

CONTACT

Volume 94, Issue 3
January 2013



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Cover photo:

Missouri PTA 100 years celebration: past presidents and attendees alike enjoy themselves.

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CONTACT is the official publication of Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers. We are a branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. CONTACT is published bi-monthly, six times a year. Subscriptions are \$7 per year.

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Please notify the Publication Office in case of change of address or to purchase a subscription. It is important that we have accurate addresses so that we may provide the support and information to each local unit.

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Information from this magazine may be excerpted for other PTA publications as long as credit is given to Missouri PTA and any byline that may appear with the item must be included.

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MO PTA 800-328-7330

President's Message By Donna Petiford, Missouri PTA President



"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe."
- Anatole France

As you reach the midpoint of your term as PTA leaders, we at Missouri PTA hope you find that you have reached many of the goals that you set at the beginning of the school year. If you have not, you still have time to evaluate your programs, implement new ideas and complete unfinished projects.

Your PTA nominating committee should be working to find officers for next school year. If your nominating committee needs some direction in carrying out this important work, please see our website or the toolkit that was mailed to all PTA presidents over the summer. Remember, an easy way to find any article on our website is to enter a keyword into the search box on the upper right corner. In this case the words "nominating committee" produced an article on our website titled "Nominating Committee and Election Tips and Pointers" that has very good information and direction. Please remember, too, that our Missouri PTA board members are happy to assist you and are only an email or phone call away. Our contact information is always included in this publication.

Don't forget to make a final push for memberships this year. Our membership numbers matter more than ever as we begin another legislative session and we continue our important work with our elected officials in Jefferson City. More members means more voices for children.

We will have several opportunities in the next few months to make a difference in the future of our children and to make a difference in our schools. Missouri PTA closely monitors the bills that are presented to our state legislature for their relevance to schools and children. We then issue legislative email alerts accordingly. We ask that our members speak up for children by answering these

calls to action with a letter, phone call or email to their respective elected officials. If you haven't already done so, please join our network of advocates in Missouri by sending your name, address, city, zip code and email address to website@mopta.org. Please ask other PTA members in your community to join our network as well. Please don't leave important decisions to those elected to represent us in Jefferson City. These decision makers need to hear from us-parents, teachers and school administrators- on what is best for all children.

Please make plans to honor PTA locally by hosting a Founder's Day event in your community. February 17, 2013, marks the 116th anniversary of our National PTA's founding when Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst held the first gathering of 2000 people in Washington, DC. Missouri PTA recently published a book covering the first 100 years of our organization. If you haven't already done so, you may want to purchase a copy of this book for your PTA to use at your Founder's Day event. Please contact our office (office@mopta.org) as soon as possible if you would like to have a book at your school in time for Founder's Day.

If you are nearing the end of your term as a local PTA leader, please help find your replacement. It is up to all of us to continually train our future leaders. Our greatest reward will be to see the organization that we helped build up continue to thrive long after we are no longer attending meetings. Please encourage your next group of leaders to be attending leadership conferences and schools of information so that they will be ready when it is their time to step up and take the lead. Our public schools are important to everyone in our community and in our state. Please make sure that the PTA in your care now will be able to continue to support your school in the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued service to children. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Donna Petiford, President
Missouri PTA

Serving Up School Meals that Make the Grade

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched the National School Lunch program in 1946. Since that time, USDA has overseen federal school meal programs, which expanded to include a federally-funded school breakfast program in the 1960s. USDA has always set the nutrition standards for these meals in accordance with the latest nutrition science. Schools must meet these guidelines in order to be reimbursed for the cost of the meals they serve.

The nutrition standards for meals were last updated in January 2012—the first update since 1995. As a result, this fall students around the country are seeing more fruits, vegetables and whole grains on the menu, as well as less saturated fat and sodium. Under the updated standards, meals are high in nutrients, provide sufficient calories and reflect the appropriate balance between food groups.

Because the last update to the standards took place more than 15 years ago, this school year will be one of transition and learning for schools and students as they adjust to the changes. Thousands of schools around the country have been making healthy changes to their menus in recent years and are already succeeding in providing healthy meals that students enjoy. Schools that are just beginning to implement the new guidelines will be able to learn from those that took the early lead.

Here are some stories from just a few of the school districts that have experienced success in putting healthier options on their cafeteria menus (from The Kids Safe and Healthful School Foods Projects, a National PTA partner).

While the nutrition staff at the public school system in Burke County, GA, felt very good about the quality of the food being served in their five schools, they were concerned that a large percentage of the district's high school students were not eating the meals.

The district addressed the problem by creating a reimbursable vending machine program that offered high school students healthy alternatives to traditional cafeteria meals. Burke County staff members use on-site equipment to package and seal fresh sandwiches and salads every day, then load the vending machines with these alternative options, which have quickly become extremely popular. Now, in addition to hot lunches in the cafeteria, students can purchase either a freshly packed entrée salad or a bag lunch with a sandwich, fruit and side item from these specialized vending machines as part of the National School Lunch Program.

Recognizing that some of the most popular items in her schools' cafeterias were among the least healthy, Jean Ronnei, director of nutrition and custodial services for Saint Paul Public Schools in Minnesota, laid down a challenge for her staff—create 10 new “healthy hits” a year for the district's menu. Cost is key for the district, because 72 percent of its students receive free or reduced-price meals. Ronnei and her team held taste tests among the student body to leverage

their support, during which students sampled products and rated which ones they preferred. Their most recent successful (and inexpensive) addition to the menu was a salad option featuring brown rice, pinto beans and crunchy vegetables drizzled lightly with Italian dressing.

For the 2011–2012 school year, Ronnei and her team will make a major move by replacing chicken patty sandwiches—typically purchased by four out of 10 students when they are offered on the menu—with a taste test–approved grilled chicken breast that has less fat and sodium and fewer calories. “It's important students know that we care about their opinions, and that they truly have a say in what their cafeterias offer,” said Ronnei. “Students are much more likely to eat healthy foods that they themselves tested and approved than healthy food that they feel is forced upon them. Because we didn't make the decision until we collected their feedback, students have bought into the change, and we expect it to be a success starting in September.”

In order to serve food that was both healthy and tasty, Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) in Kentucky, took an obvious yet unconventional approach: They hired a chef.

On retainer for the district, the chef visits a few schools each week, observes food service processes, then offers advice on how to make easy, low-cost changes that improve food flavors while reducing fat and sodium content.

One of the major changes JCPS made was to start to purchase local ingredients. Julia Bauscher, JCPS's nutrition director, notes that buying local ingredients is a mutually beneficial arrangement and can be less expensive than one may think. “We're a large district, which gives us bargaining power with local farmers while at the same time providing (them) with a stable revenue base. Rather than narrowing our menu options, it's actually expanded them.”

JCPS uses these fresh, in-season, local ingredients to create unique dishes, such as “Blue Ribbon” muffins, which are made with whole wheat flour and zucchini. Among the healthy menu items in JCPS kitchens are whole-grain dinner rolls (often featuring locally produced flour), soups, sauces, chili, tacos, chicken potpies and turkey roasts. One of the most popular items—taco soup—is made with three different kinds of beans.

“We've proven that schools can do scratch cooking on a reasonable budget,” said Bauscher. “We just do our scratch cooking in 200-gallon kettles.”

Kids deserve safe, healthy meals to help them grow, learn and succeed. Together we can help school foods make the grade.

The Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project is a project of the Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E St. NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20004. For more information, please see their website: <http://www.healthyschoolfoodsnow.org>

General Meeting

By Linda Klender, Missouri PTA Secretary

The General Meeting of the 97th Annual Missouri PTA Convention was held at the Airport Hilton, Kansas City Missouri. This year's meeting was special as it commemorated the 100th Anniversary of Missouri PTA. The meeting started with the posting of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Girl Scout Troop 1930 from Liberty, Missouri. The Star Spangled Banner was sung by Liberty High School Choir Section Leaders. Introductions were made of the National PTA President Betsy Landers, Nore Hare also representing National PTA, the former Missouri PTA Presidents and honored guests. Reports were made, committees appointed and President Donna Petiford declared the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers organized and ready to do business. The Auditor's report was adopted. National PTA President Betsy Landers spoke to the delegates. The 100th Anniversary Committee Chair gave a report as to what to expect for the 100th Anniversary. The Second General Meeting began with the presentation to Harvesters the service project for this convention. Pat

Higginbotham Scholarship Committee Chair announced Laura Steinbach a senior at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri is the 2012 winner of the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award. A thank you was read due to Ms. Steinbach's absence. The following Amendments to the Missouri PTA Bylaws were adopted by the required 2/3 vote: Article IX Section 7, Article XIII Section 6, Article IX Section 6 and Article IX Section 5. Also adopted was the resolution proposed by the bylaws committee. Distinguished Service Awards and Life Member Awards were recognized. Class of 2012 AtLaw and Leaders Classes were recognized. A Courtesy Resolution was read from Governor Jay Nixon declaring October 12, 2012 as Missouri PTA Day. An invitation was made to all present to attend the 2013 Missouri PTA Convention in Springfield where 101 years of advocating for children and parent involvement will be held. A slide show of the events of the 97th convention concluded the convention weekend.

Plan It, Host It, Win!

By June Hurdle, Missouri PTA Parent Education & Involvement Chair

Here is your chance to stand up and be recognized for all your hard work that goes into organizing, planning and holding programs, projects, workshops and events throughout the year.

We challenge you, as PTA leaders, to look at your events calendar and discuss if and how these activities educate parents and engage families in your school. Why? Because students who have families that are engaged and interested in their world do better in school. If you find that an event is primarily a fundraising event, discuss and ask for ideas of how it can be more. Ask your local, council and state PTA resources and representatives for help.

Then submit your application for the **Missouri PTA Parent Education and Involvement Award** that recognizes programs that educate and/or celebrate parent involvement in your school. It is as easy as that!

Your PTA unit or council can qualify for the award by sending in the following items about your program:

- A brief description of your program, workshop, or event
- A list of goals or objectives for the activity
- An itemized budget
- How you will evaluate your activity after the event to determine its success.

Award applications must be submitted to the Missouri PTA office on or before April 1, 2013. Award winners will be recognized and receive a monetary award at the Missouri PTA State Convention.

Let us know about your PTA's success stories!

Convention is a time for delegates across the state of Missouri to come together to further the mission of Missouri PTA. Not only is convention a time to conduct the business of the Congress, it serves as a time to learn and share ideas. Delegates attend workshops and

learn ways to enhance their office.

"I had a great time and I learned so much!" is a common remark among first time delegates. A delegate from Ozark Region was overheard sharing how she wished that she had attend convention years before when she first got involved in PTA, "I have learned so many new ideas and different ways to motivate volunteers. If I had this insight years ago it would have made life easier!"

Delegates enjoy the networking that takes places at meal times. "I come to convention mostly because of the friends and ideas I gain – meal time is a perfect time to share ideas." For others it's the opportunity to see beyond their school walls as a Pony Express Delegate stated, "We get so caught up in our own school that we forget that there are people all over the state, and for that matter, all over the United States, advocating for our children. Convention has really opened my eyes and made me realize that we truly are One Voice for All Children".

A long time convention goer was quoted as saying "One thing that has never changed for me was meeting new delegates and seeing old friends. Thanks for good time and a great! Convention."

Scholarship Donations

We appreciate your generous donations to help provide scholarships for future Missouri teachers:

Edison Elementary PTA
Trailridge Elementary PTA
Prairie View Elementary PTA
Espy PTA of Nixa
Blue Springs R-IV School District Council PTA
Independence Council PTA
Lakewood Elementary PTA
Mason Elementary PTA
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
Nixa Jr. High PTSA
Logan-Rogersville PTA
Springfield Council PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA
Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA
Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA
Sherwood Elementary PTA
Longview Farm Elementary PTA
Woodland Elementary PTA
Glendale PTSA
Raytown Middle School PTSA
Franklin Smith Elementary PTA
Richardson Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA
Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
Pleasant Lea Middle School PTA
Thomas PTA
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Underwood Elementary PTA
Hickman High School PTSA
Raytown High School PTSA

Healthier Schools for the New Year!

The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) is a voluntary certification initiative established in 2004 to recognize those schools participating in the National School Lunch Program that have created healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity.

In February 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama introduced **Let's Move!**, incorporating the HealthierUS School Challenge into her campaign to raise a healthier generation of kids. At that time, monetary incentive awards became available for each HUSSC award level: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Gold Award of Distinction.

To date, HUSSC awards have been given to schools in 49 states. As of September 24, 2012, there are **4317** schools certified.

Schools can submit an application at any time during the year for a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Gold of Distinction level award.

Many schools find that applying for the Challenge is a valuable learning process that helps their school wellness team focus on areas needing improvement. We hope your school will join us on this journey and we look forward to celebrating your progress. Find out more about HUSSC criteria and how to apply at this link: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/healthierus/application.html>

* Find out more about "Let's Move!" <http://www.letsmove.gov/>

Atlaw Awards

PTA was founded on advocacy. Alice McLellan Bireny and Phoebe Apperson Hearst joined forces in order to advocate on the behalf of all children over 100 years ago. Our dedication to advocacy is one of the primary factors that distinguishes PTA from other parent teacher organization. Our focus extends beyond how we can improve and impact individual schools by hosting class parties, carnivals, fundraisers, etc. Being a part of a PTA means you and your members believe all children are important and deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The Missouri PTA Atlaw award rewards those individuals and units/councils who strive to make advocacy a top priority. They are active members of our JC/DC network, attend training, inform others on legislative issues and most importantly take action. Following in the footsteps of our founders, these individuals, unit and councils have work hard to make sure every child's voice is heard.

The following were honored during the Missouri PTA annual Convention

- Angel Davis – Show-Me PTA
- Dorothy Gardner – SVJH PTSA
- Brigitte Lindstrom – St. Joseph PTA Council
- Donna Petiford – Show-Me PTA
- Lee's Summit Council PTA
- Longview Farm Elementary PTA
- St. Joseph PTA Council



Advocacy – Child Champions

During this past convention the Department of Legislation and Advocacy hosted an “Advocacy Stand”. Current and newly enrolled members of the JC/DC network stopped by and picked up a wristband emblazed with the words “Child Champion” so they could proudly display at convention and then back at home that they were in fact the voice of *EveryChild*. Department members were on hand to answer questions about PTA legislation and



advocacy. It was also a great opportunity to just get to know individual PTA members and find out how their units/councils incorporate advocacy. To correspond with the beginning of the Missouri Legislative session, the Department also unveiled the 2013 Legislative Priorities. These priorities were developed after evaluating what occurred during the last Legislative session, taking into consideration the current state of education in Missouri and pinpointing where we feel we have a good chance to effect change. You can find the 2013 Legislative Priorities on the Advocacy Resources page under the Legislation tab on the MOPTA webpage.

With the Missouri legislative session beginning on January 9th it is important to have as many PTA members as possible become part of our JC/DC network. This email alert system encourages action on the part of members when critical action is being taken on bills or acts by either legislative committees, the Missouri General Assembly, Congress or the Administration. Contacting our representatives and informing them of our opinion with regard to bills and issues is the best way to make our voices heard. Please sign up today and be part of the JC/DC network. One can register online under the “ACT NOW” section of the MOPTA homepage – ‘Subscribe to Legislative Alerts’, or a JC/DC registration form can also be downloaded from the Advocacy Resources page of the Legislation section on the website (http://www.mopta.org/legislation/advocacy_resources_page.html).

Governor's Proclamation

To commemorate Missouri PTA's 100th Anniversary, Governor Jay Nixon issued a proclamation congratulating Missouri PTA on this historic event and recognizing all the accomplishments Missouri PTA has achieved in the past 100 years. In addition the Governor declared October 20th 2012 Missouri PTA Day.

Missouri PTA Legislative Platform 2013

By Dorothy Gardner, Vice President and Director Department of Legislation and Advocacy

These legislative priorities are based on the issues that the Missouri PTA Legislative Department expects to target for the 2013 legislative session. As unexpected issues emerge, Missouri PTA will act in accordance with the resolution and position statements that have been approved by the membership. A complete list of resolutions and position statements are available on our website (www.mopta.org). Missouri PTA supports:

- **Legislation that protects and calls for local control of schools.**
- **Legislation to strengthen laws designed to protect minors from sexual abuse and increase funding for programs and services aimed at the prevention of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment.**
- **Legislation that provides funding for early education programs that are developmentally appropriate, coordinate comprehensive services, and includes family involvement components for children from birth to age five.**
- **Opposition to tax credits or tax deductions for tuition paid by a parent or sponsors for non-public elementary or secondary school children.**
- **Enforcement of legislation requiring school districts to have policies that promote increased parental engagement in their children's education.**
- **Legislation that will maintain or generate local and state funding for public education.**
- **Legislation strengthening laws to limit and restrict projects that result in reduced funding to public education through tax increment financing (TIF), urban redevelopment corporations and enterprise zones.**

100th Anniversary Committee

Very few organizations have the honor to be around for 100 years and stay true to their original beliefs and purposes. Missouri PTA is one of those organizations. On October 20, 2012, Missouri PTA recognized the works, trials, and successes of the past 100 years with a Diamond Celebration at Hilton Inn KCI Airport during its annual convention.

The evening's program highlighted the accomplishments of Missouri PTA with a video presentation, narrated by Tina Zubeck and Kathy Nevans. At the conclusion of the video, a ceremonial cake cutting involving Past State Presidents since 1975, was offered. Past Presidents in attendance included Eleanor Langemach (1975-1977), Freddie Nichols(1981-1983), Teresa Dean(1985-1987), Chloe Nitch(1987-1989), Sue Raumaker (1993-1995), Linda Hyde(1997-1999), Sherry Davis(1999-2001), Tina Zubeck(2003-2005), Kathy Nevans(2005-2007), Mary Oyler(2007-2009)Wendy Jackson (2009-2011), and current president Donna Petiford.

A commemorative book, *Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present and Imaging the Future, a Centennial History of Missouri PTA*, authored by Pat Swinger and published by The Donning Company was revealed and was available for autographs from the author and past presidents.

National PTA President Betsy Landers was the keynote speaker for the convention and offered the closing toast to Missouri PTA for success in the next 100 years.

A United States flag, flown over our nation's capital on March



25, 2012 in honor of our actual organizational date was presented, by the 100th Anniversary Committee, to Donna Petiford for the state office in Columbia, MO.

In addition to our past presidents, other honored guests included past board members, PTA presidents from Kansas and Oklahoma, and members of the Missouri Education Roundtable.

Missouri PTA wishes to thank all the members of the 100th Anniversary Committee for their work on this event: Kathy Nevans, chair, Tina Zubeck, Mary Oyler, Wendy Jackson, Peggy Richey, Patricia Hudgens and Dave Koffman. It truly was a night to remember.

Please see the video of this event on YouTube at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiCFYwe1f-o>

Making Our Schools Safer

A Bullying Workshop Presented By

Dr. Glenn Berry, UMKC Schools of Education
Missouri Center for Safe Schools

“Best Practices in Bullying: Ten Elements Prevention & Intervention”

- #1: Focus on the Environment
- #2: Assess Bullying at Your School/in Your Youth Organizations
- #3: Seek Out Support for Bullying Prevention
- #4: Form a Group to Coordinate Efforts
- #5: Train All Staff
- #6: Establish & Enforce School Rules they are:
 - *We will not bully others.
 - *We will try to help students who are bullied.
 - *We will include students who are easily left out.
 - *When we know somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.
- #7: Increase Adult Supervision
- #8: Intervene Consistently and Appropriately
- #9: Focus Classroom Time on Bullying Prevention
- #10: Continue the Effort Over Time (Bullying prevention should have no “end Date”.)

Dr. Berry recommends the following interactive website for teens and adults: www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

Other resources:

- www.stopbullyingnow.gov
- www.clemson.edu/olweus
- Netsmartz.org
- Cybertipline.com
- Onguardonline.gov
- Teachinggtolerance.org
- Commonsensemedia.org
- Connectsafety.org
- NCMEC – National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- www.stopbullying.org
- Cyberbully.org
- Local Law Enforcement

“AWARENESS WITHOUT ACTION IS WORTHLESS”

Networking with the Board of Managers

By Angela McCormick

As I sat in the networking session, I took the role of eavesdropper and listened to what each table was discussing. The overall theme of the session was that it does not matter where the ideas come from, the goal is to find them and use them. The Board of Managers that were present hoped to provide members with a better understanding of the resources available through both Missouri and

National PTA. Many of the discussion centered around an exchange of ideas as to how to increase membership and reach families. The session included an enlightening discussion with the state PTA President from Oklahoma, Annie King. She has reached out to colleges, meeting with and encouraging the formation of PTAs on college campuses made up of future teachers. She believed that this would later lead to stronger

units within schools and a deeper understanding of the benefits of PTA within the community. Overall, the consensus and what became the theme of the session that communication is key, providing as much information as possible to parents and teachers as to the benefits of PTA and that PTA is an advocate for education, giving children a voice.

Phoebe Apperson Hearst Memorial Award

Each fall, the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Memorial Award is bestowed upon a college senior, Missouri PTA scholarship recipient with a record of exceptional academics, outstanding character, community service and a commitment to teaching. Laura Steinbach is the senior to receive the 2012 PAH award.

Laura graduated from Pattonville High School and attended Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. In May 2013 Laura will have completed her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and one third of her Masters in Literacy.

Congratulation Laura! As Laura stated in her thank you letter to Missouri

PTA, "Mrs. Hearst believed that a child's early education could determine his/her entire future."

Laura believes in that statement whole heartedly and it is her goal as a future educator to ensure that every child in her classroom will have the skills and knowledge that they need to be successful.

Congratulations – Leader's Project Class of 2012!

Leadership development is essential to the success of PTA units. The Missouri PTA Leaders Project was developed to certify and recognize the leadership accomplishments of our PTA members.

The following individuals were recognized at the 97th Annual State Convention as the Missouri PTA Leaders Project Class of 2012. Their dedication to PTA and desire to improve their leadership skills and broaden their knowledge will be of great value to them, their local PTA and to Missouri PTA. John Quincy Adams said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." We thank these leaders for being an inspiration to all of us.

Cathy Barton
Holly Cox
Shelly Croteau
Amy Crowe
Khristin Dutzel
Meagan Gardner
Samantha Gardner
June Hurdle
Brigitte Lindstrom

Jennifer Leighton-Floyd
Lori Prussman
Danyle Riley
Jill Sandrock-Swearingen
Patrice Semegran
Tara Shryock
Melissa Trebilcock
Joseph Wade



Will YOU accept the challenge and join the ranks of Certified PTA Leaders? We want to recognize your accomplishments and hope to see you as a part of the Leader's Project Class of 2013!

Early Bird Awards – were presented during the Awards Luncheon on Saturday at the 97th Annual State Convention in October. These awards recognized those units that sent in the highest membership based upon last year's *total* membership to the state office (postmarked) on or before September 20, 2012.

AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

Early Childhood / Elementary / Special Education Level

Hawthorn Elementary PTA

Park Hill School District

Pony Express Region

High School Level

Hazelwood Central High PTSA

Hazelwood School District

Gateway Region

Middle School / Jr. High / Combined Level

North Platte PTA

North Platte County R-I School District

Pony Express Region

www.mopta.org

Harvesters mission is to feed hungry people today and work to end hunger tomorrow

For Convention 2012, we were pleased that Paula Pratt, Harvesters Representative, could come and speak with us on Sunday morning regarding our Service Project for this year – providing food and household items for those in need.



As the Kansas City and surrounding areas only food bank, Harvesters is a clearinghouse for the collection and distribution of food and related household products. They've been helping people in need since 1979 by

- Collecting food and household products from community and industry sources
- Distributing those products and providing nutrition services through a network of nonprofit agencies, and
- Offering leadership and education programs to increase community awareness of hunger and generate solutions to alleviate hunger

The network includes more than 620 nonprofit agencies throughout their 26 county direct service area, including emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, children's homes, and homes for the mentally disabled and battered persons. The network also provides food assistance to as many as 66,000 different people each week. Harvesters is a certified member of Feeding America, a network of more than 200 food banks, serving all 50 states. For more information on Harvesters, visit www.harvesters.org

Missouri PTA Convention Exhibitor Highlights

We had 20 + exhibitors at this year's convention in Kansas City. The Vendor Fair had many new vendors this year displaying their products. There were vendors for spirit wear, science shows, movie nights, field trips, carnival and santa shop ideas, playground equipment, pictures and publishing, not to mention vendors offering catalog fund-raisers.

Exhibitors also provided information on Missouri programs, MOST-Missouri 529 College Savings Plan and Missouri National Education Association.

Many exhibitors offered free samples and lots of informational literature about their company. PTA leaders came away with a vast array of ideas that they could take back to their schools.

Thanks go out to all of our sponsors and vendors for supporting PTA.

NPTA Member Benefits

Check out the National PTA, www.pta.org website for further information on how your members access these benefits. Make sure the details on benefit access are provided only to your PTA members.



eTrak (powered by Verizon) helps PTA parents *Always Know* their children are safe with its revolutionary new location-tracking device. **For a limited time only, PTA members can order the device for free (regularly \$99).** There is an activation charge of \$39 and a monthly fee of \$15. This lightweight domino-sized device uses highly accurate, patented GPS+ technology to show a child's location on any smartphone or computer. And in the case of an emergency, the device sends messages with its location at the push of a button to multiple recipients.

- **SocialScout™** - Get peace of mind with a new tool to track your child's social networking and mobile phone activity. As a PTA member, you save 10% on SocialScout™, a parental intelligence system that helps you monitor and quickly analyze your child's social networking and mobile phone interactions. Keep your kids safe while safeguarding their privacy and reputation on sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. Find out:
 - Who are your child's online friends and view new friend requests
 - What's being posted about your child
 - How and when your child is using technology
- **SHARP ELECTRONICS** - The PTA/Sharp Electronics member store is now available to offer you valuable member discounts on Sharp AQUOS Liquid Crystal Televisions and other home electronics products! Every unit is offered at special PTA member pricing, guaranteeing you the lowest possible price.
- **T-MOBILE** - 14% discount off your monthly service charges for new and existing T-Mobile subscribers, plus additional savings for new subscribers.
- **Hertz** - We're at the Airport and in your Neighborhood. The world's largest airport general use car rental brand, operating from approximately 8,500 locations in 146 countries worldwide is proud to offer PTA members benefits like: Savings of up to 20% off rentals, special promotions in addition to your discount and Fee Waived Hertz #1 Club Gold® enrollment—a \$60 savings!
- **METLIFE** - MetLife Auto & Home® has worked with PTA to bring PTA members a group insurance program that comes with special savings and benefits. This program includes competitive benefits and superior discounts for members.

First Timers' Breakfast

By Angela McCormick

I had the opportunity to attend the First Timers' Breakfast during the convention hosted by former Missouri PTA President Wendy Jackson. Wendy opened the breakfast with a motto, "Speak up for those who can't, those who won't and those who don't." That is what being a part of PTA is all about, giving a voice to children and their education' the message of not only the First Timers Breakfast, but the conference as a whole. Wendy provided first timers with a comprehensive overview of the conference experience in an effort to have a successful experience.

I attended the breakfast not only as a Board of Managers representative but as a first timer as well. In coming to the conference, I felt overwhelmed about the experience however the overview provided guidance and became a networking opportunity with other participants. As I sat in the workshops and the First Timers' Breakfast I wondered what other attendees hoped to learn from the conference.

Nici Hayes, (Pony Express) hoped to obtain more information to bring to her unit and area. The information presented is motivational and provides a better understanding of how the goals of PTA fit together.

Lisa Holmes (Pony Express) sought specific details on how the Missouri PTA works with local councils and units so that she could better answer questions presented to her at the local level. Serving as the treasurer, she gained valuable experience from the treasurer's workshop.

Jennifer Womack Jones (Three Trails) was impressed by the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of the conference. She too hoped to gain a better understand of the relationship between the state level PTA and the local units.

Charlotte Long (Three Trails) is looking forward to serving in the president position next year within her unit. She attended the conference to learn procedures and requirements to have a successful until. She wanted to learn how to better communicate with parents.

Stephanie Coffey (Gateway) was excited to meet new people from around the state and network on how to encourage parents to become more involved in the PTA and realize that they have a voice when it comes to their children's education.

Lastly, I interviewed Steven Cook (Gateway). He wanted to gain knowledge and a deeper understanding of parliamentary procedures and how the by-laws govern their unit. He too wants parents to realize that being a part of PTA gives them a voice to advocate for their children.

The First Timers' Breakfast brought together members from all over the state, all with similar goals, to gain a deeper understanding of what PTA stands for and to build involvement within their units and councils. This proved to be a valuable networking opportunity.

Founders Gift Donations

Kentucky Trail Elementary PTA
Trailridge Elementary PTA
Prairie View Elementary PTA
Blue Springs R-IV School District Council PTA
Lakewood Elementary PTA
Mason Elementary PTA
Summit Pointe Elementary PTA
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
Nixa Jr. High PTSA
Logan-Rogersville PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA
Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA
Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA
Longview Farm Elementary PTA
Woodland Elementary PTA
Raytown Middle School PTSA
Richardson Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA
Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
Pleasant Lea Middle School PTA
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Underwood Elementary PTA
Raytown High School PTSA

10 Ways to Increase Your Membership

- ✓ **BE APPROACHABLE & VISIBLE** at every event school or PTA function. Make your table, display or presentation look pleasant and exciting. Appeal to their needs and let them know how relevant your PTA is.
- ✓ **HAVE MEMBER EXCLUSIVE EVENTS** that make it worthwhile for people to buy memberships and to attend.
- ✓ **CLASSROOM CONTESTS** provide a boost to your membership by encouraging friendly competition and promoting rewards.
- ✓ **COMMUNICATION IS KEY!** Let them know what your PTA does. It will give your board a pat on the back and make it clear to your members what they are a part of.
- ✓ **LOCAL BUSINESSES** love to support the area school. Offer a little bit of advertising in your newsletter and at your events as benefit of being a member.
- ✓ **HAVE A NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY!** Get those neighbors involved that don't necessarily have kids in school. Remember PTA is not just for parents, *it is for everyone who cares about children!*
- ✓ **UTILIZE THE LOCAL MEDIA.** Many times the local media will put out a free news release if your PTA is doing something in the community. Just let them know and invite them to attend. It is good PR!
- ✓ **ACKNOWLEDGE ALL NON-TRADITIONAL MEMBERS.** Remember to include grandparents, community members, places of worship, etc. *ASKEVERYONE!*
- ✓ **INCLUDE FOOD!** People like coming to things when they don't have to figure out how to feed their family and attend. Always include the invitation to join as part of the dessert!
- ✓ **GET ON YOUR SOAP BOX & SHARE YOUR PASSION!** Let people know that PTA is not a dying breed or fundraising focused. Put to rest any negative connotations that may have been associated from the past. Remind them PTA is the largest child advocacy organization in the country. We care and work for the world to be better for our children and *their* children. We are interested only in making EVERY CHILD HAVE A VOICE. Invite them to add their voice so we may speak LOUDLY for those children whose voices cannot be heard.

COMBAT Workshop

A deputy from Jackson County Sheriff's office spoke in a workshop at the 97th Missouri PTA Convention about how to protect your kids online. Through a grant from seized drug dealer assets, the department purchased ComputerCOP software and is distributing it free to anyone in the community. When you install the ComputerCOP on your computer, you can see all the websites that have been visited, all the images that have been downloaded, and all the instant messaging conversations and emails that have been exchanged, even if the browser history has been deleted. It is a useful way to see where your kids have been online, even if they are trying to hide it. In order to show how the software works, the deputy actually put the disk in a laptop and showed it scanning on the projector. It looked really easy to use, easy enough that you don't need to be a computer expert to see what your kids are doing online. He then led a spirited discussion about Internet safety, online predators and personal responsibility. At the end of the workshop, he gave out a copy of the ComputerCOP to anyone who wanted it.

Building Fund Donations

We appreciate the generous donations of our PTA units and councils:

Trailridge Elementary PTA
Prairie View Elementary PTA
Espy PTA of Nixa
Blue Springs R-IV School District Council PTA
Mason Elementary PTA
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
Nixa Jr. High PTSA
Logan-Rogersville PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA
Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA
Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA
Longview Farm Elementary PTA
Woodland Elementary PTA
Raytown Middle School PTSA
Franklin Smith Elementary PTA
Richardson Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
Truman Patriots Club PTSA
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Underwood Elementary PTA
Raytown High School PTSA

Students – Convention Overview

By: Amanda Rupert

During the fall convention, the students attended many different workshops. These workshops included an icebreaker, COMBAT an adult bullying workshop, a PTA round table and student finance.

The workshops began Friday night with the icebreaker. The students played “PTA Monopoly” and took this time to get to know each other. In PTA Monopoly the students learned about the different things people ask PTA’s to spend money for. The students had to decide if the items were reasonable to spend the money on. To start the Saturday morning off, the students attended the COMBAT workshop. In this workshop the students talked about bullying. They also discussed ways their parents can monitor the websites they are on. Later in the day the students attended an adult bullying workshop. During this workshop we listened to the different ways to deal with bullying. In a bullying

situation, there are many different people who have a roll in the bullying. Students as well as adults in the room learned what they can do to help defend the person that is being bullied. On the last day of convention the students attended the PTA round table workshop. In the workshop we talked about what our next step in making our mark in PTA will be. Many different topics came up. The students had many great ideas on what they can do next to make a difference. To end the convention the students attended the student finance workshop. In this workshop we discussed the importance about college and how we were going to pay for it. We were talked to about the different scholarships and ways to help us pay for college.

Meagan Gardener and I would like to thank the students who attended. We look forward to seeing everyone and more students at our next student event.

LUCKY 13 IN 2013!!!! **MO PTA Winter Membership Challenge**

“Blasting Off”
for the 2nd half of the school year
can make your unit
“Lucky in ‘13”.

For every ***13 memberships*** we receive
between ***January 13, 2013-March 13, 2013***
your unit will be put in a chance to win one of three \$50.00 prizes!

Keep *BLASTING OFF* for 2013 & good *LUCK!*

Challenge Rules:

- ❖ The unit must be considered a “Unit in Good Standing” by **January 1, 2013**. Please see the Tool Kit or the Missouri PTA website; www.mopta.org for these requirements.
- ❖ All memberships must be received in the MO PTA office by **March 13, 2013**. Remember to mail in time for them to be received!
- ❖ Winning units will be contacted by Joyce Brewka, MO PTA Emphasis Chair after prizes have been drawn for. Winning units will be listed on www.mopta.org.

Short Takes

MISSOURI PTA IS NOW ON PINTEREST

<http://pinterest.com/missouripta/>

Pinterest is a social networking site that allows content sharing by members who “pin” images, videos and other objects to their pinboard. We think our members will like this format and hope they find it useful as an online “idea” bank.

JANUARY IS SALUTE TO SCHOOL MONTH

Salute to school is different from Teacher Appreciation Week and is designed to show appreciation to all of your school staff. This includes office staff, teachers, nurses, librarians, paraprofessionals, custodians, cafeteria workers and don't forget the bus drivers. Since this is Salute to School Month, your PTA/PTSA can choose which week to celebrate.

There are many ways to celebrate this event. See our new Pinterest sight for ideas or be creative and remember to involve all of your students and families. <http://pinterest.com/missouripta/>

CONTACT MAGAZINE

CONTACT magazine is the official Missouri PTA publication. One subscription is supplied automatically for each local PTA/PTSA unit and council, in care of the current president, and to the superintendent of each school district. Additional subscriptions may be purchased for \$7.00 per year and single issues may be ordered for \$2.00. Use the subscription form on our website (Awards/Forms) or contact our state office for more information.

Your PTA accomplishments are newsworthy. Please submit a note about what your PTA is doing to fulfill our PTA purposes so that we can share your success with other PTA/PTSAs in our state. Also, you can submit a picture with just a brief caption.

CONTACT is the way to share special programs, awards, events, Founders Day observances, Teacher Appreciation ideas, successful fundraisers, etc.

Please send these notes, ideas and pictures to contact@mopta.org. Please remember to include the name of your unit or council. Please also include a name and a phone number of someone we can contact for more information. Online submissions need to be in WORD and pictures in JPEG format.

SAVE THE DATE

The 98th Annual Missouri PTA Convention will be held October 18-20, 2013, in Springfield at the University Plaza Hotel. Inspiration, learning, networking and FUN opportunities are in the works!

All PTA members are encouraged to attend! More information about registration fees and workshops will be announced on our website: www.mopta.org

Mark Your Calendar

January

- 1 Membership dues to state office
- 1 New Year's Day
- 13 MOPTA mid-year Membership Drive “Lucky in ‘13” Begins
- 17 Reflection Submissions due in State Office by 4:30pm
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

February

Black History Month

- 1 Membership dues to state office
- 8-10 NPTA Male Engagement Conference, Kansas City, MO
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 PTA Founder's Day
- 18 President's Day
- 18-23 Take your family to school week

March

Women's History Month

Music in Our School Month

National Nutrition Month

- 1 Membership dues to state office
- 2 Read Across America Day
- 6 Principal's Day
- 13 MOPTA mid-year Membership Drive “Lucky in ‘13” Ends
- 13-14 National PTA Legislative Conference, Arlington, VA
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 31 New Officers Form due to State Office

BYLAWS REMINDER

Each unit should have a bylaws committee as a standing committee. The bylaws committee should review Bylaws and Standing Rules each year and make recommendations for changes if applicable. Every PTA is required to update bylaws at least every three years. Please check for the Missouri PTA approval date on the last page of your unit's bylaws to determine if your bylaws are due for review.

Suggested Bylaws may be ordered for free by emailing the state office at office@mopta.org. A copy of your unit's current bylaws may also be emailed if requested.

Please follow these guidelines when submitting your bylaws or amendments:

- Bylaws and amendments must be submitted in Microsoft Word as an email attachment.
- The last page of the bylaws must contain the names of the bylaws committee.
- Once approved, an electronic copy will be returned to your unit.

Missouri Congress of Parents & Teachers
Missouri PTA
2101 Burlington St.
Columbia, MO 65202



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2013 National PTA® Male Engagement Conference

February 8-10, 2013 | Kansas City, Missouri
Embassy Suites Hotel | Kansas City – Plaza

- Expert-led sessions
- Multiple workshops
- 3 Days of networking
- Keynote speakers



2012 Convention

