

Missouri Parent Teacher Association

CONTACT

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Today



It takes a LOT of work to put together a convention. The Board of Managers and Delegates would like to extend a special thanks to our 2007 Convention Chair Pat Wehmeyer and Assistant Annette Schulte for their countless hours of hard work and planning. And also, thank you to Cindy Brodhacker who brought in awesome programs; Columbia Public Schools System for providing state of the art AV equipment for our general assemblies and workshops; Hy-Vee, who donated food to the hospitality room; and both Columbia Council PTA and Sni Bar PTA who rounded up great volunteers.

Thanks to our convention sponsor ACS who brought us the touching and insightful Rachel's Challenge.



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“Rachel's Challenge” sponsored by ACS Security

Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing programs in America.



Cover photo:

2007 PTA Convention

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CONTACT Staff**President/Publisher** Mary Oyler**Editor** Dorothy Gardner**Production Staff****Graphic Designer** Olivia S. Gill**Welcome to a New Year** *By Mary Oyler, Missouri PTA President*

As this New Year begins, so begins the second half of our PTA year. How is your unit doing? Are you reaching the goals set last August? Is there still much to be done to keep parents engaged and involved in their children's education?

Do you feel as if there are not enough hours to do everything your unit would like to accomplish? Do you wonder what else can we do to help our teachers, student and parents? Has your unit talked about advocating for children? Are next year's leaders stepping forward?

Let's look at how your unit is doing and where you stand on reaching your goals for the year. Membership is always an important goal to units. National PTA is offering a January promotion for membership "New Year . . . New Opportunities." Units received information about this in a November mailing – if you haven't made plans to use these new tools – please reconsider. Many families have moved into your school community since your Back-To-School membership drive. Please give your new parents the opportunity to show support for their school and the children. Reach out to them with a great get-to-know you night – maybe work with your school to help explain MAP testing and how parents can help their child be successful.

Now, are you feeling overwhelmed – need a break? Why not reach out to parents that have never helped and personally ask them to join in with the programs and activities that are coming up this spring? It's amazing what a personal call can do to make someone feel welcome and needed. The more people you have involved the less work everyone has to do. Check with your school office to work out a way to contact new families and invite them to be a part of your group.

Are you stuck on coming up with a new program to encourage parents and teachers to work together? Why not pull out that program planning CD that was included in your back-to-school kit and look for a new program that would benefit your school community? Think about planning some kind of physical fitness program to get everyone in shape for spring and summer sports and other activists. The ideas are endless – March is Music in Your Schools Month and National Nutrition Month – April is National Sports Safety Month. Visit the calendar on our new website (www.mopta.org) for more ideas and links to help plan programs.

You're probably wondering, how can I advocate? The legislature will be back in session soon. There will be issues coming up that affect our children and their education. Be sure to check our website for the latest information about what is happening in Jefferson City and look for the National PTA legislative newsletter, emailed to all members registered in OMDR, for news at the federal level. Missouri PTA sponsored legislative rallies or forums will be taking place across the state – watch for one in your area. Invite your friends and neighbors to join in when you sit down and visit with your local legislators. The legislators want to know how their constituents feel about the issues presented to them on the legislative floor.

Last but not least, it's time to elect your unit's nominating committee so they can start the search for leaders to carry on the wonderful work of your unit. Take time to read your bylaws and the information provided in the Tool Kit and Winter Packet concerning the importance of the nominating committee. Be ready to step up and help where you are asked to serve. With everyone's commitment, PTA will flourish in your community.

Everyone plays a very important part in the lives of the children in their community. By believing that TODAY can be the very best day for each and every child, you will make a difference in the life of each and every one of them.

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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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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 well-being 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

Believe in the Power of PTA!

By Betsy Landers, National PTA Secretary-Treasurer



What a terrific theme for the Missouri Convention. And what an incredible convention! We had the opportunity to network with leaders from across the state and

took time to honor many worthy individuals and local units. In addition to welcoming new officers to the State leadership, we said "thank you" to a committed and dedicated president, Kathy Nevans. It was a whirlwind few days!

You took advantage of the leadership training provided in the workshops and like me, were moved by the very personal and emotional presentation of

Craig Scott. More importantly, you did the work that will make a very real difference in the lives of the children that we serve. Your knowledge and debate of the important issues and on the resolutions was impressive. Doing the business of PTA is truly what convention is all about; and it is what enables us to go home to our communities and continue to help make the lives of our children better.

There are a number of highlights for me personally. The Health Fair, the students did a phenomenal job of planning and executing the event. It was such a fun way to get across the importance of our families' health, and a concept that I have shared with others. "Boom Chick a Boom," who of us will ever forget Patty Buckholz at the Kick-Off Luncheon!

Most memorable, however, were all of you! You welcomed me into your PTA family and made me feel so very special. I was overwhelmed to be awarded the Distinguished Service Award and I shall never forget this incredible honor that Missouri PTA bestowed on me. For that, and all the special moments and small kindnesses, I sincerely thank you. As a proud member of the Show Me PTA, I feel blessed to have been a part of your convention and all that you continue to do each and every day on behalf of our children!

Newsflash!

Governor Proclamation

On Wednesday, November 14, 2007, Governor Blunt signed a Proclamation creating a Parent and Family Involvement in Education Week. PTA traveled down to Jefferson City not only to show support but also to celebrate this event.

"WHEREAS, the first week of February, 2008 shall be "Parent and Family Involvement in Education Week" and all Missourians are encouraged to observe activities that will bring an increased awareness of the importance and benefits of parent and family involvement in education and encourage greater involvement of parents and families in their children's education, both in the school and in the home;"

The benefits of parental involvement are many. More than 85 rigorous studies conducted over the past 30 years have shown that when parents are involved kids do better. Grades are higher. Test scores improve. Attendance increases. This is regardless of the economic, ethnic or cultural background of the family. Parent involvement is a major factor in determining success in school.

We need to continue to encourage our parents to not only get involved, but also stay connected with our schools. Visit the Parent Resources section on the National PTA website (www.pta.org) for 100 Ways to Help Your Child and School Succeed.



General Meeting Wrap Up 2007

By Patty Buckholz, Administrative Assistant

The General Meetings of the PTA Convention are the heart of the gathering. This is the time when business that must come before the general membership is dealt with, much as it is at a local PTA unit meeting. Since the general membership meets but once a year the business is never short, this year was no exception.

Three separate meetings were held on Friday afternoon, Friday evening, and again



on Saturday afternoon. In the course of the meetings there were keynote presentations by guest speakers Betsy Landers, National PTA Secretary-Treasurer and Craig Scott of Rachel's Challenge. Guests included Dr. Phyllis Chase of Columbia Public Schools and Dr. Carter Ward of MSBA. The entire Board of Managers was introduced.

Dr. Leonard Young briefed the delegates on the basic points of parliamentary procedure. Business included eight separate amendments to the bylaws to clarify language; one amendment added language to define a council in good standing. Business also included election

of officers: Mary Oyler, President; Wendy Jackson, President-Elect; Donna Petiford, VP Legislation & Advocacy; Jennifer Casey, VP Membership Services; Kim Weber, VP Field Service; Barb Gilmore, VP Programs; Scott Jennings, VP Communications; Pat Wehmeyer, Secretary; and Pat Brune, Treasurer. Two resolutions were adopted entitled: "Third Party Child Abuse Reporting in Missouri Schools" and "Physical Health and Fitness."

Reports were received from the President, the Treasurer, the Auditors, the Legislative Department and on the Student Project, the Health Fair. Awards were presented to the winners of the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Excellence in Education Partnership Award, the Health and Safety Grants and Scholarships. Past Presidents were honored with a mini



review of their years, and gifts. Slide shows of the 2006-2007 Missouri PTA activities, the 2007 National PTA convention in St. Louis, and the 2007 Missouri PTA convention were shown. Courtesy resolutions were extended to retiring President Kathy Nevans and to the convention body. Mary Oyler, newly elected President, gave remarks to begin her term of office.

During the eight hours of general meetings business was conducted, successes were celebrated, the gavel was passed, and door prizes were given galore!



New Board (from left to right): Mary Oyler, Wendy Jackson, Pat Wehmeyer, Pat Brune, Donna Petiford, Kim Weber, Jennifer Casey, Barb Gilmore and Scott Jennings

Missouri Lions Eyeglass Collection

In an effort to help those in need, delegates were asked to bring in eyeglasses to be donated to the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation. There is a desperate need for eyeglasses for those individuals who live in third world countries. Eyeglasses are collected and sent with professionals on mission trips to provide vision care for the needy. Our goal was to collect one hundred pair of eyeglasses and we would have been elated to meet our goal. Instead delegates turned in over 200 pairs of eyeglasses. Needless to say we were ecstatic! Huge thanks to all those delegates who participated.

www.mopta.org

Unit Receives Nintendo Wii

All units attending the convention were given an opportunity to win a Nintendo Wii for their unit. Nintendo of America offered one gaming system and a copy of Big Brain Academy: Wii Degree. Units completed an application form stating why their unit should receive the Wii, how multiple children would use it and why their program would benefit children and advance the Mission of PTA.

James Bridger PTSA of Independence is the winner of the Nintendo Wii Game system. Heather Howell, President, wrote that the system would be made available at PTSA mixers and to students receiving special education in order to increase motor skills. She also wrote that they would make it available to not only the five elementary schools that feed into their school but youth organizations in their community.

Our winner will be featured in a future issue of CONTACT.

10 WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIP

1. **DISPLAY** membership awards received at meetings or hang them in the school.
2. **WHEN** a member sells a membership, enter their membership card number in a drawing for door prizes at selected meetings.
3. **ATTRACT** attention to your second request letter by crumpling it up, then flattening it out and writing in red across the top, "I'm sure this got lost in the pile of paperwork that comes with the start of school!"
4. **ASK** that TV & radio stations' program directors to include PTA in any interview or "talk" shows appropriate for parent involvement or views. Be sure to have articulate and well-informed PTA representatives.
5. **BUDGET** money and encourage your membership chair to attend state & district leadership conferences.
6. **PAT** your PTA on the back for a job well done. Develop a line art ad that may be placed in school papers, shopper newspapers, and other newsletters. Use a headline like "We're Bragging!" followed by, "We wanted to be subtle, but decided that we are really doing too many good things for kids to be low key..."
7. **MAKE** a PTA "Honor Roll" and display it in the hall listing every member's name.
8. **ESTABLISH** a special grandparent's award for the grandparents most actively involved in your PTA.
9. **FOCUS** on instrumental and vocal students. Sponsor a concert with a big PTA membership night.
10. **COUNCILS** Train a "speaker's bureau" group to go to various groups and speak about the benefits of PTA. Perhaps a parent, teacher & student could speak together.

ATTENTION:

The OMDR system will be down for maintenance and unavailable to users from January 5 - January 16, 2008.

Thanks to our convention sponsor LIFT

Membership Award Recipients

Congratulations to the winners of the following 2006-2007 Membership Awards. These were presented at the Kick-off Luncheon during the Missouri State Convention.



Students Make A Difference Award

- Northgate Middle School PTSA, Pony Express Region
Application Award for the Unit with the highest percentage of student members based on school enrollment.

Community Involvement Award

- Logan-Rogersville Elementary PTA, Ozark Region
Unit with the highest number of business members. This unit had 66 business members.

Golden Gavel Awards – these are awarded in 5 different categories

- William Chrisman High School PTSA, Three Trails Region
Unit with the highest numerical increase in membership. William Chrisman increased their membership by 474 members.
- Eldon Elementary PTA, Ozark Region
Unit with the highest percentage increase in membership.
- Truman High School PTSA, Three Trails Region
Unit with the highest membership total. Truman's membership totaled 1,022 members.

- Coleman Elementary PTA, Pony Express Region
Unit with the highest membership percentage based on school enrollment.
- Grandview PTA Council, Three Trails Region
Council with the highest percentage of total membership increase over previous year.

The following 2007-2008 Membership Awards were also presented during convention.

Early Bird Awards - These are based upon the number of memberships received by the state office on or before Sept. 21, 2007. Each category's unit had the highest membership percentage based on last year's total membership.

- Stafford Preschool PTA, Ozark Region (Preschool Level)
- Russell Blvd. Elementary PTA, Heritage Region (Elementary Level)
- Liberty Junior High School PTSA, Pony Express Region (Jr./Middle School Level)
- Park Hill High School PTSA, Pony Express Region (High School Level)
- Greenwood Lab PTA, Ozark Region (Combined Unit)

Congratulations to all our award winning units – MO PTA wishes you all continued success in this 2007-2008 year.



SHOW ME STATE PTA Annual Meeting

By Tina Zubeck, Past Show Me PTA President

Show Me State PTA held its annual meeting at the Missouri PTA convention in October. Show Me State PTA was organized in 1997 as a statewide PTA unit primarily for those persons who support the Purposes and Mission of PTA, but do not have a local unit to join. However, many persons who hold other PTA memberships continue to join Show Me State PTA to show their support for this unit. This is a great way to get your school board members, legislators and administrative staff to get involved. They can purchase one membership and be involved in PTA.

Items on the agenda included a report by our PTA National convention delegate, Julie Kays, bylaws review discussion and a new membership drive promotion. The members voted to make a \$100 contribution to the Missouri PTA scholarships.

Our membership drive at convention resulted in 35 individual and one business memberships. Membership is open and everyone is invited to join! We encourage you to join and share this opportunity with others!! You can find the application on the new Missouri PTA website.

A drawing was held for a registration to the 2008 PTA National convention. The winner of the drawing was Annie Cockrum with Cathy Sweeny and Karen Jeffrey as alternates.



Experiencing Rachel's Challenge

By Pat Brune, Missouri PTA Treasurer

At Friday night's Keynote address we had an inspiration speaker at our convention. Craig Scott told his story of the Columbine shootings. Rachel Scott, Craig's sister, was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America - Rachel's Challenge. Rachel had a habit of reaching out to people in her school that no one else reached out to. In an essay written before her death titled, "My Ethics, My Codes of Life," Rachel challenged her readers to "start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion." She challenged us not to judge people by first impressions. She talked about looking into a person's eyes and finding the good in them, to look beyond their appearance and into their hearts. One of Rachel's heroes was Anne Frank and Craig told of some of the similarities between them. They both kept diaries and wrote about the importance of kindness. They both shared a sense of destiny and purpose, and both had the premonition that they would die young. He told of how her simple acts of kindness helped two students from her school not commit suicide. He told of how she believed her life was going to impact the world and touch the hearts of



millions of people. Craig told us of two drawings Rachel had done. One was of her eyes, which were crying clear teardrops. But they turned to drops of blood when they touched a rose that was growing out of the ground. And another picture Rachel had drawn the same rose with blood drops, but the rose was growing out of a columbine flower. What they found amazing was in the first picture she had 13 teardrops falling from her eyes and that 13 people died that day in Columbine High School. Craig then went on the challenge us to: 1: Eliminate Prejudice-by looking for the best in others; 2: Dare to Dream-set goals and keep a journal; 3: Choose your influences-inputs determines output; 4: Kind Words-small acts of kindness=HUGE impact; and 5: Start a Chain Reaction with family and friends.

There wasn't a dry eye in the audience after his amazing retelling of his and Rachel's story of America's most tragic high school shooting. He made us all think and challenged us to carry on Rachel's story of inspiration, courage and

kindness. If you are interested in having Rachel's challenge come to your school you can contact them at www.rachelschallenge.com.

Phoebe Apperson Hearst National Excellence in Education Partnership Award

By Mary Oyler, Missouri PTA President



Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA in Lee's Summit, in the Three Trails Region, received an honorable mention for their cultural arts program. Local community artists worked with the school's art teacher to introduce students to specific pieces of art, explained how the pieces were created and by whom. Two years ago, one of their projects was the introduction of George Seraut's pointillism masterpiece, A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of LaGrande Jatte. After this lesson the masterpiece was divided into 640 squares and each student was given a square and ceramic tile. They replicated their square on the tile using the pointillism technique. The tiles were then assembled in the hall of the school. This past school year the students worked on a unique mosaic and clay project that is displayed in the courtyard of their school.

Franklin Elementary PTA in Liberty, Pony Express Region, is the 2007 recipient of the Missouri PTA Phoebe Apperson Hearst Excellence in Education Partnership Award.



The title of their program is "Passport to Reading." Franklin Elementary PTA was tired of traditional fundraisers and wanted to develop a program that would not only fund their budget, but would above all else help increase student achievement by encouraging students to read. This program was developed with input from the parents, teachers, librarian and the school administrators. It was a 4-week "Drop Everything and Read" program with a different twist. Not only were parents involved, but also businesses in their community set up reading areas for the students. A Read-In was staged at the Rotary

Plaza Park on the Square in Liberty. Pep Rallies were held with students from the middle and high schools cheering the students on. Even the local college students from William Jewel joined in on the festivities. Local businesses sponsored students in reading journeys and as the program came to an end, every student received a new book. Local businesses also provided prizes for top readers in each classroom. During this four-week period, the students of Franklin Elementary spent over 148,600 minutes reading outside of the classroom. Publicity from this program has brought adults into the school to read to or with children. As we all know, the more a child reads or is read to the more successful they will be in school. Franklin Elementary's original community partner was The Rotary Club. But as the program progressed, local businesses joined into the partnership to help the children succeed.

Be watching the Winter Packet for the 2007 - 2008 application for the Phoebe Apperson Hearst National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award Application or check our website (www.mopta.org). Great programs involving partnerships between the school and community are taking place across Missouri. Share your success with us as well as the rest of the country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEADERS PROJECT CLASS OF 2007

NAME	PTA UNIT	CITY	REGION
Christine Adkins	North Platte	Clarksdale	Pony Express
Lisa Boeding	Springfield Council	Springfield	Ozark
Jamie Conaty	Voy Spears Jr. Elem	Blue Springs	Three Trails
Angel Davis	Blue Ridge Elem	Columbia	Heritage
Lynda Hansen	Lucy Franklin Elem	Blue Springs	Three Trails
Lou Hibdon	Raytown South HS	Raytown	Three Trails
Heather Howell	William Southern Elem	Independence	Three Trails
Carmen Kraus	Raytown South MS	Raytown	Three Trails
Lisa Lohman	William Southern Elem	Independence	Three Trails
Destiny Mack	Prairie View Elem	Lee's Summit	Three Trails
Stephanie Miller	Laura Ingels Wilder Elem	Springfield	Ozark
Ava Payne	Delta Woods MS	Blue Springs	Three Trails
Michele Reed	James Lewis Elem	Blue Springs	Three Trails
Susan Rupert	Cameron PTA	Cameron	Pony Express
Kerri Sommer	Paxton Keeley Elem	Columbia	Heritage
Maggie Wiechman	Cameron PTA	Cameron	Pony Express



AtLaw Award

By Kathy Howard, Resource Development Chairman



The AtLAW Award is a prestigious legislative award. This award is the Advocacy through Legislation Award. It is a tool to help PTA members, units and councils to become more involved in advocating on behalf of Missouri's children. Each year, members, units, and councils are encouraged to stay in communication with government officials at the local, state, and national levels. They are also encouraged to report to their units and councils on the status of legislative activities.

In order to qualify for this award, members, units and councils keep track of their advocacy efforts by using the AtLAW form found in the winter packet or on www.mopta.org. Awards are given to those members, units, and councils who accumulate 200 points through their advocacy. This year's awardees are: Kathy Howard, Scott Jennings, Peggy Preston, Donna Petiford and the Springfield Council.

By attending the annual Kids First Regional Rally in your area and by earning 200 points through your advocacy efforts, you, too, could be a recipient of the AtLAW award.

Third Party Child Abuse Reporting Policy Resolution

By Denise McCarter, Resolutions Chairman

The Third Party Child Abuse Reporting Policy resolution was adopted by the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers at the 2007 Convention held in Columbia on October 12-14, 2007.

This resolution addresses the gap in the law that allows those who report child abuse or suspected child abuse by a school employee to the school administration to be open to civil liability if the administration takes action toward the employee who was reported. According to the Missouri Revised Statutes, Chapter 210 "Child Protection and Reformation" in Section 135, "Any person...in the making of a report in cooperation with the Division of Family Services (DFS) shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that otherwise might result by reason of such actions." The current law protects those who report child abuse to the Division of Family Services, but those who report abuse by a school employee to a school administration are vulnerable to civil litigation. A parent's most important responsibility in raising their child is to ensure that child's safety. Think for a minute about your own children. Do you believe it should be your right to protect your child?

What if you honestly believed that your child or other children were being abused in school? Would you do the right thing and report it?

In Jackson County, in 2003, a family was sued by a part-time, temporary school employee who was released partly in response to a report of suspected abuse that the family made in good faith to the school administration. The family incurred almost \$100,000 in legal expenses defending their right to protect their child and other children. They did what they believed was the right thing to do, and they paid quite a cost.

Now that the PTA has adopted the "Third Party Child Abuse Reporting Policy" resolution, we will be able to use our collective voice of nearly 85,000 members statewide to close this gap in the law and make our schools a safer place for our children.

The first action that PTA will work to put in place is legislation that protects third party child abuse reporters. We are all responsible for the safety and welfare of our children, and the fact that this gap in the law exists discourages parents or others from ever reporting abuse of any kind for fear of legal retaliation.

The second set of actions that PTA will take

is to promote child abuse awareness within families and schools and will create, promote, and provide usable abuse reporting procedures and policies for schools.

The PTA is one of our children's largest advocates. Two of the stated purposes of the PTA are 1) to promote the welfare of children and youth, and 2) To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth. Take advantage of your membership in PTA, and contact your local representatives. Let them know that you are concerned about this gap in the law, and tell them that you want them to become involved in sponsoring this bill. Contact information for all Missouri legislators is available on the PTA website.

The resolution can also be viewed on the new PTA website. Go to www.mopta.org, and click on legislation, resolutions, Health/Safety, and then Third Party Child Abuse Reporting in Missouri Schools. If you have questions about this resolution, contact Donna Petiford, Vice President of Legislation and Advocacy or Denise McCarter, Resolutions Chairman.

Making Real World Decisions in the Real World

By Allison Thiele, Past Student Representative

What can make an educational topic that is not all that exciting fun? Officer John Warner. This workshop presented early Saturday afternoon educated students on the effects drinking alcohol has on the body and included a demonstration complete with 'drunk' goggles.

This was my favorite workshop of convention because while it was educational about drinking, it was presented in a way that advocated being informed over all else. It is easy enough to simply tell someone that they should not drink as a minor, but to be able to lay out the facts about drinking and show why it is illegal for minors is another animal. I enjoyed this workshop because it was very informative while it kept things fun.

Throughout the workshop the students learned how alcohol affects people differently because of different physical attributes people have. Some of these attributes included the height, weight, and gender of the individual in question. But beyond these factors, which are easy to see, Officer Warner also discussed the rate of consumption of different alcoholic beverages along with tolerance. It was explained how all drinks 'are not created equally.' While some drinks only have a little bit of volume, they have a high alcohol content, as much as forty percent for most hard liquors, while beers tend to have only five percent alcohol. Tolerance

was explained because it is a very important concept to understand. It is entirely possible for someone to be legally drunk by their blood alcohol content but be acting normally because they have a high tolerance for alcohol. The tolerance effect is created because the body

has a specified blood alcohol content. These goggles distort the vision of the wearer to such an extent that it becomes difficult to walk a straight line or perform simple tasks such as catching a ball. Andrew really exemplified the effects of being drunk because he could not easily

walk in a straight line and could not catch an object that was thrown toward him because of faulty depth perception. While everyone laughed at Andrew's inability to perform simple tasks, it was also emphasized that Andrew, if he were actually drunk, would not realize that his physical capabilities were compromised because his mind would also be compromised. While 'drunk' goggles can be fun to play with, it is a great way to see that while drunken people say they are

fine, in all actuality their minds and bodies are compromised in terms of performance.

This was an excellent workshop for everyone who attended and I hope that Officer Warner will be able to present more future student workshops. Officer Warner did a great job taking about subject that is often harped upon and making it fun again for all involved. It is these kinds of workshops that really inform students with information relevant to their lives and the lives of those who they care about.



becomes used to the feeling of being intoxicated and it adjusts accordingly so the person appears normal. Because of this effect people that have high tolerances for alcohol have to drink more to have the visible signs of drunkenness than those who have low tolerances. This is helpful for people to know because they should know the limits of the people around them and themselves if they choose to go out drinking.

One of my favorite parts of the workshop was when Andrew Jennings, an immediate past student representative, donned 'drunk goggles.' These goggles are created in such a way that the person's vision is equivalent to someone who

It Wasn't Easy To Brave the Scale

By Dorothy Gardner, Contact Editor

After the Physical Health and Fitness Resolution was adopted it seemed only fitting the Students hold a Health Fair to reinforce the importance of good health. However, this time the tables were turned and it was the Parents and Teachers learning more about their own individual health and physical fitness. Now I won't kid you, I'm pretty sure there wasn't a soul in the room looking forward to encountering the dreaded scale, but we lined up and faced the music. In the end, I think we all learned a thing or two. Me? Well I finally accepted the grim truth my son was now indeed taller than myself and it might just be time to pay a little more attention to my own wellbeing. Thank you Students for caring enough about all of us to put this eye-opening event together.



Missouri PTA Convention Student Workshops

By Andrew Jennings, Student Representative

On October 12-14, 2007 at the PTA Convention, student delegates and future student leaders attended very important workshops that could help them in life. I would like to share information about three workshops that will



give you some insight about what the students learned.

The first workshop I'd like to discuss was called, "Do You Really Know Who You Are Talking To?" Detective Tracy Perkins and Detective Andy Anderson presented this workshop. Detective Perkins shared information about the websites, MySpace and Facebook. She explained to the group that although these sites are very popular, a lot of bad things could happen as a result of interacting on these sites. Some examples of the bad things are abuse, rape, or even death. Detective Perkins showed a couple of videos which were truly marvelous in getting the message across that these bad things happen in everyday life as a result of bad people finding out information about you from the websites.

I think that this workshop was a very well thought out topic and that it was able to give the students knowledge of what is really going on with the web. Detective Perkins also told us how the department is able to try to stop these things from happening. They are simply signing into the sites as a younger child and hoping they can lure the predators toward them and then move and stop them before they get innocent students. I'm not sure that this workshop will stop students from getting on these sites, but I think it will help make them more cautious when they do visit them.

www.mopta.org

Another good workshop was "Adam's Story: The Challenge of Keeping Teen Drivers Safe." This workshop was presented by Lori Popejoy, Adam's mother. Adam was a young driver who died in a terrible car accident in Columbia, MO.

Mrs. Popejoy tried to impress upon the students the importance of learning to drive safely and to really pay attention when operating a vehicle.

Since there were only two students in the workshop who were drivers, I'm not sure what the real impact was on the students who aren't drivers. I'm not sure young students fully understand the dangers of driving. But, as a young driver myself, it made me think about being more cautious and paying attention to my driving. It is sad that Adam and another young passenger died and I hope the other students will remember this story as they someday start to learn how to drive.

The final workshop I attended was "Making Decisions in the Real World" presented by Officer John Warner. Officer Warner talked a lot about alcohol and how it affects your body. Officer Warner also talked about BAC, Blood Alcohol Content, and how it affects the human body. I would give this workshop an A, because it helped me, and hopefully others, realize that drinking can be one of the most dangerous things that you can do to yourself and your body.

The workshops presented show how much the PTA really cares about students and their wellbeing. And, how much PTA wants students to be safe and make good decisions. This convention was a really great experience for me and it has taught me so much. I hope it was for

all of my fellow Student Delegates. Also, I hope all of the Student Delegates realize that what they learned at convention can be used to help in their schools and with their friends if they share what they heard.

Parent Education & Involvement Grant

By Barb Gilmore, VP & Director of Programs

This grant, established in 1992, is designed to help with the costs incurred by those local and council units throughout the state of Missouri that effectively organize, plan and hold a program/project, specific workshop, or event that educates and/or celebrates parent involvement in their school.

All or a portion of the grant money is available to be awarded to the unit(s) and council(s) who conduct the most effective program based on merit of the project and proposed budget. The Parent Education and Involvement Committee reviews all submitted applications.

Programs, workshops, or events held may be educational or social, with the focus on bringing parents together in the school in a program designed and held with or without their children.

Unfortunately, this year we did not have any recipients. We did have units apply, but they were disqualified because they were not "units in good standing."

We at MO PTA sincerely want you to apply and receive those grants and awards that you deserve for your hard work! Please take time to read and comply with the "PTA Unit in Good Standing," which is there for your protection.

For further detailed information, check your PTA 2007-08 Tool Kit, or contact the MO PTA office.

Spellbinding! The Saturday Evening Banquet

By Peggy Preston, Former Contact editor



Saturday evening's Awards Banquet was a memorable occasion...for almost everyone. The evening started out with the beautiful serenade by "Autumn Haze" a string quartet that included Missouri PTA's youth representative Allison Thiele. After a tasty meal, AtLaw (Advocacy through Legislation award) honorees were recognized. The next presentation was the awarding of the Leaders Project. To reach this distinction, participants attended a variety of PTA training including conventions and Leadership

Conferences. They also increased their leadership skills through attendance at workshops and active involvement on the local level. Congratulations go to the Leaders Project Class of 2007. This marks the eleventh year for this program with a total of 149 leaders inducted. For more information about the AtLaw and Leaders Project, please go to www.mopta.org.

Kent Sorrells, a renowned hypnotist, who has performed in Branson, provided the entertainment for the evening. Show participants were chosen from the banquet attendees and loads of laughter followed. Highlights included the new Village People, a forgotten first name, embarrassed "Power Rangers", interesting stories of the landing of a UFO in a backyard, arguments over the ownership of a double-wide trailer, and a really nice t-shirt. Although the show participants may have to



wait to watch the DVD to see all the details, the audience enjoyed the antics and Stephanie Miller may long be remembered as a "star on the Kent Sorrell's show!"



Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

- Launch winter membership drive
- 18 Reflections Projects due to state Office

FEBRUARY

- Apply for Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award
- 4-8 Parent and Family Involvement in Education Week
- 10-16 Take your family to school week
- 17 PTA Founders Day
- 18-22 PTA Advocacy week

MARCH

- 1 Final membership dues for award deadline
- 2 Read Across America Day
- 5 Principal's Day
- 9 Day LIGHT Saving Time begins
- 31 New officer's list due to state office

APRIL

- 5 School Librarian's Day
- 12 D.E.A.R Day
- 15 Deadline for membership, safety & achievement awards
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Administrative Professionals Day
- 24 Take your child to work Day
- 25-26 Leadership Conference (Independence)
- 26 Student Showcase - Reflection Recognition
- 27- 5/3 Volunteer Appreciation Week

Looking Ahead

JUNE

- 23-23 National PTA Convention (San Diego, CA)

OCTOBER

- 18-19 Missouri PTA Convention (Kansas City)

Thank you to our sponsor Aim



Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients

By Karen Jeffery, Regional Director



Kelsie Blakey (Dillard A. Mallory Scholarship) graduated from Platte City High School in the Pony Express Region. Kelsie is planning on going to the University of Missouri and plans to teach Social Studies or Math.



Heather Belisle (Carolyn B. Ullman Scholarship) graduated from Osceola High School in the Three Trails Region. Heather is planning on attending Southwest Baptist University and plans on teaching Elementary Education.



Emily Hart (Irma G. Detjen Scholarship) graduated from Oak Park High School in the Pony Express Region. Emily is planning on attending Northwest Missouri State and plans on teaching Elementary Education.



Brant Melvin (Helen B. Maupin Scholarship) graduated from Mexico High School in the Mark Twain Region. Brant is planning on attending Missouri State University in Springfield and plans on teaching Secondary Math.



Alicia Russell (Carolyn B. Ullman Scholarship) graduated Nixa High School in the Ozark Region. Alicia is planning on attending Missouri State University in Springfield and plans on teaching English, Math and/or Spanish at the Middle School level.

Congratulations Health & Safety Award Winners

By Teddy Tatum, Health & Safety/ Juvenile Services Chairman

The 2007 Health & Safety Grant of \$175.00 was given to Manor Hills Elementary School PTA of Liberty, Missouri from the Pony Express Region. A second place grant in the amount of \$75.00 was given to Raytown South High School PTSA of Raytown, Missouri from the Three Trails Region.

This was the second consecutive year that there were no applications submitted for the Student Safety Award.

What did our Attendee's think?

By Catherine Sweeny, Information Technology Chair



During the 92nd Annual Missouri PTA convention, I talked with many attendees to their experience at this convention. Whether they had attended numerous conventions or it was their first, the overall response was how much they were enjoying themselves. The wide variety of workshops, copious amounts of information available at the Information Kiosk, the great food served during the kick-off luncheon and banquet, as well as the entertainment were all appreciated and enjoyed.



My Awesome Convention Experience

By Natalie Williamson, Hazelwood East Middle School PTSA (Formerly Kirby Middle School) Saint Louis, MO

I just wanted to write you a brief note. I thought Convention was absolutely wonderful. I don't know why other units aren't taking advantage of this great opportunity, but I'm glad that my Principal asked my family to participate.

I learned so much and networked with so many others who are invested in the welfare of our children and youth.

My favorite workshop was OMDR, primarily because I am a technology geek! Jennifer Casey did a great job on the presentation. She made it look easy and offered insightful tips.

A close second was the Membership Workshop, led by Shelly Throckmorton. I picked up so many tips about increasing

membership and revenue. For instance, Business Memberships! That is such a great idea. The two best tidbits - send a letter to the people you already pay your bills to; dentist, doctor, plumber, etc. and ask them to become a member of your PTSA. Imagine what would happen if all parents did that! The second was to ask parents who own a business or work from home to become Business Members. What a way to advertise an at home daycare, housekeeping business or jewelry or Avon or Tupperware!

My third favorite was the workshop on Being a President. Now, I'm not a President, but now I know what I should expect from my President and hold her more accountable, along with all the officers. I hope I can help us

function more efficiently. Thanks Kathy! Your leadership was very apparent in this workshop and throughout the conference.

My daughter and husband also enjoyed the experience and are eager to attend next year in KC. Please add more youth workshops. Maybe even offer some incentive to Units to get more students to come. After all, aren't they the reason we do all this hard work? More information to get men involved would be great. It is a great challenge for all PTA Units.

My only regret is that we couldn't clone ourselves and go to those workshops.

It was indeed a great experience. Thank you to all who worked so hard to put it together.

We can't say Thanks Enough!

A Big 'Thank You' goes out from all the Attendees to Pat Wehmeyer and Annette Schulte and their dedicated committee of volunteers. Everyone thought the kickoff luncheon table and general assembly decorations were great! So much work goes into running a convention. We could not have done it without you. You guys did an incredible job!



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April 25-26, 2008
Hilton Garden Inn
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ELECT PTA
Today

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

What will you gain by attending Leadership Conference?

- Basic PTA Officer and Chairman information
 - Networking opportunities
 - Leadership skills development
 - PTA advocacy focus
 - Team and board building tools
 - Council networking
- Latest news from Missouri PTA and National PTA

Don't miss this training opportunity – make plans now to attend.
Registration packets will be mailed to all unit and council presidents in March.
Watch the new Missouri PTA website for more details.

www.mopta.org

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