

Missouri Parent Teacher Association

CONTACT

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Reflections Student Showcase

Registration packets will be mailed to unit & council presidents in March.

Cover photo:

Student Amanda Weber receives her Leaders Project certificate from Missouri PTA President Mary Oyler and National PTA CEO Byron Garrett at the Missouri PTA convention.

Contents

- 1 President's Message
- 2 National Message
- 3 Convention Wrap Up & National PTA CEO's Visit
- 4 Leaders Project Recipients & Council Connect Convention Workshop
- 5 Membership
- 6 Show Me PTA Meeting & Convention Service Project
- 7 Healthy Lifestyles Grant Winner & Keynote Speaker
- 8 Scholarship Recipients & Students at Convention
- 9 At Law Award Recipients & Convention Short Takes
- 10 Bylaws
- 11 Legislation & Advocacy
- 12 Short Takes

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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's Message By Wendy Jackson, Missouri PTA President



As this New Year begins, it is a time of renewal, rejuvenation, and a reaffirmation to the commitment to Missouri children. Take a moment to reflect on what your unit/council has been able to accomplish. Realize the difference you have made in the lives of children, schools, and families. Know that you are helping to make every child's potential a reality. Don't stop there: use this time to revisit the goals that your unit/council set for the year. Have you accomplished some or all of them? Where are you in meeting those goals? What might you do to make them a reality? If you have met all of them, then it is time to set some new goals, and work toward them.

If you have not made legislative activities a goal and priority, maybe now is the time to do so. As the legislative session gets underway, we as a PTA need to be relevant and we need to be heard. It is going to be a tough budget year; we need to be diligent in our efforts to make sure that a voice for education is heard. I was told that if a legislator received 10 phone calls on any one subject that was alarming. Ten phone

calls. I thought that surely that must be incorrect, so I asked again. I was told that was correct. So do you know 10 people who care about children and education? Think about it, how many people are on your board? How many chairmen do you have? What about teachers, school board members? I bet you would be hard pressed to find anyone at the school who doesn't care, so why aren't they hearing from all of us? As a PTA, we need to be educating our parents, boards, and even teachers on the upcoming issues in the legislature. Is your PTA signed up for the JC/DC network? If not, why? Does your PTA make it a priority to not only give fundraising reports, but legislative reports as well? Don't be confused by the PTA of yesteryear. We are no longer the cookies and punch bunch. We are actively involved in making sure that every child's potential is a reality. Together we all must choose to become active participants in what is going on in Jefferson City and Washington. I challenge you and your PTA to become active participants. I hope to see you there alongside of me.

"Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much" Helen Keller

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

Support: The Stuff We're Made Of By Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor, PTA National President



We often point to all the tangible benefits of membership as reasons to join, and stay with, PTA. There certainly are quite a few of them: from 501(c)3 status to insurance to the *huge* number of online and print resources available *free* for parents and leaders and anyone else who wants to support the education and health of children. But training, tax exemptions, and Take Your Family to School Week Awards have never been the real reason why people joined PTA. We join because we want to be part of a community, one that accomplishes so much on behalf of our kids.

Everywhere you look these days, you can see a need for stronger communities. We have an economy that is forcing millions of capable workers without jobs to rely on their families, friends, and neighbors just to survive. We have profoundly heartbreaking

surges in youth violence that beg someone, anyone, to intervene. We have schools graduating fewer students and dropping more critical classroom and technical learning opportunities. After 113 years of bringing together families, schools, and communities, it's clear that the PTA family has never been needed more in America than right now.

The PTA family works on behalf of every child in our country. You can see it when we go to Capitol Hill to help pass better child nutrition laws and when we go to the White House to work on volunteer initiatives that encourage more people serve their school communities. But we work on a local level, too. In states and counties across the land, PTA is the one promoting parent involvement, helping school boards and parents come together, and the *only* ones with staff motivated not by profit, but by a mission to help *your* children achieve. We are more than a magazine, more than a chat room we are literally in your hometown whenever you need us. The PTA family is a genuine network of support, made up of real people you've seen with your own eyes and who have

helped you with their own hands. Support. That's what family is for, and what makes our communities healthy.

The solution to so many of our problems can be found by people simply engaging one another: not just online, but in homes, schools, cities, and statehouses. That's how we can help our children, and where we'll find the incredible strength we'll need to be successful in our mission. I am proud of your efforts and look forward to engaging everyone in our PTA family. Thank you!



Welcome our new Executive Board

Pictured left to right: Jennifer Casey, Patty Buckholz, Dorothy Gardner, Shelly Throckmorton, Donna Petiford, Wendy Jackson, Stephanie Miller, Kim Weber, and Pat Brune



Convention General Meeting

By Patty Buckholz, Administrative Assistant

President Mary Oyler, called to order the PTA delegation at her last business meeting, otherwise known as the general meetings, at 10:30am on Saturday, October 24. The meeting started with an opening thought by Amanda Weber, Missouri PTA Student Representative. After the Posting of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance by the Ozark High School JROTC, the delegates were treated to a performance by the Espy Honor Choir, Espy Elementary, Nixa, as they performed The National Anthem.

Letters of regret were read from former state presidents unable to attend and all of the former state presidents present were introduced to the delegation. Helen Maupin, a former vice president, gave remarks to the PTA members by encouraging everyone to become involved, to stay involved, and to obtain as much training as possible to increase their leadership qualities and to get as much back from PTA as one puts into it.

Convention committees were established, President Oyler gave her annual report and the report of the audit was presented by State Treasurer, Pat Brune.

Patty Buckholz, Nominating Committee Chairman, gave the report of the Committee for the 2009-2011 term of officers. President Mary Oyler then presided over the election of the Missouri PTA 2009-2011 officers and the following were elected to office. Donna Petiford, President Elect, Stephanie Miller, Vice President of Legislation and Advocacy, Shelly Throckmorton, Vice President of Membership Services, Pat Brune, Vice President of Field Service, Jennifer Casey, Vice President of Programs, Dorothy Gardner, Vice President of Communications, Kim Weber, Secretary, and Patty Buckholz, Treasurer.

Dennis Johnson, Regional Director for the United States Census Bureau, presented information on the 2010 census and shared some fascinating facts with the assembly. Work has already started by census workers doing mapping, finding out where populations and citizens reside. In March, the first census questionnaires will be delivered to resident homes by the United States Postal Service. A second round is mailed in April for those non responders before the census workers visit the home directly in May through July so that a final report can be made to the President of the United States by December. Mr. Johnson asked

the PTA members to help spread the word of the census and to encourage participation as it will define who we are as a nation, affect political representation, and allocate billions in government funding.

National PTA Chief Executive Officer, Byron Garrett, brought greetings from National PTA to the 2009 State Convention and presented Mary Oyler with a National PTA Lifetime Achievement Award. He reminded the delegation of the rich history of the PTA, of the wonderful programs PTA brings to the schools each and every year. But he also spoke of the changes PTA is experiencing and how we are fundamentally different today than we were yesterday. PTA's need to leave our safe schools and go out into the communities, to reach the at-risk students and their families and all of our local communities about the importance of being engaged in our schools. PTA must step up their game in order to ensure that our children receive the best of us each and every day now and in the future. He closed by encouraging the PTA members to never give up, to understand and pay diligence to the value of the PTA.

Kathy Nevans, Missouri PTA Past President and 100th Anniversary Committee Chairman closed the first general session with explanation on how PTA units, councils and members can contribute to the 100th Anniversary to take place October 2012 in Kansas City.

Sunday's meeting brought laughter and tears as we said goodbye to Mary Oyler, the 2007-2009 State President. Tracy Sayre, 2009 State Convention Co Chair presented the collected items PTA's had brought to the Family Violence Center as that was our service project for this year.

Wendy Jackson, Missouri PTA Bylaws Committee Chair, presented the delegation the proposed amendments to the bylaws which were all approved without discussion. Mrs. Jackson then showed a video clip of the Missouri PTA Money Talk. This will be a video that will be available on the Missouri PTA web site to train members who may be unable to attend state training or need to brush up on previous training.

Donna Petiford, Vice President of Legislation and Advocacy, gave her report which told of the great advocacy work that was done during the past year. She encouraged everyone present to attain the At Law award next year and to make 2009-2010 an even bigger year for state advocacy in Missouri by signing up for the JC-DC alerts and staying connected.

Tina Zubeck, former state president then installed the officers for the 2009-2011 term and presented each one with a personal quote from Helen Keller and a small gift. Wendy Jackson, newly installed President, then introduced her family and friends to the delegation, thanking them for helping her get to where she is today. She inspired the PTA audience with her personal story and her favorite quote from Helen Keller, which will be part of her slogan for her term. "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much".

Patty Voss, the 2010 State Convention Chair, helped close the second general Meeting with a "Save the Date" gift to the delegation reminding all that we will meet again soon in Columbia, October 15-17th 2010, for another set of general meetings and a wonderful convention like what was experienced in Springfield this year.



Early Bird Awards And the Winners Are

Early Childhood / Elementary / Special Education Level

Highland Park Elementary PTA – Three Trails Region

Middle School / Jr. High / Combined Level
Ozark Junior High PTSA – Ozark Region

High School Level

Staley High School Falcon Booster Club PTSA – Pony Express Region

Missouri PTA President Mary Oyler presents the Early Bird Award to Patty Voss, accepting on behalf of Highland Park Elementary, Lee's Summit.



CONGRATULATIONS to all our Early Bird Award Winners! These winning units were presented with their award at the State Convention in October.

10 WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIP

1. **USE** the energy and enthusiasm of others – involve your parents, teachers and students in your membership drive.
2. **ASK** your membership for their input. Send an evaluation form asking for their feelings and/or suggestions on programs & activities. Explain PTA's efforts on behalf of children and then ask for their membership & participation. People who feel a part, take part!
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. **CONTACT** your educational TV channel and inquire about time during their programming to tell about PTA. Many stations give up to 30 minutes each month.
5. **IDENTIFY** a real need in your community. A cause that people can rally around is likely to increase membership.
6. **SEND** invitations to join PTA throughout the entire PTA year. Don't stop because your major membership enrollment is over!
7. **PROVIDE** a letter of welcome, PTA materials and a membership envelope in the principal's office for distribution when a new family comes to register their children.
8. **REQUEST** a space for a PTA bulletin board or showcase within your school and then keep it up to date. Post your latest newsletter and other PTA promotional materials.
9. **PLAN** a "Membership Minute" on the agenda of every PTA meeting all year. Keep the message in front of them!
10. **COUNCILS:** A request to the superintendent may get you a spot on the agenda of a principals' meeting. Emphasize membership and strength in numbers district wide.

NPTA Member Benefits

- **BARNES & NOBLE.com** – PTA members will save 5% from this discounted online bookstore on books, music, DVD's and more.
 - **NEW!! THE HP ACADEMY STORE** - HP Academy offers customizable solutions to provide our education customers with essential computing tools, with exclusive education discounts on laptops, netbooks, Touchsmart PCs, wireless printers, & more. PTA members get an exclusive 10% off, plus free next day shipping on printing supplies.
 - **MEDICALERT** - PTA members receive a 20% discount for the MedicAlert Kid Smart® program, providing 24-hour child ID and caregiver notification services. In an emergency, responders can access your child's medical history and records with one easy phone call.
 - **METLIFE** - MetLife Auto & Home has special group discounts now available to PTA members.
 - **SHARP ELECTRONICS** - All of the products on the Sharp Electronics/PTA Member Store site are being offered to PTA members at reduced pricing.
 - **SOUTHWEST VACATIONS** – 5% discount on vacation packages of two nights or longer to any Southwest destination.
 - **T-MOBILE** – 14% discount off your monthly service charges for new and existing T-Mobile subscribers, plus additional savings for new subscribers.
- Check out the Missouri PTA, www.mopta.org or National PTA, www.pta.org websites for further information on how your members access these benefits. Make sure the details on benefit access are provided only to your PTA members.

Members Only Website Area

In order to better serve our membership, a special section on the website has been created just for you. This "PTA Members Only" section contains resources not available on the public website. So how do you access this information? Upon accessing our website, www.mopta.org, you will find a 'Members Login' on the left hand side of the screen. Simply enter the username and password located on the back of your PTA membership card. This feature is case sensitive and must be in all lower case letters. Once logged in the 'PTA Members Section' link along the top of the page will now be activated and drop down boxes will appear. As a member you now have access to a wide variety of resources in electronic format such as the Tool Kit, Quick Reference Guides, and convention workshop materials.

Councils Connect

By Dorothy Gardner, VP of Communications

Councils are unique within the PTA structure. Most often units fail to see the value of their council until problems arise. Councils were designed to help educate and support our local unit leaders. Comprised of either current or past leaders from units within the council, this core group serves as both a liaison with the state and is responsible for fostering the attitude of the group. Sometimes all this can feel not only like a difficult task, but also, at times, downright impossible. There is a trick to running a successful council. Understanding how people work and being able to work with them is the key.

During the Council Connection workshop attendees were asked to separate into two groups and talk amongst themselves. Each member of both groups was quietly given three tasks to accomplish without talking to each other or the members of the other group. Lights were turned on and off, chairs moved back and forth, as both groups worked with great effort to successfully execute opposing objectives. It didn't take very long for everyone to arrive at the same conclusion – communication is paramount. Groups need to focus on one project at a time and reach a consensus. Allowing the entire group to participate will give each member a sense of ownership. Once the entire group has bought into a project, then most likely you will get where you want to go.

As a council leader it is very important to remember there is more than one way to communicate and a necessity of the job is realizing how to best communicate with each member of the group. Just as everyone has different learning styles we also have difference styles of communication. In addition leaders need to rely heavily on trust. Sure we don't always know if someone is going to get his or her job done. This is where a little bit of blind faith comes into play. Want to put someone immediately on the defense and break down all communication, then illustrate to them your lack of trust. Finally, it is important to remember everyone, yes everyone, does bring something to the group. Even if a particular member seems to be at the opposite end of the spectrum it is up to the council leader to find a way to counterbalance this in order to welcome and utilize everyone. It's not 'my way or the highway' but rather 'together we can achieve.'

During the second half of the session the group

collectively shared common barriers. Still separated into two groups, each was given a set of these barrier problems to brainstorm and find possible solutions. Not only is it important for units to network with each other but also council. Draw upon the assets and knowledge base of other councils' leaders to bounce off ideas or look for guidance. There are no new problems but there are always new solutions. By networking together and sharing our existing knowledge together we can build stronger units.

President-elect Wendy Jackson presents the PTA/PTSA Council Workshop at Convention



Congratulations to the Leaders Project Class of 2009

NAME	PTA UNIT	CITY	REGION
Renee Benjamin	Hazelwood North MS	Florissant	Gateway
Deborah Blackmon	Santa Fe Elementary	Kansas City	Three Trails
Konni Hall	Ozark Jr. High	Ozark	Ozark
Sheryl Kaullen	South Valley MS	Liberty	Pony Express
Alice Lunn	Pershing MS	Springfield	Ozark
Lisa Lynch	Boyd	Springfield	Ozark
Christie Mieseler	Ozark Jr. High	Ozark	Ozark
Patty Petty	Pershing Elementary	Springfield	Ozark
Erin Pottberg	Ozark Jr. High	Ozark	Ozark
Kathy Rogers	Alexander Doniphan Elem.	Liberty	Pony Express
Ramona Shull	Fletridge Elementary	Independence	Three Trails
Chrystal Simon	James Walker Elementary	Blue Springs	Three Trails
Brandi VanRoss	Southwood Elementary	Raytown	Three Trails
Linda Wansing	South Valley MS	Liberty	Pony Express
Barbara Watson	Platte City MS	Platte City	Pony Express
Amanda Weber	Jefferson Jr.	Columbia	Heritage



Show Me PTA Annual Meeting

By Kathy Nevans MO PTA Past President

Show Me State PTA met for its annual meeting during this year's convention. Delegates received neat and useful gift bags donated by the hospitality committee, chaired by Peggy Richey. The bags were greatly appreciated and everyone enjoyed the festive theme.

The attendees were challenged to contribute to Missouri PTA's 100th anniversary fund as individuals and encouraged their local units and councils to also donate.

Show Me State PTA was organized in 1997 as a statewide unit for the persons who support the Purposes & Mission of PTA but may not have a local unit to join. Also, we invite anyone else who cares about the health and welfare of children and support public education to join Show Me State PTA. If interested in joining please contact our new unit president Mary Oylar at maryo@mopta.org.

Students Trained & Recognized at 2009 Convention

By Mark Kempf, MOPTA Student Involvement Chair

Though attendance was low, the program was just as powerful as promised. Our speakers and workshops provided a valuable training opportunity for our youth leaders that they can take with them into the future. Training topics and presenters at this year's conference include:

- PTSA on the National Level
 - Byron Garrett, CEO of National PTA
- Parliamentary Procedure Primer for Students
 - Dr. Leonard M Young, Professional Registered Parliamentarian
- Reflections, Can You See Yourself In This Program?
 - Toni Wiechmann, MOPTA Reflections Chair
- Budgeting For Life
 - Peggy Preston, MOPTA Health/Wellness Chair
 - Jace Gilmore Pre-Law student at Missouri State University
- PTSA and Your Life
 - Gwen Brune, Missouri State University student and former MOPTA Student Rep
 - Amanda Weber, MOPTA Student Rep

The strength of our student program was evident in that for the first time ever we had "non-student" delegates who chose to attend a couple of our student workshops. I firmly believe that MOPTA's student training program is second to none and continues to improve.

Donations to Aide Family Violence Center in Springfield, MO

By Donna Petiford, Missouri PTA, VP Legislation & Advocacy

The Family Violence Center provides emergency shelter to women and children fleeing domestic violence. It is a safe place for them as they re-evaluate their lives and try to set a course for a violence-free life.

The Family Violence Center was established in 1976, as a grassroots, all-volunteer organization. The first victims were sheltered in volunteers' homes and area hotels, then in rented shelter homes. Currently the Center has progressed to a professionally staffed agency of 23 full time staff members; an all-volunteer Board of Directors consisting of 21 community members, and a pool of 100 additional volunteers assist with service delivery.

Services provided by the Center include a 24 hour hotline; emergency protective shelter for women and children fleeing family violence which provides up to 100 safe beds; crisis intervention; group educational support that teaches cycles of domestic violence, basic living

skills, self-esteem, and safety planning; court advocate volunteers who work with victims filing ex-parte and orders of protection; children's services that include programs designed to address the child's development needs, both physical and emotional and tutoring; community outreach that includes speakers to area schools, churches and civic organizations to provide prevention education and promote awareness on family violence and the services offered by the Center; in-service programs and professional training workshops are also provided to law enforcement personnel, health care providers and social service agencies.

Thank you to all who brought donations to our Missouri PTA Convention in October. These donations will help the Family Violence Center continue to provide these services to the Springfield community by helping women and children learn that family violence is not normal nor is it an acceptable way of life.

Another first at this year's convention was the awarding of MOPTA's Leader's Project Award to one of our students, MOPTA's own Amanda Weber. With the help of MOPTA's dedication to quality student leadership development and a lot of personal determination Amada became the first student leader to earn this prestigious award. We sincerely hope that Amanda's success will inspire other students toward earning his award as well.

MOPTA is committed to our effort to bring our student leaders the type and quality they deserve to better enable them all to fulfill their true leadership ability for the benefit of MOPTA, your local PTSA and for the future. Our training agenda continues to develop with each training opportunity providing our youth leadership with quality training. Our next state PTA sponsored training event will be the Leadership Conference this spring. Watch for more information about this great event and make plans now to attend.

NPTA Healthy Lifestyles Grant Winner

By Kim Ponder, Southern Boone PTA President

In September 2009 the Southern Boone PTA officially adopted the SoBoCo Learning Garden as one of its core programs. We believe that this program has the ability to change our community – to change our children and enrich the lives of those it touches. On Saturday, November 14th we hosted a community work day to assemble a greenhouse to support the work of the Learning Garden. This program has evolved into a year-round venture and we are ready to take it to the next level. This community event is open to all families, faculty, and staff. We enjoy great support from our community newspaper and hope to capture the aspects of farming the garden and preparing, serving, and eating food from the garden as a means of awakening the senses and encouraging awareness and appreciation of the transformative values of nourishment, community, and stewardship of the land. We are currently serving forty children in the program but are hoping to expand it to serve more. For more information on the SoBoCo Learning Garden, please visit <http://sobocolearninggarden.wikispaces.com>. We are very proud to receive a \$1000 National Healthy Lifestyles Grant from National PTA to help with our endeavors.



Janette Fennell

An advocate to learn from

By Patty Buckholz, Administrative Assistant



All she needed was a 3¢ gizmo. A 3¢ gizmo to get out of the horrific fix she and her husband found themselves when they were kidnapped from their own garage, locked in their own car and driven to places unknown

with their 9 month old baby's fate unknown. Just a 3¢ internal trunk release.

Fate was on their side. After their abductors left them locked in the car, they were eventually able to find the trunk release cable that worked from the dashboard, able to use the temporary key her auto club made and had tucked into the car, and the baby was found on the driveway, still buckled in the car seat, perfectly ok.

Advocacy became her resolve when it was all over. She researched a part of the automobile industry that had not been researched. She found the numbers of kids who accidentally got themselves locked in trunks. She got other strong advocates on her side. She got lawmakers to slog through their process and got the industry to study bits and parts. Finally, years later, every car made after 2000 has a glow-in-the-dark internal trunk release. Trunk releases are also sold for after market installation in older models. She won.

Janette has not stopped with her 3¢ gizmo.

With perseverance she moved on to power window switches in cars that when accidentally stepped on by a child would strangle that innocent child. As of 2005 all vehicles with power windows have switches that require lifting of the switch to raise the window—an accidental push will lower the window. She has studied 'back overs' where parents and relatives have accidentally run over their own beloved child because they couldn't see behind their vehicle. The Cameron Gill Branson bill will establish a rear visibility standard, require that the brake be applied to put a car into gear, and windows will have an auto-reverse if they encounter resistance prior to closing. She has studied the misinstallation of car seats, the use of seat belts in school buses, and more. She is woman with a mission that has inspired others and resulted in real change.

Much can be learned from Janette Fennell. She came to the 2009 Missouri PTA convention and told us her story. She says we should feel empowered. She encourages us to do the research and to not give up. She says if you feel it needs to be done then you are the one to get it done. Missouri PTA is all about kids, their safety and their future. We have focused on issues, done the research, and created resolutions. Those resolutions have gone on to inspire legislators to make real changes. You, too, can do this do. Learn from Janette. Learn from Missouri PTA. Advocate for children everywhere. All the time. Start today.

100th Anniversary Committee Donations

The 100th Anniversary Committee would like to acknowledge the following individuals and units for their donation of \$25 or more.

Belton High School PTA
Blue Springs PTA Council
Donna Petiford
Dorothy Gardner
Gina Napier
High Pointe Elementary PTA
Julie Kays
Kathy Nevans
Mary Oyler
Ozark Upper Elementary PTA
Pat Brune
Pat Wehmeyer
Peggy Preston
Scott Jennings
Sequiota Elementary PTA
Show Me State PTA
Southwood Elementary PTA
Springfield Council PTA
Toni Wiechmann

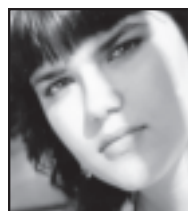
Missouri PTA Scholarship Program

By Sheryl Kaullen, MO PTA Scholarship Committee Chairperson

The PTA Scholarship Committee selected two (2) outstanding high school seniors to receive Missouri PTA Teacher Education Scholarships for the fall 2009 school term. The awardees were:



Nicole Pinkley,
Lone Jack High School,
Lone Jack
Helen B. Maupin
Scholarship



Laura Steinbach,
Pattonville R-3 High
School,
Maryland Heights
Irma G. Detjen
Scholarship



Sheryl Kaullen, Scholarship Chair, Jennifer Richards,
and President Mary Oyster

Jennifer Richards,
Potosi High School,
Potosi
Phoebe Apperson Hearst Scholarship

Currently, sixteen students, enrolled in Missouri colleges/universities, are receiving annual scholarship gifts of \$500.00; totaling \$ 8,000.00 in annual scholarship disbursements. The scholarships are funded by endowment funds, individual donations and local PTA Council and Unit gifts.

As a result of the downfall in the economy, investments yielded poor or negative returns, drastically affecting the scholarship investment funds. Accordingly, Missouri State PTA was forced to significantly reduce the number of 2009 scholarship awards.

Having said this, it is imperative that PTA Council and Unit officers, promote and encourage donations to this important endeavor, as nothing is more important than educating Missouri's future teachers. Unit and

council gifts are the means by which the State Scholarship Program grows, enabling student endowments to perpetuate. Therefore, PTA is relying on its members to continue support of the Missouri PTA Scholarship Program.

Current scholarship recipients have been involved in a plethora of community service and educational activities including:

- Participation in an agricultural tour of Taiwan
- Service in Council Offices, including Treasurer, President and other positions
- Volunteer service at Noyes House and Missouri Rehabilitation Center
- Membership in Symphonic Wind Ensemble
- Participation in the Marching Mizzou Drumline
- Placement on the Dean's List
- Tutoring elementary students through "Cardinal Teaching"
- Selection onto the MSU cheerleading team
- Participation in a SMU Marching Band performance in Scotland
- Membership selection into Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Chi, FCA and MST
- Participation in a Spring 2009 student exchange program at the University of La Iberoamericana in Mexico
- Service as Student Council Vice-President, for the University of Missouri's College of Education
- Membership selection into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars
- Membership selection into the KME, National Mathematics Honor Fraternity

Additionally, each fall, the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Memorial Award (PAH Award) is bestowed upon one or more scholarship recipient seniors, with a collegiate record of exceptional academics, outstanding character, community service and a commitment to teaching. Income from the PAH Fund is used to finance these awards. Ms. Jennifer Richards from Potosi High School, graduating from Southeast Missouri State University (SEMSU) and Ms. Chelsey Morgan from Rock Bridge High School, graduating from the University of Missouri, Columbia, received the 2009 awards at the October 2009 PTA State Convention in Springfield.

Ms. Jennifer Richards will graduate in December 2009, as she took a rigorous course load, while participating in numerous extracurricular activities, college events and work endeavors. Jennifer credits PTA with helping her accomplish many attainments in college, including traveling to Scotland with the University Marching Band to perform in the Edinburg Military Tattoo, journeying to Washington DC to attend a one week session at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, where students observed a "think tank" and met foreign ambassadors and diplomats. Additionally, Jennifer went with Southeast's School of Business on a trip to Italy and Greece for art history studies and spent one spring break in Alabama working with Habitat for Humanity, which she maintained was a humbling and eye-opening experience. Jennifer asserted that "all of these experiences, along with many others, served to form me into the teacher I am working to become." Ms. Richards will graduate from SEMSU with a degree in Art Education and plans to pursue a Master's degree in Gifted Education.

Ms. Morgan is a member of the College of Education Student Council and has served in several capacities, including President, Vice-President and as a Representative. Chelsey served as a member of the "Dean's Search Committee" to fill the position of the Dean of the College of Education. Chelsey volunteered at the Central Missouri Food Bank for the Buddy Pack Program, picking up hundreds of pounds of food and supplies, weekly, dividing it among backpacks for the local Head-start students, providing them with food for the weekend. She served as a Jumpstart Corps member in a local public preschool, wherein she worked one-on-one with an at-risk child to help him prepare for Kindergarten and promote his desire for success. She recently completed her preschool student teaching and is looking forward to elementary student teaching this spring. After graduation, Chelsey plans to continue her education and receive a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in literacy. Her dream is to teach first or second grade in Columbia. Her lifetime goal is to teach in an inner-city school where she can make a difference in the lives of at-risk children.

As is evident from the aforementioned student triumphs, your donations to the PTA scholarship program are dollars well spent. Together, we are making a difference for our children.

Congratulations 2009 AtLaw Award Winners!

The Advocacy through Legislation Award (AtLaw) is given to recognize Missouri PTA members and Councils who champion children's issues and to encourage all PTA members to step forward as caring voices for children and youth. This year's recipients are Elizabeth Aley, Nixa; Wendy Jackson, Nixa; Denise McCarter, Lee's Summit; Stephanie Miller, Springfield; Donna Petiford, Springfield; High Pointe PTA, Nixa; and Laura Ingalls Wilder PTA, Springfield. The Nixa, Lee's Summit and Springfield Councils were also recognized.

These PTA members have attended advocacy training through the year, have taken action on issues of priority at the local, state and federal level; and have informed others on legislative issues. Information and the application for the AtLaw award is available in the Summer Toolkit mailing, the Winter Packet-Legislative Handbook, and online at www.mopta.org (forms/award applications tab).



From left Donna Petiford, Denise McCarter, Wendy Jackson, Elizabeth Aley, Stephanie Miller, and Patti Voss

A Big Thank You to Our Convention Planners

A special thank you to our 2009 Missouri PTA Convention Chairman, Erin Pottberg, and Assistant Chairman, Tracy Sayre. They worked tirelessly to put together a fabulous event for everyone. Thanks also to the countless volunteers who made the convention run smoothly by working at the information kiosk, PTA Shoppe, registration tables, presenting and helping with workshops, and doing all the glamorous work like stuffing the tote bags. It was a wonderful time!

National PTA Representative Rocks "Town Hall Meeting"

Byron Garrett, CEO and National Representative to our convention, hosted our pre-convention event, "Town Hall Meeting, Ask PTA." This event was well attended, with over 90 members filling the room. Garrett reinforced the power of PTA, stating that there are over 5 million members and 26,000 units nationwide. The National PTA office, which has been located in Chicago since 1939, will be relocating to Washington, DC by July 1, 2010. This will allow easier access for meetings between NPTA and government committees, as well as allow NPTA to be in the forefront of the federal legislature every day.



When asked what the biggest challenges this decade are for PTA, Garrett responded that they are attaining diversity of membership and engaging audiences we have not engaged before. Our PTA today is directly related to the work performed by our prior leadership 20, 30, 50 years ago. We have a responsibility to build the PTA for 2018, 2038, 2088 to ensure that we continue to focus on children. OMDRPlus was a subject which many attendees were interested in. Frustration with the new system was stated and Garrett informed the crowd that NPTA was aware of the issues, they are reevaluating the system, and will have some answers in spring 2010. He also addressed that while this is a computer age, we will continue to reach out to units via mail since NPTA is aware that some rural areas do not have access to the internet.

When questioned about how to encourage members to get involved in legislation, Garrett stated that NPTA released a public policy agenda and is looking at how to inform parents on the importance of advocacy.

Evaluation Drawing Winner

Congratulations to Karen Mende of Nixa. Her name was drawn from the convention evaluations, and she will receive a certificate for a free registration to the 2010 Missouri PTA Convention in Columbia! Thanks to all delegates who took the time to fill out and turn in an evaluation. Your input is vital to convention planning.

Bylaws

By Linda Klender, Missouri State Bylaws & Procedures Chair

Did you hear the news? Missouri just had a fantastic Convention and the delegates elected to change the Missouri PTA bylaws. How will this affect your Unit's or Council's Bylaws? It will not until after January of 2010, when the new disk debuts. Watch for the newly adopted verbiage from the word audit to "annual financial review"

Did you realize that your unit bylaws are to be approved by Missouri PTA every three (3) years? However, a bylaws committee should be appointed yearly to make sure no changes have been made by Missouri or National PTA which are denoted by the # sign, and are required verbatim. If there are changes required, amendments are to be voted upon by the general membership then are to be sent for approval to Missouri PTA Bylaws Chair. Changes that are denoted by the # sign do not need to be voted upon by the general membership but should be presented to them as changes by Missouri PTA. Standing Rules do not need state approval either.

Bylaws may be sent to the state office in Columbia, by mailing two hard copies or one electronic copy. A letter and a copy of the disk with the most recent bylaws will be sent to your PTA President, approximately four (4) months before your bylaws are due.

If you have questions, please contact lindak@mopta.org.

Reflections "BEAUTY IS..."

Reflections State Showcase

April 24, 2010

Leadership Conference

Location TBA

Don't forget – entries are due in the state office by no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 15. Sorting and judging by the state committee will begin later that evening. Please keep this in mind when shipping your entries. The deadline date is an "arrive by", not "postmarked by" date.

Two Missouri Units Receive National PTA Grants

Promoting family involvement in children's education has been at the heart of PTA since its founding in February 1897. PTA Take Your Family to School Week and the \$1897 Awards honor and continue that legacy. Over the past couple of months, the PTA national office received nearly 500 applications for the \$1897 Awards. Units were encouraged to plan family involvement events to take place during this week, February 7-13, 2010, and then apply for the Award.

We are proud to announce that two Missouri PTAs are Award winners! Horace Mann PTA of Sedalia and Alma Schrader Elementary PTA of Cape Girardeau were both honored with the Award for their inspired programs. Congratulations on a job well done!



You Can Make A Difference

By Stephanie Miller, VP of Legislation & Advocacy

Up until about three years ago I felt like I was fulfilling a duty when I voted. I knew that my father would be proud of me for making the effort. I wasn't big on following the issues, they all seemed too complicated and over my head. Would it really matter if I had an opinion anyway? Who would listen? How would I reach out and make a difference in the broad spectrum of government? So I sat back and did my duty, I voted. Fast forward to present day, I realize it's not my duty to vote but my privilege and I also know that my one voice can make a difference because it can help empower others to use theirs.

Missouri PTA offers many ways to help get your voice heard. First and foremost, I encourage everyone to sign up for Legislative Alerts at both the State and National level. Below are detailed instructions on how to sign up, both taking less than five minutes. Once you have signed up for these alerts you will be contacted by email whenever anything comes up in either Jefferson City or Washington DC that needs our immediate action. When called to action we are asked to contact our legislators about a specific action item. The email alerts give detailed information that will enable you to talk/write about the issue. You are to simply call &/or write your individual legislator and let them know where PTA stands on this action item. Many of the National alerts often have a link that will take you directly to a form letter where you can add your information

and hopefully a personal note. With the five minutes it took you sign up and the five minutes it took you to respond to a Legislative Alert you have made a difference. You have advocated for our children.

For MOPTA alerts please go to www.mopta.org and click on the Legislation tab, scroll down and click on Sign Up for Legislative Alerts. The next screen will show a blue box on the left hand side that says "Subscribe to our MOPTA Critical Legislative Alerts" enter your name, email address and then hit Subscribe.

For PTA alerts please go to www.pta.org and click on the Take Action tab. On the right hand side there will be a blue box that says "Join the Network Today!" click on Join Today and on the next screen scroll down to enter the required information and then hit Submit.

I encourage everyone to attend a KidsFirst Legislative Rally either in their school district or MOPTA Region. If there isn't one scheduled then this would be a perfect opportunity to take another step towards making a difference. Our Legislative team will help you through the process of scheduling and holding a Rally, just contact either Stephanie Miller or Susan Smith for more information. For those of you who are in an area where a rally is scheduled, congratulations, with your attendance you have completed a requirement for the AtLAW award and a giant step in your role as an advocate. If you're unsure

if a rally has been scheduled please check with Stephanie Miller or Susan Smith. Also, please continue to check the MOPTA website calendar for upcoming Rally dates/locations. During our rallies we try to cover at least four issues that come from either MOPTA Resolutions or Position Statements. This year we are planning on covering the following four Missouri PTA Priority Issues:

Third Party Child Abuse Reporting

Tax Credits, Deductions and Vouchers

Simple Majority for School Bonds and Bonding Indebtedness

Prevention of Child Abuse, Neglect and Maltreatment

Please visit www.mopta.org and look under the Legislation tab for Resolutions for more information on these Priorities. Our rallies are a great place to hear from our legislators and for them to hear from us. Your attendance and participation is encouraged and appreciated.

I hope that you will take the ten minutes it takes to sign up for alerts and the hour or so it takes to attend a Rally. They are not our duties but our privilege. Please know that your one voice can make a difference in the lives of children. Your one voice can also help by empowering others to use theirs.

DONATIONS

Thank you for your generous donations. With your continued support we can do great things.

BUILDING FUND

Truman High School PTSA
Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA
Belton PTA Council
Franklin Smith Elementary PTA
Chouteau Elementary PTA
North Kansas City Council PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Trailridge Elementary PTA
Mathews PTA of Nixa
Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
Woodland Elementary PTA
Blue Springs PTA Council
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA
Southeast Elementary PTA
Staley High School Falcon Booster Club PTSA
Summit Lakes Middle School PTA
Sunset Valley Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit Council PTA
Bridger Middle School PTSA
Mark Twain Elementary PTA

FOUNDERS GIFT

Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA
Timber Creek Elementary PTA
Ozark Upper PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Trailridge Elementary PTA
Gracemor Elementary PTA
Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
Woodland Elementary PTA
Ozark Junior High PTSA
Pleasant Lea Middle School PTA
Southeast Elementary PTA
Blue Springs PTA Council
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
Summit Lakes Middle School PTA
Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA
Lakewood Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit Council PTA
Raytown Council PTA
Columbia Council PTA

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA
Highland Park Elementary PTA
Independence Council PTA
Truman High School PTSA
Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA
Timber Creek Elementary PTA

Belton PTA Council
Franklin Smith Elementary PTA
Sherwood Elementary PTA
Chouteau Elementary PTA
North Kansas City Council PTA
Springfield Council PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Trailridge Elementary PTA
Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA
Gracemor Elementary PTA
Grant Elementary PTA
Center High PTA
Glendale PTSA
Mathews PTA of Nixa
Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
Woodland Elementary PTA
Blue Springs PTA Council
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA
Southeast Elementary PTA
Summit Lakes Middle School PTA
Pleasant Lea Middle School PTA
Lakewood Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit Council PTA
Bridger Middle School PTSA
Wanda Gray Elementary PTA
Mark Twain Elementary PTA
Columbia PTA Council

Short Takes



WE ARE MOVING!

Please note our main office in Columbia has moved. Our new address is: 2101 Burlington St. Columbia, MO 65202. The phone numbers will remain (800) 328-7330 and (573) 445-4161.

LOCAL NEWS TAKES NOTICE OF MO PTA

President Wendy Jackson was recently profiled in the Nixa Xpress, along with Nixa school board member Peggy Taylor.

GREEN THUMB CHALLENGE

Schools across America are invited to join the observance of National Green Week, Feb. 1-5, 2010. The Green Education Foundation sponsors the event. Win prizes for your school. Plant gardens. Promote waste-free snacks. Gov. Jay Nixon has signed a proclamation encouraging Missouri schools to take part in the Green Thumb Challenge.

PARTNERING IN TECHNOLOGY

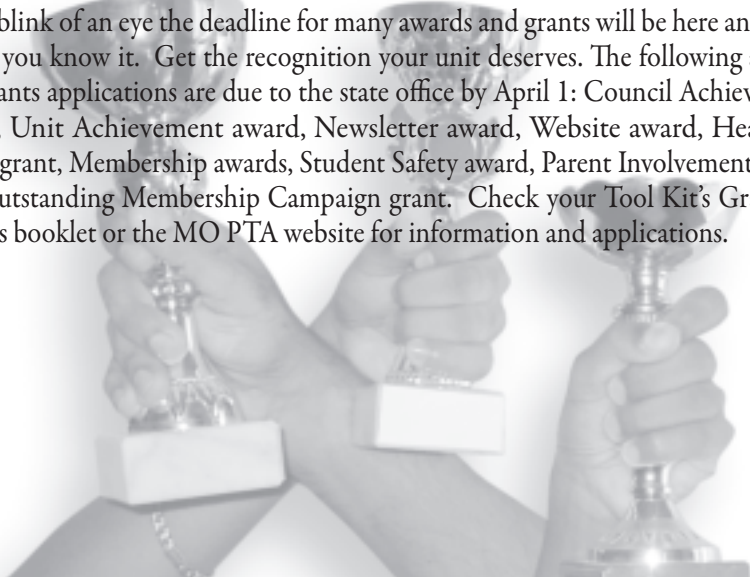
You may have already received an automated call from our state president. Missouri PTA is the first state to enter into a partnership agreement with School Reach, an automated notification system. Our goal is to better keep you informed and up-to-date.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PTA

On February 17th, PTA's across the Nation will celebrate Founder's Day. Are your members aware of PTA's long and powerful history? Plan a celebration this year spotlighting the accomplishments and milestones of PTA at the National, State and Local level. Foster a sense of pride among your members. Let them know our collective past is just the foundation. It is by their continued participation that a positive difference is made in children's lives today.

AWARD AWARDS!!

In the blink of an eye the deadline for many awards and grants will be here and gone before you know it. Get the recognition your unit deserves. The following awards and grants applications are due to the state office by April 1: Council Achievement award, Unit Achievement award, Newsletter award, Website award, Health & Safety grant, Membership awards, Student Safety award, Parent Involvement grant, and Outstanding Membership Campaign grant. Check your Tool Kit's Grants & Awards booklet or the MO PTA website for information and applications.



Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

- PTA Mid-Year Membership Drive
- 1 Dues to State Office
- 1 New Year's Day
- 15 Reflections Entries Due to State Office by 4:30p.m.
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

FEBRUARY

- Black History Month
- 1 Dues to State Office
- 1 National School Counseling Week
- 7-13 PTA Take Your Family to School Week
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 President's Day
- 17 PTA Founder's Day

MARCH

- Women's History Month
- Music in Our Schools Month
- National Nutrition Month
- 1 Dues to State Office
- 2 Read Across America
- 3 Missouri Principal's Day
- 9-11 National PTA Legislative Conference
- 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 30 Passover Begins
- 31 New Officers Form Due to State Office

APRIL

- Alcohol Awareness Month
- 1 Award & Grant Applications Due to State Office
- 1 Dues to State Office
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter
- 7 Child Advocacy Day, Jefferson City (Please note the date change from the previous January date)
- 12 Drop Everything & Read Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 22 Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day
- 23-24 MO PTA Leadership Conference
- 30 Arbor Day

Missouri Congress of Parents & Teachers
Missouri PTA
2100 I-70 Dr. S.W.
Columbia, MO 65203



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ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

Missouri's Child Advocacy Day • Tuesday, April 7, 2010

The Missouri Alliance for Children, Youth and Families has made the decision to move Child Advocacy Day 2010 back to April 7th (formerly the last Tuesday in January). Make plans now to join Missouri PTA and Missouri's Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families in Jefferson City beginning at 9:00 am in the Capital Rotunda.

The events for the day include:

- Recognition of this year's Child Advocate Award
- Workshops
- Exhibits showcasing services for children and families
- Meetings with legislators
- Networking with other advocates
- March to the Capitol and Rally



Items to Remember:

- You do not need to preregister.
- You may attend Child Advocacy Day free of charge.
- Parking is available in the Madison Street Garage for a fee. Free parking is available on the west side of the Capitol (down the hill).
- Call your Senator or Representative in advance to make a 15-minute appointment.
- Find the name of your senator or representative on the internet at http://www.senate.mo.gov/lookup/leg_lookup.aspx
- Business casual clothing is suggested.