

Missouri Parent Teacher Association



# CONTACT

Volume 95 Issue 3  
January 2014



# MO PTA would like to THANK the following PTA Units and Councils for their generous donations

<u>Founders Gift</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Scholarship Fund</u>
<p>Columbia Council PTA                      Bingham Middle School PTSA                      Delta Woods Middle School PTSA                      Mason Elementary PTA                      Gracemor PTA                      Summit Pointe Elementary PTA                      Yeokum Middle School PTSA                      Trailridge Elementary PTA                      Blue Springs R-IV School                          District Council PTA                      Meadowbrook Elementary PTA                      Mathews PTA                      Blue Springs Early Childhood                          Preschool PTA                      Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA                      Greenwood Elementary PTA                      Meadow Lane Elementary PTA                      Lee's Summit West High School PTSA                      Underwood Elementary PTA                      Woodland Elementary PTA                      Lakewood Elementary PTA                      Richardson Elementary PTA                      Skyline Elementary PTA                      York Elementary PTA                      Summit Lakes Middle School PTA</p>	<p>Bingham Middle School PTSA                      Delta Woods Middle School PTSA                      Mason Elementary PTA                      Franklin Smith Elementary PTA                      James A. Jeffries Elementary PTA                      Columbia Council PTA                      Trailridge Elementary PTA                      Blue Springs R-IV School                          District Council PTA                      Mathews PTA                      Blue Springs Early Childhood                          Preschool PTA                      Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA                      Greenwood Elementary PTA                      Meadow Lane Elementary PTA                      Lee's Summit West High School PTSA                      North Kansas City Council PTA                      Underwood Elementary PTA                      Woodland Elementary PTA                      Richardson Elementary PTA                      Sequiota Elementary PTA                      Truman Patriots Club PTSA                      Summit Lakes Middle School PTA</p>	<p>Bingham Middle School PTSA                      Daly Elementary PTA                      Delta Woods Middle School PTSA                      Independence Council PTA                      Mason Elementary PTA                      Westview Elementary PTA                      Gracemor PTA                      Franklin Smith Elementary PTA                      Townsend Elementary PTA                      Yeokum Middle School PTSA                      Trailridge Elementary PTA                      Blue Springs R-IV School District Council PTA                      Meadowbrook Elementary PTA                      Mathews PTA                      Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA                      Greenwood Elementary PTA                      Meadow Lane Elementary PTA                      Sherwood Elementary PTA                      Townsend Elementary PTA                      Lee's Summit West High School PTSA                      Christian Ott Elementary PTA                      Underwood Elementary PTA                      Woodland Elementary PTA                      Richardson Elementary PTA                      Sequiota Elementary PTA                      Show Me State PTA                      Lone Jack PTA                      Summit Lakes Middle School PTA</p>

## Leader's Project Class of 2013!

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 98<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention as the Missouri PTA Leaders Project Class of 2013. 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.



**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

**Accept the challenge and join the ranks of Certified Missouri PTA Leaders!**

**We want to recognize your accomplishments!**

**Be a part of the Leader's Project Class of 2014!**

**Amy Blakemore  
 Mary Christiano  
 Sarah Day  
 Lisa Holmes  
 Virginia Pennington**

## Cover photo:

2013 Annual MO State PTA  
Convention

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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 digitally 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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PLEASE SHARE THIS MAGAZINE.

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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## President Message by Kim Weber MO State PTA President



*"What I've experienced is that I can't know the future. I can't know if anything that I do will change what happens tomorrow. I can't know with certainty, but what I do know is if I do nothing, nothing will change." — James Orbinski*

In this issue you will see our stories, photos and memories that we want to share with you from our convention that was held this past October in Springfield. I may be a little biased but I thought it was an awesome PTA weekend, from Friday night's all conference workshop with our National PTA Representatives to Sunday afternoon when your new officers for Missouri PTA were installed. Our convention delegates made new friends with other members by comparing programs and success stories from their units and councils in workshops, meal functions or at the networking sessions. We learned new ideas and resources available to us from both Missouri and National PTA. We even learned how to create some inexpensive staff appreciation gifts with a past president from Missouri PTA in her Pinterest workshop. There was a wide array of exhibitors to visit with options for our school programs, our insurance, or ideas for fundraising, all while enjoying an afternoon snack!! We did the work our founders started by passing two resolutions which are listed on page 2. I encourage each of you to learn more about them and what it means for your school district. A special thank you to the delegates that brought items and made donations to our service project this year, the clothing bank operated by the Springfield Council of PTA's.

For many, the highlight might have been our keynote speaker on Saturday evening, Dr. CJ Huff, Superintendent of the Joplin Public Schools. I have known Dr. Huff, for over fifteen years, when he stepped up as a Superintendent of a PTA School district in Mid Missouri and helped show this regional director at the time, what true commitment was to a child's education. It was a lesson learned then and still resonates with me today. He is truly doing great work reaching out to the masses sharing his story and his passion that "I was put on earth to help kids". That is something each and every one of us can learn from and try to replicate through our daily lives and PTA.

But for this state president, the best part of the convention was how excited everyone was when they left on Sunday afternoon. They were ready to get started by sharing all their new ideas, goals and memories with their units/councils back home. To me that is what attending a PTA

convention is, recharging the batteries and reconnecting with your PTA family to better prepare yourself as a leader and to better your unit/council. I urge you to read all of the stories we have in this issue and make plans now to attend the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Chesterfield on October 17-19, 2014. But sometimes in our busy daily lives, we can forget that each of us have the ability to make a change. As PTA leaders, in the middle of our school year, it is time to reflect on the progress of our goals we made at the beginning of the year. Remember how focused each of us were at the beginning of our terms when we sat down with our executive boards/committees to set those goals? Or when we came back home after attending convention and wanted to implement a new idea learned at convention? Then life happened, we got busy and maybe we got off track of those goals? With the start of a new year, we can all come back together and give ourselves a pat on the back for what we did get accomplished. More importantly, we can determine what happens tomorrow by being that voice to increase opportunities for all of our children that they may not have had before. It is not too late to accomplish those goals or to get back on track towards completion of your goals. Don't give up on yourself, don't give up on your PTA and PLEASE don't give up on our children, they are counting on us to make a change for tomorrow for all of them.

### Who We Are

PTA Vision  
Making every child's potential a reality

PTA Mission ~ PTA is:

- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and wellbeing of every child.

PTA Purposes

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

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## MO PTA Convention All Conference

### Speaker: Kathy Nevans

By Cathy Sweeny, Vice President & Director of Field Services



Our All-Conference speaker for the Missouri PTA 98th Annual Convention was Kathy Nevans, past president for Missouri PTA from 2005-2007. These days Kathy is serving in her second term on the Board of Directors for National PTA. During her speech she reminded us of how PTA started and how our PTA founders were driven to make sure that all children were educated. In 1897, most children were not educated since they were generally needed to work in the fields or sweatshops to help their families survive. The foresight of these women is amazing and continues today as we all come together for the same causes. Missouri parents have always been forward thinkers Missouri was the first state to form a PTA in Kansas City. Missouri was also the first to combine the Congress of Parents and Teachers and the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers.

What does this mean for you? *Today's PTA* is full of many challenges and it is important that we do not rest on our laurels. Like the founding members, in order for PTA to have continued success for all children we must think outside the box and speak up to ensure that all children receive an education which will allow them to succeed. PTA has been and still is committed to improving graduation rates and we have already made a difference. Last year was the highest graduation rate in American history. Progress will come in many forms but the graduation rate is a start. In order to compete globally more work and progress must be done. Out of 65 countries, the United States ranks 31st in mathematics, 17th in reading and 23rd in science on the International Student Assessment. In order for our children to compete globally these rankings must improve.

What can you do to improve education for our children? National PTA works diligently to advocate for our children. The Family Engagement in Education Act which was PTA-inspired was introduced in both the House and Senate with sponsors from both parties. This Act would help states and school establish engagement programs. Statistics show that by engaging the parent or caregiver just slightly it is equivalent to a \$1,000 increase per pupil spending.

What can you do to help? Call your Senate or House representative to voice your opinion. New bills are considered at every session and you can be informed and prepared by utilizing the tools provided. [www.PTA.org/takeaction](http://www.PTA.org/takeaction) - provides you're with the tools to identify your federal legislators as well as sample letters to send to them.

As a reminder, not all changes occur at the national level. There is a state-driven initiative for the [Common Core State Standard](#). These standards will provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn which will allow teachers and parents to know how to help.

Today's PTA believes that children should be well rounded educationally. They believe that the arts are very important and to aid local units with this, PTA created the "Reflections" program. It is shown that the arts unleash creativity in children which allows them to learn across the core subjects. It is shown that those who participate in the program out perform their peers in math and achieve higher SAT scores as well as having better attendance. What can you do? Start a Reflections program at your school and if you already have one, think of ways to expand or improve it. More information can be found at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) then click on Programs – Arts in Education: [Reflections](#) and you will find the tools needed for this program.

Another program which you can bring to your school is the School of Excellence. This program allows your school to set goals and take action. Once you achieve your goals, you will receive the National PTA School of Excellence distinction and a banner to hang in your hallway. This lets everyone know that your school is dedicated to constant improvement and engagement for their students. The many benefits of this program do not end there so check out the program at [www.pta.org/excellence](http://www.pta.org/excellence).

With reading scores being so low another new program is the [PTA Family Reading Experience](#). This program combines family engagement and educational technology to help improve students. Events use a variety of ways to aid reading utilizing physical books and Powered by the Kindle e-books. Amazon Kindle has donated e-readers to a limited number of PTAs in low-income and at-risk schools.

Were you aware that when you buy a Missouri membership that you are a member of the National PTA? All the membership benefits which are offered to National PTA are automatically available to each local member. You are a part of the 6 million members across the United States and strength in numbers can make a difference for our children today and tomorrow. Be a part of **Today's PTA**.

## Whereas and Therefore Be It Resolved

By Angel Davis, Vice President and Director  
of Legislation & Advocacy

Part of the business of Annual Convention is the adoption of resolutions. Resolutions are PTA's recognition and outline of a solution to an issue. PTA does not stand for or against any issue without the members approved stance on that issue.

Resolutions are our member approved stance.

This past October, members met, discussed and voted to adopt two Missouri PTA resolutions. The first resolution was entitled Mandatory Safety Drills in Missouri Schools. This resolution is an update and replacement of two older resolutions Missouri PTA already had on their books. The Mandatory Safety Drills in Missouri Schools Resolution encourages the Missouri State Legislature to require school districts to work with partners to develop and annually update detailed multi hazard management plans. It also encourages the Missouri State Legislature to require monthly safety drills and require a safety drill to be practiced each month. Missouri PTA would also encourage the proper training and education of staff, students and parents in regards to the school's multi-hazard plans. What does this mean for your PTA? Talk to your school. Find out what procedures are in place for emergencies such as a tornado, fire, earthquake, intruder or

lockdown and evacuations. Ask how often each drill is practiced. If you have some classes that are only half-days, ask if both the morning and afternoon classes are practicing the drills. Ask what you as a PTA can do to help ensure staff, students and parents know what to do if an emergency should strike. The most powerful tool a school can have in a time of crisis is a well-prepared plan.

The second resolution adopted was the TABOR resolution. This resolution calls for educating membership about the consequences the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) and Tax and Expenditure Limits (TELS) would have on both education and services to children and actively opposes their passage. TABOR and TELS are constitutional measures designed to limit state revenues by instituting a highly restrictive revenue formula. This formula would not adequately measure the cost of inflation for public services such as education and public health programs. When the subject of TABOR or TELS measures come up, let your legislator know these measures would result in harmful effects on education funding and would jeopardize the general welfare of children.

If you would like more information on either of these resolutions or any of the MOPTA resolutions, contact Angel Davis at [angeld@mopta.org](mailto:angeld@mopta.org) or visit the [resolutions page](#) of the Missouri PTA website.

### Programs Department Awards

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

### Parent Education & Involvement Award Winners

Greenwood Laboratory PTA  
Springfield School District  
Springfield, Ozark Region  
&

Liggett Trail Education Center PTA  
Blue Springs School District  
Blue Springs, Three Trails Region

### Health and Safety Education Award Winner

Independence Council of PTAs  
Independence School District  
Independence, Three Trails Region

### Male Involvement Award (first ever)

McNair Elementary  
Hazelwood School District  
Hazelwood, Gateway Region



Parent  
Education  
&  
Involvement  
Award



Health  
and  
Safety  
Education  
Award



Male  
Involvement  
Award

## Take Action!! Join the Challenge!!

By Angel Davis, Vice President & Director of Legislation & Advocacy

This year's convention held many highlights. Delegates were able to attend workshops ranging from officer training to programs to implement in units to networking workshops designed to foster relationships for past conventions. Convention also had great speakers including National PTA representatives and Dr. C.J. Huff, Superintendent of Joplin Schools. One of the favorite activities at convention is the awards presentations. That is the time we get to brag on ourselves and show everyone what greatness our units have achieved over the past year. The majority of the awards presented to our membership are presented to units and councils since we can accomplish so much more together than on our own.

One of the few awards we recognize the individual for is advocacy efforts. Advocacy, one of PTA's founding principles, sets us apart from other parent groups. Elected officials know when a PTA member comes to speak to them, that member is representing all PTA members on behalf of all children. That voice gives each individual PTA member a lot of advocacy power. The Missouri PTA AtLaw Award recognizes the advocacy efforts of individuals, units and council throughout the legislative year. To earn the AtLaw Award members must be signed up for the JC/DC Network and then earn points by attending advocacy training and communicating PTA legislative priorities and stances to elected officials.

This year, four individual and six units/council AtLaw Awards were presented at convention, which happens to be an average number for the AtLaw Award. As advocacy is a founding principle of the PTA, it is the goal of the Legislation Department to increase the number of these awards presented each year.

"I don't need the recognition. I do it for the children." "I didn't think I earned enough points this year." "I just wouldn't know what to say to a legislator." These excuses and whatever your excuse is for not applying for the AtLaw Award in the past has been, it is time to get rid of that excuse. Sign up for the JC/DC Network by clicking on the "[Subscribe to Legislative Alerts](#)"

button on our [mopta.org](http://mopta.org) home page. Sign up for the National PTA Takes Action Network on the [pta.org/Advocacy](http://pta.org/Advocacy) webpage. Respond to the Legislative Alerts by clicking through the National PTA's email and following their directions and copying the information MOPTA will send in their email in your own email to one of your legislators. Download a copy of the AtLaw Award application found on the Forms/Awards page of the Missouri PTA website. Track your points and submit your application.

During the 99th Annual Convention in 2014 in Chesterfield, this Legislation Department would like to prove to our legislators that indeed our membership is a powerful, active voice in advocating for all children by handing out 50 AtLaw Awards to individuals. Join the JC/DC Network. Track your points. Send in your application.

### Congratulations to all the 2013 AtLaw Award Winners!

#### AtLaw Individual Award Recipients

Kim Weber  
Donna Petiford  
Dorothy Gardner  
Angel Davis

#### AtLaw Unit/Council Award Recipients

Lee's Summit Council of PTAs  
Prairie View Elementary PTA, Lee's Summit  
Trailridge Elementary PTA, Lee's Summit  
Richardson Elementary PTA, Lee's Summit  
Sunset Valley Elementary PTA, Lee's Summit  
Woodland Elementary PTA, Lee's Summit



Dorothy Gardner, Angel Davis & Donna Petiford



Dorothy Gardner, Kim Weber & Donna Petiford



Lee's Summit Council PTA



Trailridge Elementary PTA

## 2013 Annual Convention Service Project: Springfield Council of PTA's Clothing Bank

By Donna Petiford, MO State PTA Immediate Past-President

An August 30, 1932, Springfield News-Leader article cites the first year that the Springfield Council of PTAs participated in an annual clothing drive sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and the News-Leader. That year 200 children were reported to be unable to attend school because they did not have clothes to wear. In 1960 the Community Service League (now called the Junior League) joined with the PTA to establish a permanent clothing bank in a school basement. Currently the PTA Clothing Bank operates in a room provided by the Springfield Public Schools at the Study Alternative Center and serves the needs of approximately 1,300 students each school year in a store-like atmosphere. All SPS students who qualify for free and reduced lunches are eligible to shop for gently-used clothing up to three times per year and receive new socks and

underwear on their first visit.

A recent study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation suggests that focusing on forces outside of school such as lack of appropriate clothes or shoes is one of five "promising strategies" essential for any plan designed to reduce the dropout rate. The council feels that their clothing bank services benefit students in persistence to graduation by helping attendance and boosting self-esteem.

Springfield Council of PTAs appreciates all the donations that Missouri PTA convention delegates contributed to this project. For 81 years, this service has been supported solely by volunteers, both from the council board and from PTA/PTSA units throughout the Springfield district. With no overhead, 100% of all contributions go directly to support student success.

<http://scptamo.com/special-funds-and-projects/the-pta-clothing-bank/>



# SPRING

Into Action

## Grow Your PTA Garden

- ⊗ Increase your total membership as recorded in the state office on January 1, 2014 by 10%.
- ⊗ For each 10% increase your unit will be entered into a drawing for \$75.
- ⊗ The unit must be considered a "Unit in Good Standing" by January 1, 2014. Please see the Tool Kit or the Missouri PTA website, [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org), for these requirements.
- ⊗ All memberships must be postmarked by **March 1, 2014**.
- ⊗ The winning unit will be contacted by Michele Reed, MO PTA Vice President and Director of Membership Services after the drawing has been held. The winning unit will be listed on our website [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org).



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## Resurrecting Joplin: Superintendent Dr. Huff's Story

By Dorothy Gardner, President Elect



Can you imagine surviving one of the most deadly tornadoes recorded in our history? Now can you imagine being the one who everyone looked to when it came to gluing the community back together? Public schools are the centers of our communities. So when Joplin was struck by an EF-5 tornado on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011, right after high school commencement, superintendent Dr. Huff felt the weight on his shoulders to formulate a plan for recovery.

Following the storm, Dr. Huff went out

into the community to assess the damage. Immediately it became clear to the superintendent that multiple schools and child service buildings had been either destroyed or damaged. The road to recovery was an overwhelming endeavor to wrap his mind around. The night following the tornado, after many tears and a great deal of prayer, the picture of what he needed to do became clear. His job was to take care of the kids. Between 2am and 8am he came up with and devised a plan. A promise was made to the community – school was set to start in 84 days and they would indeed do what was needed to open school in 84 days.

How did they meet this goal? First, before the rebuilding of schools could begin (including eventually turning an empty mall into a state of the art high school) the immediate needs of the children and the community as a whole needed to be addressed. Buses ran as ambulances and emergency support. A team was created by the school district personal to attend funerals. District staff was trained on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Undamaged schools were opened as temporary shelters. The district provided not only summer school but also extended summer

school. Transportation was provided for impacted students and their families. C.A.R.E. substitutes were provided for impacted employees.

Dr. Huff shared with us the lessons he took away from this colossal disaster and how it was overcome. Vision matters. For a plan to be effective, a vision must first be realized and then communicated clearly. Relationships matter. It was their focus on connecting the community to the schools that made a difference. The resources to meet kids needs exist in the community. It is up to us to make that connection. Schools are only as good as the community that supports them.

Dr. Huff is an inspiring individual. This man, who left a career farming in Wichita because of the combined stress of the job and his inability to control the weather, used his resources and connections to wrap a community around a school and a school around a community. He closed our keynote at convention by urging all those attending to keep asking the question “how are the children”. Only by meeting the needs of the children do we create a bright future.

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## PTA Convention Networking Session

By Sarah Day, State Procedure & Bylaws Chair

Saturday afternoon the Missouri PTA Board of Managers hosted a Networking Session. Networking is essential in the growth and development for PTA Leaders. We all read the toolkits, attend workshops, surf the websites, and learn from our predecessors. All of those are beneficial, but the opportunity to sit with a variety of PTA leaders to ask questions and pick their brain can be invaluable.

At this Networking Session, National and State PTA Board of Managers were available to discuss a wide range of topics. Missouri PTA Past President, Mary Olyer and NPTA Leadership Development Chair, Darlene Harris shared their experience as State and National PTA leaders. Missouri PTA Treasurer, Shelly Throckmorton answered questions on unit financial requirements. Joyce Brewka, Membership Emphasis Chair shared tips for membership drives. The Male Engagement and Family Engagement Chairs, Richard Davis and June Hurdle were happy to host a table where everyone shared how their units were trying to make an impact in these areas. Of course, the Advocacy Area was advocating more legislative involvement.

The concept of networking may seem strange to some. I encourage everyone to try it. Even if you do not have a specific question to ask, take the time to join a table and observe. I guarantee you will discover a new idea, technique, program, or even just be inspired by hearing the other attendees' questions and struggles. You will hopefully leave with a sense that you may not have all the answers but you have met some great people who are there to support you any time you need it in the future.



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## **2012-2013 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

Outstanding membership efforts were recognized at the State Convention in October during the Awards Luncheon. Units and councils with the largest increases/totals compared to last year's total were awarded the prestigious Golden Gavel Award. These winners are listed below. Congratulations to those units and councils receiving the Exclusive 100 Award, Silver Acorn Award, Oak Leaf Certificate, 100% Faculty and the Honor Roll. A complete list of all award winners and how your unit can apply can be found at [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org).

### **UNIT WITH THE HIGHEST NUMERICAL INCREASE**

Benton High School  
St. Joseph School District, Pony Express Region

### **UNIT WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE**

Maplewood Elementary PTA  
North Kansas City School District, Pony Express Region

### **UNIT WITH THE HIGHEST MEMBERSHIP TOTAL**

Delta Woods Middle School  
Blue Springs School District, Three Trails Region

### **UNIT WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE BASED ON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA  
Blue Springs School District, Three Trails Region

### **COUNCIL GOLDEN GAVEL**

*(Highest percentage of total membership increase over previous year)*

Hickman Mills PTA Council  
Three Trails Region

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD**

*(Single PTA unit in Missouri that sells the highest number of business membership during the year.)*

Logan-Rogersville PTA  
Logan-Rogersville School District, Ozark Region

### **STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD**

*(By application. PTSA with the highest student membership based on % of school enrollment.)*

There were NO applications this year

### **OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN AWARD**

Parkway PTA  
St. Joseph School District, Pony Express Region

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## **First General Session Meeting**

*By Lori Prussman, Mo State PTA Treasurer*

President Donna Petiford dropped her bedazzled gavel for the last time to Call to Order the Saturday, October 19th General Session 1 at the 98th Annual State Convention held in Springfield. Amanda Rupert, Missouri PTA Student Representative gave the opening thought. After the Posting of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem, Convention Chair Kim Wrinkle welcomed the delegates to Springfield, followed by reading of the correspondence from Missouri PTA Administrative Assistant Angela Knight. President Donna Petiford welcomed four new units that had been chartered in the last year; Tiger Paw Early Childhood Center PTA, Marionville PTA, Kirksville Primary School PTA, and Ray Miller Elementary School PTA.

Introductions were made of the Missouri PTA Board of Managers and guests. Past Missouri PTA presidents; Chole Nitsch, Linda Hyde, Sherry Davis, Tina Zubeck, Kathy Nevans, Mary Oyler, and Wendy Jackson were introduced and recognized for their dedication to the children of Missouri. Treasurer Shelly Throckmorton gave the credentials report. Shelly also presented the treasurer's report and auditor's report to the general assembly.

Dr. Young gave a parliamentary briefing on the procedure for the upcoming bylaws amendments. The general assembly passed six amendments most notable was the amendment to move the annual convention from the fall to the spring. Patty Voss, Nominating Committee Chair, gave the report of the nominating committee that met in June. The nominations were...President, Kim Weber; President-Elect, Dorothy Gardner; Secretary, Norvel Johnson; Treasurer, Lori Prussman; VP of Legislation and Advocacy, Angel Davis; VP of Membership Services, Michele Reed; VP of Communications, Brigitte Lindstrom; VP of Field Services, Cathy Sweeny; VP of Programs, Susan Rupert. Having no one running from the floor for Election, the election of officers was held by a voice vote. The election was completed and the nominees became the newly elected officers.

National PTA had several representatives at our convention; Kathy Nevans, Jude Bruno, Darlene Harris and Pano Kallis. Each addressed the delegation and were warmly received. We were so pleased to have so many attending. The meeting was adjourned and lunch was served.



## **Early Bird Awards**

were presented during the Awards Luncheon on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Springfield. These awards recognize those units that sent in the highest membership based upon last year's total membership to the state office (postmarked) on or before September 27, 2013.

## ***Congratulations !!!***

*Early Childhood / Elementary / Special Education Level*

**Barrington Elementary PTA  
Hazelwood School District  
Gateway Region**

*Middle School / Jr. High / Combined Level*

**Heritage Middle School PTSA  
Liberty School District  
Pony Express Region**

*High School Level*

**Blue Jay Nation PTSA  
Liberty School District  
Pony Express Region**

## **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

*By Linda Klender, Past MO State PTA Secretary*

Kathy Nevans, National PTA Resolution's Committee Member and past Missouri State PTA President presented a workshop on Conflict Resolutions at the 98th Missouri State PTA Convention.

As PTA leaders, conflict is a subject most of us would rather not encounter. Kathy's workshop gave instruction on how to handle the situation when conflict does occur. Key points discussed were: to identify the real issue of the conflict, initiate the discussion about the conflict, and use active listening. During the discussion ask clarifying questions why or why not. Silence can be very effective as well. Be consistent with verbal and non verbal language. And make eye contact throughout the discussion.

Kathy's steps to solving conflict: be calm, be patient and always have respect for the other person. The end result may be to agree to disagree. However, everyone would rather have a solution to the conflict.

For more on this workshop and others presented at the Missouri PTA Convention, visit the Missouri PTA website. [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org) -> PTA Members Section.

User name: Diversity  
Password: Means

## **NPTA Member Benefits**

Check out the National PTA, [www.pta.org](http://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.

### **AARP – New PTA Benefit Coming Soon!**



Starting soon, age-qualifying PTA Members not currently AARP members will qualify for a one-year gift AARP membership who activate their member card online at [pta.org/activate](http://pta.org/activate)! With substantial discounts through AARP on a wide variety of everyday and essential services, this collaboration between PTA and AARP further encourages grandparents and seniors to actively support our nation's children and save big in the process. Plus, PTA Members who have an existing

AARP membership soon will be able to access special discounts on AARP membership renewal—for all terms—plus a special lifetime membership offer!

### **T-Mobile**



The National PTA has teamed with T-Mobile® to bring members special wireless deals offering:  
14% Discount every month on EVERY Line  
No Annual Service Contract(s)  
All Plans include Unlimited TALK+TEXT+WEB (Less than \$100/month for Unlimited service for a Family of 5) Waived Activation Fees and Free Shipping

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# NPTA Member Benefits

e-Trak's **Alert** allows a child who is lost, hurt, or eTrak, the world's smallest location tracking device, is FREE to PTA parents. Plus, each subscription order earns a local unit \$6 and \$2 each for state and National PTA. It is the child safety solution parents have been looking for!



## eTrak is affordable!

The device is free to PTA parents (regularly \$129). An activation charge of \$39 and nominal monthly fee of \$15, guaranteed for twenty-four months, is a reasonable price to help keep children safe and give parents peace of mind. Please visit [etrak.com/pta](http://etrak.com/pta) or call (800) 279-1261 to obtain a free device, subscribe to the tracking service, and earn PTA donations.



## Hertz #1 Club Gold®

Enroll and receive expedited service, free rental days and special deals. This service is free to PTA members—(A \$60 savings!). **JOIN NOW!**

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 up to 20% off using discount **CDP# 1929580** every time you reserve.

## Hertz Benefits

Save up to 20% using discount CDP# 1929580

Special promotions in addition to your discount

## More Savings

Hertz Special Offers—Check out the latest deals to use in addition to your discount. Just reserve with your discount **CDP# 1929580** and a Special Offer **PC#** and Save!

Reserve online or call (800) 654-2210.



To become part of the Staples PTA Discount Program just join a local PTA and activate your 2013-2014 PTA Member Card at [www.pta.org/activate](http://www.pta.org/activate)

The world's largest office products company proudly supports individual PTA members and PTA units with an exclusive year-round in-store discount, including:

- 10% off supplies and furniture
- 25% off copy & print
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- Free shipping on Staples.com

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## Missouri PTA would like to thank the following for their Door Prize Donations to the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri PTA Convention:

Silver Dollar City, Branson      Track Family Fun Park, Branson      Grand Country Music Hall, Branson  
Discovery Center, Springfield      Springfield Little Theater      St Louis Cardinals  
Dana Patterson      Kansas City Royals      Gardner Construction, Liberty  
Juanita K Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts, Springfield

# Congratulations

### Prize winners

\$50 Discover Gift Card – Was used for survey—Christine Kent

\$100 Discover Gift Card – Barbette Chaffer

\$100 Best Buy Gift Card- Sayna Smith

One Field Box Seat for any 2014 Home Game – Springfield Cardinals – Rachel Dowdy

4 Test Driver Track cards – 1 Free Go-Kart or Bumper Boat Ride or Round of Mini Golf/Laser Tag – John Michael Rupert

2 All-Show Passes (2014) for Grand Country Music Hall – Christine Kent

4 Free Admissions Passes to Discovery Center – Charla Thomas

2 One-Day Admissions to Silver Dollar City for the 2014 Season – Carrie Marsh

2 Free Admissions to Nov 7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Performance of Dream Carver at the Juanita K. Hammons Hall. – Cathy Lample

2 Free Admissions to 1 show of AACT New Play Festival – Exit Laughing – November 15-24, 2013 – Jane Smith

2 Reserved Seats St. Louis Cardinals for a Mon – Thurs Home Game – Deb Lumas

4 HyVee Infield Seats 2014 Royals Game at Kauffman Stadium – Jill Morrison

Google Chrome Notebook – Christy Nelson

JCDC \$25 Amazon Gift Card – June Smith



## The Convention Voice of MOPTA

By Angie Carey, Gateway Regional Dir

An estimated 300 PTA members drove to Springfield, MO for the 98th Annual Missouri State PTA Convention on the weekend of October 18th – 21st, 2013. They consisted of parents, teachers, community leaders, school district administration, National PTA delegates and both high school and college students. For some first-timers, it can seem like a daunting experience. But all I can say in my best Oprah Winfrey voice is “Don’t be scarred!” Read on for some great convention advice from veterans and first-timers so you can be ready to join us October 2014 in Chesterfield, MO.

### Before You Arrive

Preparing is key, an elementary school treasurer from Blue Springs, suggests that attendees “start asking every delegate in your unit who is coming to convention, which training session they are attending, so you will have a diverse representation at the conference to learn different topics. Also looking at where your local unit is weak and/or strong, to identify the training sessions that would best suit your needs”.

“Rest up before you come!” warns the student delegates “because you are not going to get much sleep the weekend of convention – nor will you want to once you are there. The convention is jammed packed with great training sessions, exhibitors and networking opportunities.” Burchell McGhee, a veteran of PTA who is currently serving as a Legislative Chair, advises first-timers to “travel light — pack your basics, because convention will provide you with everything else you need”.

### Once You Are There

Are you up on the latest social media trends? Well no worries, convention offers a course on how to Tweet or make a Facebook page for your local unit. Speaking of Twitter, look at this year’s convention hashtag to see all the comments from attendees, #MOPTA13. Look for #MOPTA14 at the next convention, you’ll be able to quickly find out where all the cool exhibitors are, best information, where the fun is, and where the unexpectedly fun events are happening.”

There’s a lot going on, but “pace yourself,” advises first-timer Kim. “Don’t forget to eat, drink plenty of water and attend the networking sessions and vendor exhibits.”

### Other Comments

“It was very well organized, I am impressed by the things PTA is doing for all children across the nation and state. The hospitality from Missouri PTA hosts was above and beyond, we did not “want” for anything or have to leave the hotel for anything, well feed both physically with food and mentally with information.”- Sharon Crawford, Hazelwood Central High School Hospitality Chair

“It was a great time at MOPTA State Convention surrounded by people who care for all children, not just our own. Thanks for sharing yourself and time; I was so proud of the representation Hazelwood School District PTA’s. I had fun and enjoy being around great company.”- Pat H.

“I had fun, learned some things and met some great people. I can’t wait to start the planning for HSD hosting 2014. The date is already on my calendar!”- Steven, Hazelwood School District PTA Council

“It was soooooo good to see Hazelwood School District very well

represented, had fun and learned a lot. Thanks everybody, waiting for October 17, 2014!”- Aisha Faulkner, Area VP, Hazelwood School District PTA Council

“I learned a lot, and the idea exchanges have given me new ideas to increase membership and market events for HCHS”- Margaret, Membership Chair, HCHS PTSA

Ok, there it is, direct quotes from this year’s attendees, don’t miss out. MOPTA Convention is an adequate use of funds to invest in your unit for growth, increased advocacy, and involvement to represent every child. Thanks for all you do for PTA. We appreciate you and look forward to seeing you in 2014.



### NPTA Member Benefits

## MetLife Auto & Home®

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<http://www.myahprogram.com/PTA>.

MetLife Auto & Home® has partnered with the National PTA to provide members with access to valuable features and benefits, including special group discounts on auto insurance.



All Reflections entries  
must be submitted  
to MO PTA either digitally  
or physically by  
Jan 16, 2014 @ 4:30 PM

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### January 2014

#### National Mentoring Month

- 1 Dues to State Office  
New Year's Day
- 2 MOPTA State Office Reopens  
Martin Luther King Day
- 16 Reflections Submissions Due to  
State Office by 4:30pm

### February 2014

#### American Heart Month

#### Black History Month

- 1 Dues to State Office
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 President's Day  
National PTA Founders Day

### March 2014

#### National Nutrition Month

#### National Women's History Month

- 1 Dues to State Office
- 4 Mardi Gras
- 5 Ash Wednesday
- 9 Daylight Savings Starts
- 17 St. Patrick's Day

### Exhibitor Highlights

By Patty Voss, Administrative Assistant

Our exhibit hall was filled with many new ideas for our units and councils this year in Springfield. We had vendors promoting science, carnival ideas, Santa shop, stain remover, school pictures and yearbook publishing, not to mention many vendors offering catalog fund-raisers.

Exhibitors also provided information on Missouri programs, MOST-Missouri 529 College savings Plan, Missouri National Education Association and Missouri Safe and Sober, which is geared toward our high school students.

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

A special **Thank You** goes out to all of our sponsors and vendors for supporting PTA.

### NPTA Member Benefits

#### Focus Education, creator of ifocus

*ifocus* is a multi-award winning attention training system for children ages 6-12. Using the Jungle Rangers computer game as its centerpiece, *ifocus* is the fun and scientific way to improve attention, focus, and memory, and is supported with behavioral, nutrition, and fitness components that encourage family engagement. Visit

[www.JungleRangersChallenge.com](http://www.JungleRangersChallenge.com) to

learn more about how school fundraising, family savings, and student achievement is possible with just one program—*ifocus*.



### Convention from a Students Point of View

By Sierra Brewka

I had an awesome weekend at convention. I learned a lot from the workshops I attended. In the very first workshop I was in, we made a PSA (public service announcement). It was over distracted driving. (This will be posted on the state website [mopta.org](http://mopta.org))

In another workshop, I learned about budgeting. We played a life-sized game of LIFE. You chose whether you got an allowance or you worked. By the end of the game, I had earned \$160 off of a \$15 dollar allowance.

I really enjoyed the keynote speaker, Dr. Huff. He is the superintendent from Joplin, MO, where the EF-5 tornado hit on May 22, 2011 shortly after graduation. What he said really stuck with me. He showed me that with teamwork anything is possible. I know it was really hard for him to share his experience with us. It was a real tear jerking presentation.

Through all of the workshops, we learned to work together. We may have been from all across Missouri but we all came together and became friends. This will definitely not be an experience I'll be forgetting anytime soon. I also plan to attend next year.

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## Missouri PTA Officers

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**Meeting Coordinator:**  
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How  
May  
We  
Help  
You

**WE WANT TO SEE YOUR  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS....**

**Who will accept  
the challenge?**



*Foothills? Gateway? Heritage? Mark Twain Meramec? Ozark? Pony  
Express? Three Trails?*

Send your PTA stories and/or photos to the *CONTACT* magazine and  
show the other Missouri PTA units what **YOUR UNIT** is all about!!!!

#### **NPTA Member Benefits**

# **SHARP.**

Sharp supports National PTA members and their work to improve the lives of students and educators throughout the country by donating electronics to support their efforts. Sharp Electronics Corporation is the U.S. subsidiary of Japan's Sharp Corporation. Recently celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year, Sharp is a worldwide developer of one-of-a-kind home entertainment products, appliances, networked multifunctional office solutions, educational products, LED lighting and mobile communication and information tools. Leading brands include AQUOS<sup>®</sup> Quattron<sup>™</sup> LCD televisions, AQUOS BOARD<sup>™</sup> interactive display systems, SharpVision<sup>®</sup> projectors, Insight<sup>®</sup> Microwave Drawer<sup>®</sup> ovens, Notevision<sup>®</sup> multimedia projectors and Plasmacluster<sup>®</sup> air purifiers.

National PTA gratefully acknowledges Sharp's most  
recent contribution of a 60" flat screen LCD television to the  
2013 National PTA Convention Passport Challenge Prize Pool.