2009
- Unused cards are to be sent back along with the Membership Card Return Transmittal form (found in the 08-09 Local Unit Packet or on the CD-ROM)
- Plan to attend your **Local Unit Packet Orientation** to pick up your membership materials for 2009-2010.

Membership = Volunteers and Advocates Just Ask!



Mary Ann Daugherty
Illinois PTA Membership Marketing Chairman
mdaugherty15@comcast.net

MAKING IT REAL!

Indian Prairie Parents' Council Responds to Illinois PTA Resolution

Indian Prairie Parents' Council from Illinois PTA District 32 did an excellent job implementing the 2005 Illinois PTA Resolution to Establish Non-Attendance Days for Children in Schools Used as Polling Places.

In response to concerns brought forward by their membership and community related to schools used as polling places, and in response to the 2005 Resolution regarding this issue, IPPC created a School Based Polling Task Force. This group's goal was to research the possibilities of either move polling out of schools by finding alternative polling locations or creating student non-attendance days on election days. After meeting with their local election commissions, the task force determined to pursue the possibility of student non-attendance days.

Over a period of eight months the group met with various stakeholders, including the local Regional Office of Education, law enforcement agencies, election commissions and the teachers union regarding the efforts of the task force. There was unanimous support for their efforts.

The group researched and collected data about national trends and then did a safety assessment of all their district schools used as polling places during the April 2007, elections. Other research included reviewing district calendars, actions in other states and other Illinois school districts, and current legislative efforts. They interviewed building principals for input regarding polling when students were in attendance and presented quotes from law enforcement experts supporting student non-attendance during election days.

The task force put together an exceptional Power Point presentation compiling their months of work and shared it with district administration and school board, who were impressed with the detailed information and research. The administration directed the district calendar committee to work to move student non-attendance days (such as teacher in-service days) to the election days for the 08-09 school year. There was such support for this effort that they even amended the present school year, switching a teacher institute day to the February, 2008, primary election so students were not in attendance. The group recently presented their Power Point to the DuPage County Elections Board of Directors.

Thank you and congratulations to the Indian Prairie Parents' Council for their efforts in making a safe environment real for the students in their schools and for setting an example for schools across the state!

Rhonda Jenkins
Illinois PTA Resolutions Chairman
526 West Gooding Street
Millstadt, IL 62260
(618) 476-3183
rgjenkins@charter.net

2008 Leadership Conference

PTA Road Trip



For a successful trip down the PTA Highway, you need an itinerary, a map and the keys.

Itinerary — Learn how to use PTA resources to plan your PTA trip. *Led by members of the State Board of Managers, Illinois PTA.*



Map — To successfully navigate your trip, you need to know all the financial directions and requirements. *Led by Barb Quinn, Immediate Past State President, Illinois PTA.*



Keys — Learn all the key points of how to keep your PTA running smoothly by following the PTA Road to Success. *Led by Sandy Zeles, Leadership Development Chairman, Illinois PTA.*

**Illinois
PTA**

everychild.one voice.®

For more information:

Sandy Zeles, Leadership
Development Chairman
Phone: 630-971-1079
E-mail: zeles@sbcglobal.net

*Saturday, Sept. 27
Hilton Garden Inn
360 Regency Park Dr.
O'Fallon, IL
9:30 a.m.— noon
1 p.m. — 4 p.m.*

Vendor Fair

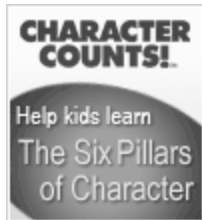
*Saturday, Oct. 18
Prairie State College
202 S. Halsted St.
Chicago Heights, IL
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

Box lunch \$6.00

Character Does Count

CHARACTER COUNTS! is...

...a framework based on basic values called The Six Pillars of Character:



TRUSTWORTHINESS:

Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country

RESPECT:

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

RESPONSIBILITY:

Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices

FAIRNESS:

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly

CARING:

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

CITIZENSHIP:

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment

Miss Illinois 2008 Katie Lorenz will be traveling the state of this school year speaking to Illinois students about CHARACTER COUNTS! and promoting The Six Pillars of Character.

CHARACTER COUNTS! is the most widely implemented approach to character education, reaching millions of youth.

For more details about how a Miss Illinois CHARACTER COUNTS! assembly can serve as a "TRRFCC" addition to your school's character building initiatives, contact Business Manager Jason Pawlowski at: (630) 977-9290, via e-mail at missillmedia@sbcglobal.net or visit our website at www.missillinois.org.

For more details about the CHARACTER COUNTS! program visit: www.charactercounts.org.

PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month in November is another great opportunity to increase physical activity in your school community. Applications for the PTA Healthy Lifestyles Awards were due **September 5**.

Go to pta.org/healthy_lifestyles.

Walk to School Day is October 8

You can launch a Safe Routes to School program, or gauge interest, by participating in International Walk to School Day on October 8. Go to www.walktoschool.org for event ideas, planning tips, educational materials, and

Fire Prevention Week 2008



Your home should be a safe haven. But do you regularly check for home fire hazards? If not, there is the potential for danger. Fire departments responded to nearly 400,000 home fires in 2006. That's why the theme of Fire Prevention Week 2008 is "It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!"

From **October 5-11, 2008**, fire safety advocates will spread the word to their communities that, with a little extra caution, preventing the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating, electrical and smoking-materials – is within their power.

Visit www.firepreventionweek.org for more information.

National School Bus Safety Week

This Year's Theme is:

"Avoid Harm, Obey The Stop Arm"

The dates are:

October 20-24, 2008

Visit www.napt.org for more information

Save the Date!
March 13 - 15, 2009

Announcing



ILLINOIS PTA
“REACHING NEW HORIZONS”

107th Annual Convention
Holiday Inn Select
1801 Naper Blvd.
Naperville, IL 60563
630-505-4900

PTA Members Ask “Why should we attend convention?”

- A unique opportunity for new ideas, improved skills, recharge energy
- Interact with PTA members from all areas of the state to learn and share ideas
- Explore new programs, and visit exhibit vendors
- Raise your voice on important issues affecting PTA and all children
- Sharpen leadership skills
- Elect 2009-2011 Illinois PTA Officers
- Convention is a legitimate PTA budget expense

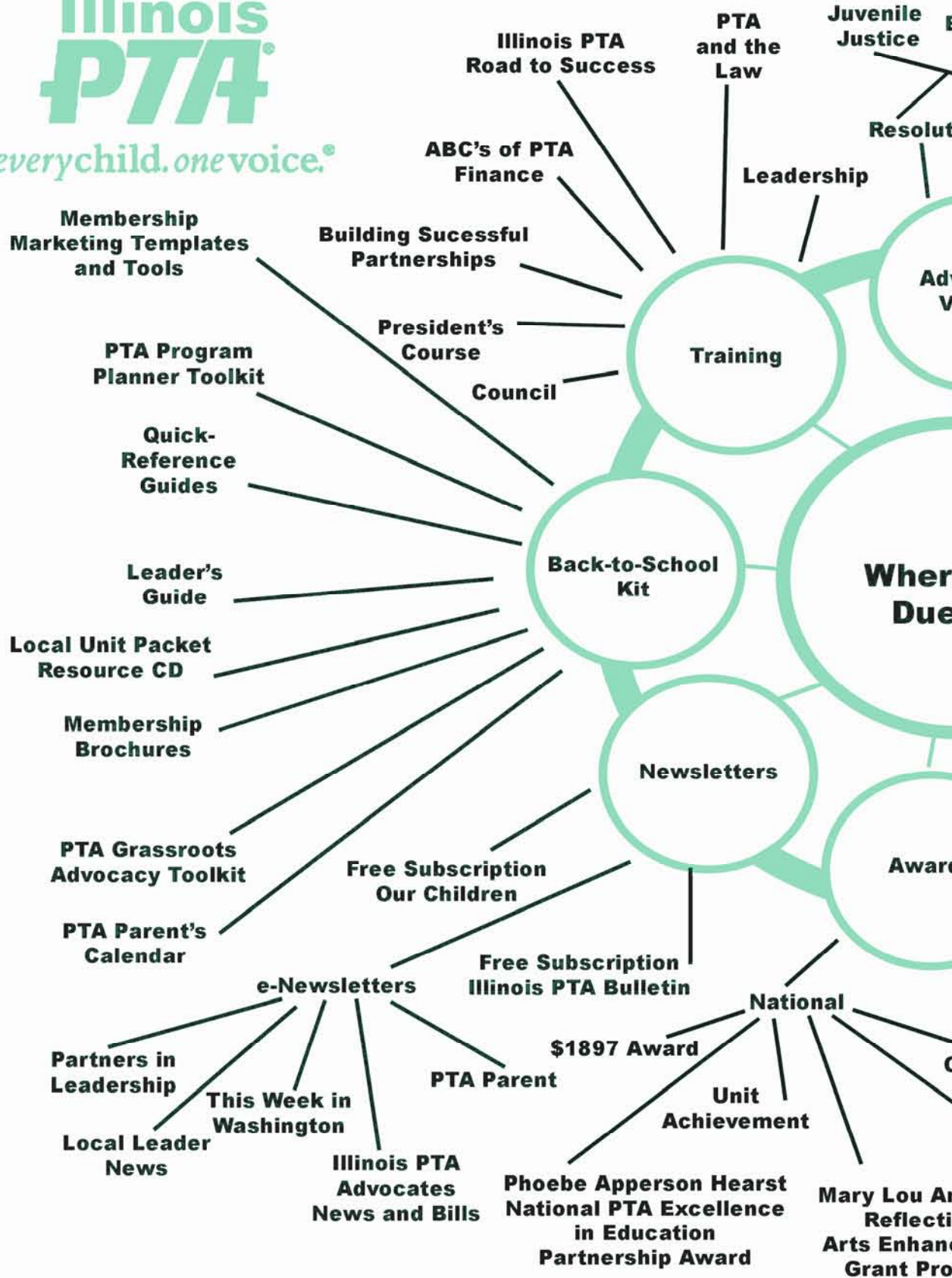
PTA Members Ask “Who should attend Convention?”

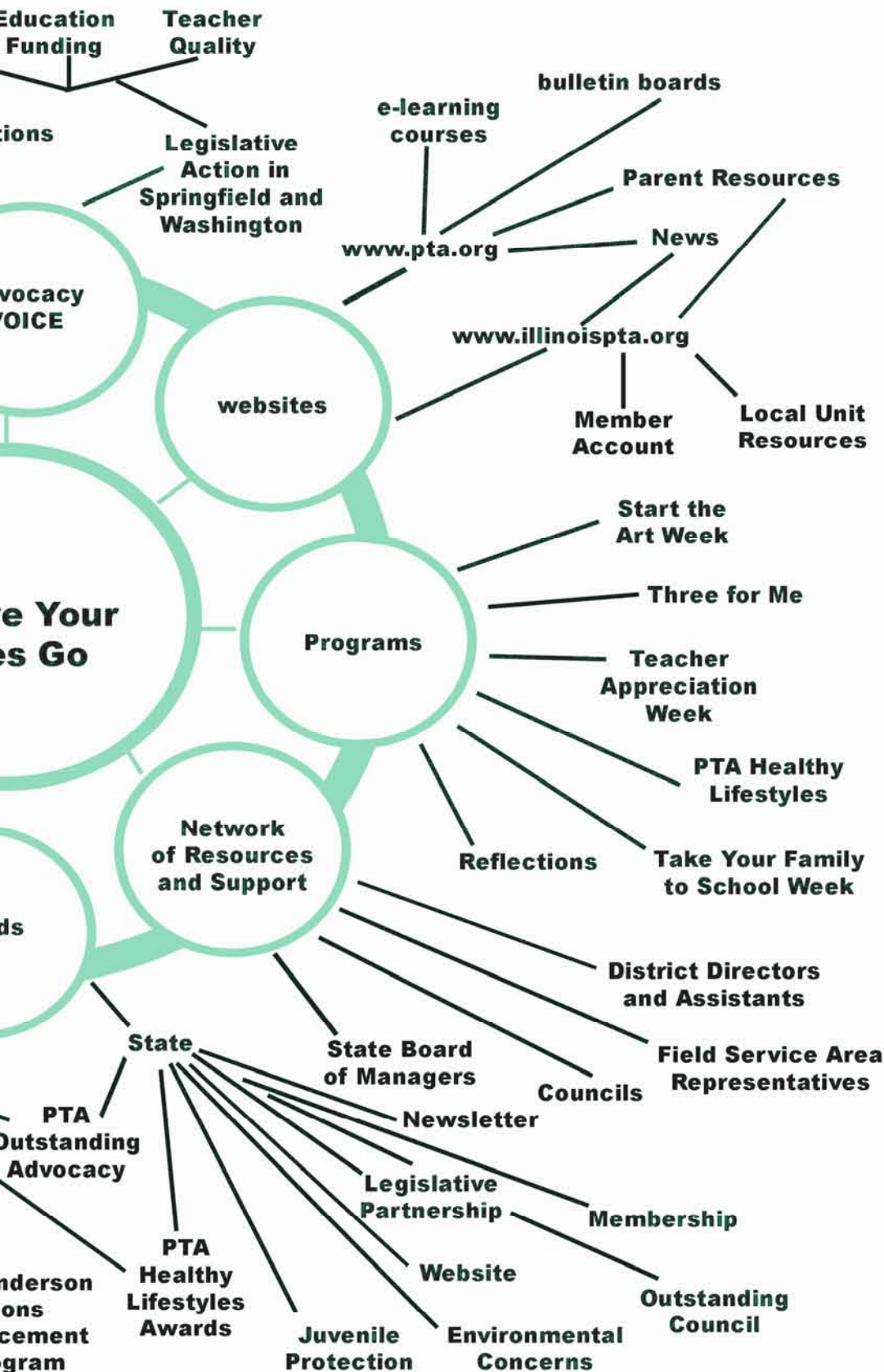
- Parents
- Administration, Teachers
- Community Members
- Students

Connie Mc Elyea
General Arrangements Coordinator
(309) 799-3603
BUCOAL@aol.com

Illinois PTA State Office
PO Box 907
Springfield, IL 62705-0907
(800) 877-9617 or (217) 528-9617
www.illinoispta.org







The Value of PTA



It's Time to Go Green!

After attending our state convention this past April, and talking with so many of you, it became very clear that you are very interested in Going Green not only in your schools but at home as well. I was very excited to hear that many of our local units have taken steps to clean up our environment and encourage our children to do the same.

Did You Know

For every ton of paper that is recycled, the following is saved: 7,000 gallons of water; 380 gallons of oil; and enough electricity to power an average house for six months.

You can run a TV for six hours on the amount of electricity that is saved by recycling one aluminum can.

By recycling just one glass bottle, you save enough electricity to power a 100-watt bulb for four hours.

Many of you asked me for helpful hints on how to get started with a Go Green project. If you or your PTA is interested in starting a project, or would like information on environmentally safe fundraising, or are just looking for a place to get information to share with your members, then help is here. I would strongly encourage each local PTA unit to go to the Go Green Initiative at www.gogreeninitiative.org. This website is filled with wonderful information and ideas on how to implement successful projects and programs to help clean up our world.

The benefits of registering are many:

- e-mail blasts
- monthly newsletter
- invitations to join their online forum,
- Go Green Planning Guide helping you to create a tailor made program for your PTA or School.

The key to successfully implementing the Go Green Initiative and creating meaningful environmental changes in your school and community is the support from parents, teachers, custodians and administrators.

People care about protecting children's health and safety through environmental stewardship.

People will do the right thing when given trustworthy information, expert training and simple tools.

People appreciate a program like the Go Green Initiative, which provides a framework for success, many options and the freedom to choose the options that work best for them.

Illinois PTA is proud of all your efforts to help make our world a cleaner place for all of us but especially for our children.

We are eager to share your success stories with others who may need some assistance. I encourage you to email me or contact me with your successes.

Terry Christenson
 Health and Environmental Concerns Chairman
terryc1962@sbcglobal.net

Top 10 Key Points on Fundraising:

As the new school year is starting, many PTAs are gearing up with fundraising activities. Here's a list of key points to keep in mind.

1. If it is too good to be true, it probably is!

Be careful when the company is making exaggerated claims. You can always ask for references and then check them out. Yes, it takes some time, but it may save you time and money in the long run.

2. Always read the fine print!

Remember that only the President can sign contracts! They should be very thoroughly read to make sure the company will deliver what you want and that there are no hidden costs for the PTA. If you are selling an item, make sure the company is paying the sales tax and not the PTA.

3. Stay away from sales tax!

Once the PTA starts paying sales tax, the State is going to come looking for their share every year, whether you still have that fundraiser or not. This creates a lot of extra work. Make sure the company is responsible for sales tax or try to avoid fundraisers that involve sales tax. Go to the Treasurers page on the Illinois PTA Web Site (www.IllinoisPTA.org) under the member's only page for more information on sales tax.

4. Avoid Fundraising Burnout!

There are a lot of organizations out there trying to raise money. People get tired of constantly being asked. Your fundraising efforts may be effective, if you have fewer.

5. Don't forget the P.R.!

Public Relations is very important for PTAs. It is a way to make sure your community knows all of the wonderful programs that PTAs provide and all the time PTA volunteers put into the school and the community. It is a lot easier to ask for more support, if the community sees results. P.R. needs to take place constantly.

6. Plan! Plan! Plan!

Like any event, it is critical that you plan your fundraising event. Some fundraising takes a lot of preparation and you need to start a long time before the event. Make sure you have all of the details covered.

7. Have a goal in mind!

Don't just say you need money. Explain how the money will be used. Will it be used to provide information on gangs or drugs to parents? Will it be used to provide cultural art programs for the children or field trips? Will it be used to support your PTA's advocacy efforts? It will be more likely that someone will be willing to support your efforts.

8. Think outside the box!

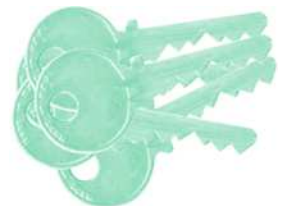
Try asking local businesses to donate money or items. Try asking your members to donate money. Increase your member's dues, because most PTAs are very inexpensive compared to other organizations. Try going for a grant that supports a specific program.

9. Don't use electronic banking!

There have been several PTAs who have had issues with companies. There have been cases where the company took money from the PTA account and did not deliver the goods. There have been other cases where the PTA got doubled billed.

10. Remember the PTA mission!

Most importantly, remember that fundraising is what we do to achieve our mission. The primary use of funds should be to support our efforts to advocate for children, to provide programs for parents and children, and to be a resource to our schools.



Internet Bullies: The Growing Problem of Internet Bullying and 'Flaming'

Article information from Safe Internet Surfers Organization

*Submitted by: Judy Budde
Website and Technology Chairman
2ptaers@ameritech.net*

Often overlooked until recently, the problem of Internet 'bullies' is a very real one, and a very emotional issue for teens.

The truth is, that if your child is online and either chatting or posting (or reading) messages on a Web log or message board, they can become a victim of a 'Cyber Bully.'

Even if your child does not have the ability to send or receive messages directly on the Internet, they may be visiting a site where others (friends, classmates, or complete strangers) may be posting opinions, information, and virtually anything else they wish to online. These messages, however false, thoughtless, or baseless they may be, often take a very real emotional toll on their intended victims. At a time in their lives where their self-esteem is already often at risk, teens can be deeply affected by insults, bullying, and 'flaming' on the Internet.

The Internet provides a great deal of anonymity for those wishing to harass, insult, or stalk others. There are numerous 'free' chat and e-mail resources out there (such as Hotmail and Yahoo), where anyone with the ability to type can obtain a false identity, profile, e-mail address, and chat nickname. These accounts can be created and deleted in seconds, allowing people to send or post multiple messages that may appear to be from different sources. With these resources, cyber bullies can bombard their intended victims with unwanted e-mails and messages, insulting them relentlessly, even though the victim may be using the 'ignore' feature of their chat service.

Certain Internet chat providers provide 'Parental Controls', where chat can be restricted to those on a specific list. As a parent, be aware that even if your child is chatting only with a few well-known friends, insulting, bullying, and stalking can still occur.

There are programs out there that allow parents to track children's activity on the Internet, all the way down to every website visited, message sent and received, and keystroke on the keyboard.

It is usually best to discuss your monitoring activities or use of software with your child, and let them know you will be periodically checking on their Internet activity.

If you take an honest and open approach with your child, they are all the more likely to be honest in return. Building trust and communication is the best way to prevent your child from becoming a victim.

Be sure to stay involved with your child's online experiences. Occasionally, take the time to sit down with them and have them show you what they are doing. Talk to your child about Internet friendships. Make sure they realize that a friendship online is no substitute for real-life social interaction with their friends. Talk to your child about cyber bullying. View and discuss news articles about the topic- discuss how they would deal with a bully online. Ask them if they have ever been a victim, or know someone who has.

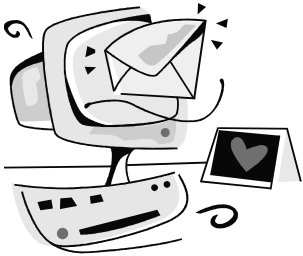
Signs your child might be a victim of cyber bullying:

- Mood changes. Keep an eye on your child's mood. If your child has been depressed, anxious, upset, or angry more, without any apparent specific reason, it could be a result of something happening on the Internet.
- A sudden decline in grades.
- A sudden decline in their interest in friendships, social activities, or school activities.
- Subtle comments about their friends or that could indicate a social conflict.

(Continued on page 13)

What you can do if your child is a victim of a cyber bully:

- **Use the 'ignore' function.** If the bullying is coming from one identified person, sometimes this may be the simple solution. The bully may move on to an easier target.
- **Contact your Internet Service Provider and report the abuse.** Most chat providers and websites have rules preventing online abuse, and will take action against the offender if notified.
- **Contact the bully's parents.** Most cyber bully's parents have no idea of their child's activity.
- **Contact the school.** If the cyber bullying is taking place during school hours, on campus, or with school computers, then administrators should become involved, and take action to stop the abuse.
- **Contact the Police.** Any obvious criminal activity should immediately be reported to local law enforcement.



Additional Resources:

Working to Halt Online Abuse:	www.haltabuse.org/
Online Bully Information:	www.netbus.org/online-bully.html
Resources and Information about Child Abuse, Bullying, and Violence Directed at Children:	www.cfchildren.org/strparent.html

What is OMDR plus?

Online Membership Data Reporting enhanced is a new program designed to be more than a membership reporting tool. This will have the following capabilities:

1. Membership Management
2. Group "Start Up" Wizard
3. Enhanced Communications
4. Volunteer Recruiting
5. Customizable Calendar
6. Household Sign Up Wizard

It is a tool for ALL members to use. It will no longer be something only the president, treasurer, secretary and membership utilize.

Watch for the upgrade soon! Watch the National PTA website for this new release. www.pta.org

Illinois Lead Program

The Illinois Lead Program in collaboration with the Illinois Poison Center, will be conducting a Lead Poisoning Prevention Conference entitled "Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids" on Thursday, October 23, 2008 in the Dove Conference Center at the Prairie Heart Institute of St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This joint conference is to empower attendees to examine ways to utilize elected officials, health advocates, community health educators and lead industry contractors to reduce incidents of environmentally related illnesses through public education, community outreach and safe work practices.

Conference speakers include pediatricians, Local/State/Federal government officials and directors of not for profit agencies who will present information on the prevention and elimination of health hazards in homes in addition to lead safe work practices while remodeling or renovating.

Continuing education credits will be offered to registered nurses.

To register online, visit the IDPH Web site at www.idph.state.il.us/training.htm.

For further information, you may contact the Illinois Lead Program at 217-782-3517.



Congratulations to the 2007-2008 Illinois PTA Award Winners!

Juvenile Protection and Safety Award winner:
Lincoln PTA #156, Calumet City, District 19
Andrea Evans, President.

"EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS" Award
Reba O. Steck PTA of District 32

Website Awards

Oustanding Website Award:

District 28
Webmaster: Mary Ann Daugherty
Director: Barb Miralgio

Reba O. Steck PTA – D32
Webmaster: Dave Kallas
Shatabdi Choudhury
President: Robin Church

Frank C. Whiteley PTA – D37
Webmaster: Jennifer Mondy
President: Jennifer Nemec

Website Award Of Merit:

John Mills PTA – D28
Webmaster: Irina Ziemann
President: Bill Vest Jr.

Hunting Ridge PTA –D37
Webmasters: Linda and Tim Millar
President: Kim Piotrowski

Website Honorable Mention Awards :

McDade Classical PTA - District 25
Webmaster: Christopher O'Banion
President: Christopher O'Banion

Virginia Lake PTA - District 37
Webmaster: Tom Brauer and
Nancy Perryman
President: Ann Cygnar

Membership Increases

Districts
4, 8, 12, 20, 22, 25, 37

Councils
Arlington Heights Council of PTAs
Quincy PTA Council
Schaumburg Township Council

Founders 50
Barkstall PTA, District 10
Fairview PTA, District 37

Environmental Concerns Awards

Taft High School Academic Center
Dist. 24 Chicago

Reba O. Steck Elementary School
Dist 32 Aurora

Healthy Kidz Award Winners

Hammerschmidt School PTA
Dist 30 Lombard

Lincoln School PTA
Dist 37 Palatine

Reba O. Steck PTA
Dist 32 Aurora

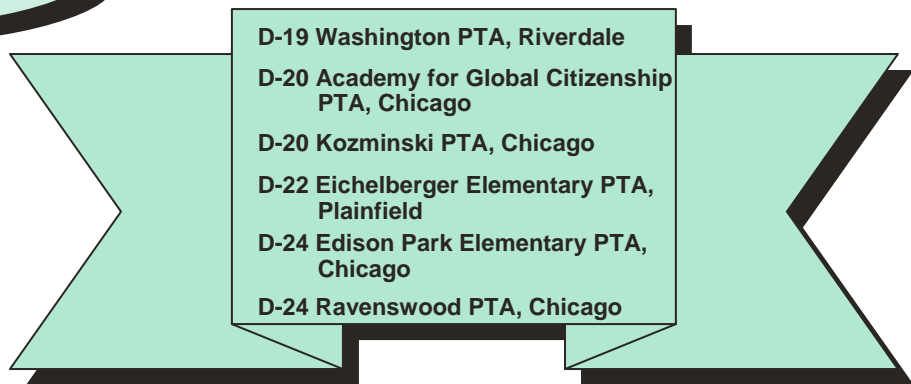
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