

# CONTACT

Volume 92, Issue 4  
January 2011

*Together*



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Official Sponsors of the 2010 Missouri State Convention



A big thank you to our Convention Planners

A special thank you to our 2010 Missouri PTA Convention Chairman, Patty Voss, and Assistant Chairman, Pat Wehmeyer. They worked tirelessly to put together a fabulous event for everyone. Thanks also to the many volunteers who made the convention run so smoothly!

Convention workshop materials are available in the "Members Only" section of [mopta.org](http://mopta.org).

**Cover photo:**

Scenes from the Missouri PTA Convention.

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

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

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**President's Message** *By Wendy Jackson, Missouri PTA President*

Not so very long ago, you were given the opportunity to cast your vote in the elections of our representative government. I hope you took that opportunity and still remember the platforms of those campaigns. Now is the time for the winners to be held accountable for the campaign promises and platforms that got them elected. The Missouri legislative session is set to begin on January 5<sup>th</sup>. We must inform them of issues that effect children and families.

Missouri children – our country's children -- will need your help. Take a moment to sign up to receive legislative alerts through the JC/DC Network on our website. These alerts will provide you with a summarization of the issues so you are able to make an informed decision and contact your representatives at the state and federal level. If you do not speak up, then who?? We must speak for those who cannot or will not speak for themselves.

The legislative platform for Missouri PTA has been set by you, our members, and we will actively work to make sure that your voices are heard.

**MISSOURI PTA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2010-2011**

These legislative priorities are based on the issues that the Missouri PTA Legislative Department expects to target for the 2011 legislative session. As unexpected issues emerge, Missouri PTA will act in accordance with the resolutions and position statements that have been approved by the membership. A complete list of resolutions and position statements are available on our website ([www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org)). Missouri PTA supports:

- Legislation that protects and calls for local control of schools.

- Permitting passage of school bonds by majority vote and raising the ceiling of indebtedness to 20%.
- Legislation that protects a third party, such as a parent or legal guardian, who reports child abuse or suspected child abuse by a school employee from civil liability when they are acting in good faith.
- Legislation to increase funding for programs and services aimed at the prevention of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment.
- Opposition to tax credits or tax deductions for tuition paid by a parent or sponsors for nonpublic elementary and secondary school children.
- Enforcement of legislation requiring school districts to have policies that promote increased parent involvement in their children's education.
- Legislation that will maintain or generate local and state funding for public education.
- State funding for renovation and construction of essential school facilities.
- Legislation strengthening laws to limit and restrict projects that reduce funding to public education through tax increment financing (TIF), urban redevelopment corporations and enterprise zones.
- Legislation and other efforts to reduce class sizes in Missouri schools.
- Legislation supporting mandatory statewide recycling, and additional laws for the promotion of programs to provide incentives for individuals to make a greater effort to stop pollution and conserve our natural resources.

Locally, we ask that you attend a Kid's First Town Hall meeting when one is scheduled in your region. Missouri PTA partners with local units/councils to bring your government representatives to you in your own backyard. Kid's Town Hall provides a format for them to answer questions and hear what the grassroots have to say on the issues. Please watch for further information on a Kid's First Town Hall Meeting in your area.

I look forward to seeing you there.

**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



# Missouri Convention Keynote Speaker

*Betsy Landers, National PTA President-Elect*

**Missouri PTA was honored to have National PTA President-Elect Betsy Landers join us at Convention to deliver the Keynote Address. The full text of her speech is available at [mopta.org](http://mopta.org).**

Like each of you, I am a member of PTA because I am inspired by our children. It first started with wanting to improve education and health for my own three children, then the children in my neighborhood and to my children's schoolmates. Over time, I wanted to ensure that every child grew up healthy, strong and well-educated.

Each of us is driven by this passion for improving our schools and communities for our children, no matter who they are, where they live or their station in life. Every child—whether by birth or otherwise—is our child. And for them, we want the very best.

We know it is this passion that gives our PTA its power. It is how we transform school halls into centers of learning; neighborhoods into thriving communities; and bright eyes of young boys and girls into our future leaders and builders.

Our passion and work flow from our homes into our schools, into communities, through the economy and across borders to the rest of the world.

This passion is why we are the biggest and most-successful voice for children and families the world has ever known. We take on great challenges with powerful, practical solutions. We rally together caring adults to solve the toughest problems. We create resources where there are none. And we form partnerships between families, schools and communities that sustain and advance the promise we make to every child from birth: Your future will be better, brighter and happier than our past.

Now, we must speak louder, clearer, stronger. Why? Because now -- more than ever -- our children need us to knock down new obstacles to their success in school and life.

Our children need effective advocates for

their wellness and academic success. They need caring adults skilled at building alliances that support improving public education.

Most of all, they need an army of passionate defenders working tirelessly on their behalf in schools, communities, statehouses and Capitol Hill.

Our children need PTA. We have the tools to take on these challenges. If we diversify our membership and embrace a bolder vision of what PTA can do, we will transform the lives of our children, revitalize our communities, and keep America in its place as the leading nation on earth.

Our work is successful only when we build strong partnerships with schools, communities and institutions. We must nurture these partnerships and develop new ones in order to address our most-pressing education and health issues.

We must expect -- and demand -- our elected leaders to improve education for all children. Caring adults and institutions are ready to do their part. So must our political leaders. When PTA speaks, they listen.

Please reach out to those in your community. More than ever, the churches, chambers of commerce and social service groups there realize the importance of improving education and health for children.

Build your local and state PTA into a network of resources. Share best practices with your colleagues. Become a source of knowledge for minority leadership groups and other organizations who work with children.

Create more specialized and community-based PTAs. This can help schools without PTAs become connected to one another and help engage all parents, no matter their background.

Connect with principals and other administrators at your schools. Let them know that PTAs are the most-effective way to engage parents in their schools because of who we are and what we do each and every day all



across this nation.

Engage more men in a meaningful way. When you get one man to volunteer to take on a PTA activity, he will bring his energy, his dedication—and three of his friends with him. They stand ready to help – we only need to ask.

As PTA members, we know that our work is more than just fundraisers. What we do is transformative. When PTA engages more parents in education, our children will succeed in school and in life.

Our boys and girls then become happy, healthy, well-educated builders of neighborhoods, transformers of communities, leaders for our nation and nurturers of children and families.

We must take on the challenges that face our children's futures. We shall provide for our children what they truly deserve. We will bring millions more into our voice. And we will do whatever it takes.

Today is a new day to re-dedicate our energies, our passion and our talents to doing what matters most -- brighter futures for every child.

Thank you for accepting this legacy. Thank you for dedicating yourself to our mission – a mission that is truly timeless. Most importantly, thank you for being part of our voice.

## Building Fund Donations

Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA  
Greenwood Elementary PTA  
North Kansas City Council PTA  
Raytown High School PTSA  
Prairie View Elementary PTA  
Chouteau Elementary PTA

Espy PTA of Nixa  
Nixa Jr. High PTSA  
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA  
Staley High School Falcon Booster Club PTSA  
Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA  
Mason Elementary PTA  
New Mark Middle School PTA  
Raytown Middle School PTSA  
Trailridge Elementary PTA  
Franklin Smith Elementary PTA  
Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA

Longview Farm Elementary PTA  
Bridger Middle School PTSA  
Sunset Valley Elementary PTA  
Mark Twain Elementary PTA  
Bingham Middle School PTSA  
Hazel Grove Elementary PTA  
Summit Lakes Middle School PTSA  
Lee's Summit Council PTA

# Convention General Meeting

By Kim Weber, Secretary

President Wendy Jackson called the first general meeting to order at 10:30am on Saturday, October 16, at the Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia. After the opening thought was given by Amanda Rupert, a Student Representative for Missouri PTA, local Boy Scout Troop 702 from the Broadway Christian Church in Columbia posted the colors and led the delegation in the Pledge of Allegiance. Catherine Sandstedts from Rock Bridge High School performed the National Anthem. After an amazing performance of the National Anthem, President Jackson welcomed everyone to the 95<sup>th</sup> Missouri PTA State Convention. She called special attention to our five newest units that have organized and chartered a PTA since our last convention. Tonia Nielsen, Missouri PTA Administrative Assistant, read letters of regret from previous state presidents unable to attend.

A highlight of convention for years is seeing Helen Maupin, a former state treasurer and an honorary vice president, and hearing her amazing plea to all of us to continue our advocacy for Missouri children. President Wendy Jackson welcomed Helen to this year's convention and offered her the chance to speak. She motivated the delegation to acquire all the training they could along the way and to have fun with it! Make new PTA friends because, "you'll keep your PTA friend for life." "After leaving convention, go back home and share the energy, information and the fun you had with the friends at home so they will understand how important PTA is for the children."

After convention committees were established and the adoption of the reports were presented, a quorum being present, President Jackson declared the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers organized and ready to do business. President Jackson gave the annual report and the audit was presented by Missouri PTA Treasurer, Patty Buckholz.

Angel Davis, Missouri PTA Resolutions Chair presented the consideration of resolutions to the convention delegation. The resolution, "Substance Abuse", which was a resolution that will replace four previous resolutions: Club Drugs, Drugs, Drug Paraphernalia, and Prohibition of Look-Alike Drugs and if adopted those resolutions would be retired. After no further discussion, the resolution

was adopted.

Denise McCarter, Vice President of Legislation & Advocacy for Missouri PTA gave a legislative update from the advocacy work of Missouri PTA the last year. Denise encouraged the delegates to read the entire legislative report in their packet but did call attention to several issues that are facing education this year. Drastic funding cuts to the education formula and overall funding for education across the state. PTA members all have a voice and it is up to each and every one of us to communicate with our state legislators reminding them that they cannot forget education and it must be put first in the budget, putting public funding to public schools. Vice President McCarter reminded each member that there is work that they can do at their local level to support the PTA role in Jefferson City. Suggestions were to host legislative town hall meetings with local representatives and or administrators, by joining the JC/DC network on [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org), where they can receive important updates and alerts when bills are being heard in our state and national capitals that affect public school education and our children.

Missouri PTA was fortunate to have Betsy Landers, National PTA President-Elect, give remarks on behalf of National PTA. She explained how her journey in PTA started in rural Tennessee in 1989, when she wanted to ensure her children received the best experiences in school. Gradually, that passion evolved into wanting that same thing for all children in her school district, state and then nation. She explained to the audience how PTA's work and passion flows through all walks of life and on an international basis. She reported that the volunteer hours done by PTA translate into 1.3 billion dollars every year. Ms. Landers explained where the \$1.75 in national dues goes and all the resources and training one receives for the \$1.75 which is less than a cup of coffee these days and will last a lot longer than that coffee will. Lastly she encouraged all of the convention body of the importance of male involvement and recruiting one male to volunteer will bring three more males because the first one has to bring his friends the second time. She ended her presentation by stating that National PTA and its Board of Directors will do whatever it takes, to do what matters the most and

to always be the one in the room for our children. We all have to be.

Sunday morning, the second general meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by President Jackson after which Amanda Weber, a Missouri PTA Student Representative gave the opening thought. This year our convention's service project was Rainbow House in Columbia. Missouri PTA Secretary, Kim Weber introduced Brenda Jackman from the Rainbow House who spoke on what her organizations mission is how our help with the collected donations will help so many that are in a crisis situation.

Donna Petiford, Missouri PTA President Elect and Bylaws Committee Chair, presented the proposed amendments to the bylaws for the convention body to approve and after no discussion, all were approved as presented.

President Wendy Jackson had the honor to recognize four very special women, former state presidents of Missouri PTA that were in attendance and to bring them to the stage to receive recognition for their continued work and service to PTA. They were Linda Hyde, 1997-1999, Tina Zubeck, 2003-2005, Kathy Nevans, 2005-2007 and Mary Oyler, 2007-2009. Also honored at this time were Missouri Life Members and Distinguished Service Award Recipients.

Jeff Rogers, Missouri PTA Male Involvement Chair, introduced Melissa Erickson from Family First who brought greetings to our convention body. She also shared exciting news that All Pro Dad has just committed to an event with the St. Louis Rams and Missouri PTA on Saturday, December 4 in St. Louis.

Patty Voss, the 2010 State Convention Chair for Missouri PTA helped us to remember all of the exciting and fun things that had transpired over the weekend with a slide show. Patty, who will be the 2011 State Convention Chair invited all those present to come back a year from now to the same hotel, same city and location for the 96<sup>th</sup> State Convention to experience another fun filled learning and networking opportunity. With that said, the President declared the 95<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers to be adjourned.

# CONGRATULATIONS to our Leader's Project Class of 2010!

The following individuals accepted the challenge and put in the time and effort to join the Missouri PTA Leaders Project Class of 2010. This class was recognized at the state convention during Saturday evening dinner.

Their dedication to PTA and desire to improve their leadership skills and broaden their knowledge will be of great value to them, their local PTA and to Missouri PTA.



Jessica Bruner	Fremont Elementary PTA	Springfield school district	Ozark
Rochelle Gentry	Glendale Elem. PTA	Independence school district	Three Trails
Cheryl Hartell	North Platte PTA	North Platte County school district	Pony Express
Deann Jepson	West Englewood	North Kansas City school district	Pony Express
Angela Knight	Hickory Hills Elementary PTA and Hickory Hills MS PTSA	Springfield	Ozark
Sara McMillin	Sunset Valley Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit school district	Three Trails
Lisa Orchard	Raytown South High School PTSA	Raytown	Three Trails
Chris Rogers	Robinson Elementary PTA	Raytown school district	Three Trails
Amanda Rupert	Cameron PTSA	Cameron school district	Pony Express
Rosa Shaw	Cherokee MS PTSA	Springfield	Ozark
Susan Ames Smith	Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary PTA & Springfield Council	Springfield school district	Ozark
Kori Skidmore	Portland Elementary PTA	Springfield	Ozark
Julie Vanover	Platte City Schools PTA	Platte City school district	Pony Express

Will YOU accept the challenge and join the ranks of Certified PTA Leaders? We want to recognize your accomplishments and hope to see you as a part of the Leader's Project Class of 2011!

## Early Bird Winners AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

### Early Childhood / Elementary / Special Education Level

Shoal Creek Elementary PTA  
Liberty School District  
Pony Express Region

### Middle School / Jr. High / Combined Level

South Valley Junior High PTSA  
Liberty School District  
Pony Express Region

### High School Level

Glendale PTSA  
Springfield School District  
Ozark Region



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



# Missouri PTA Scholarship Program

*Sheryl Kaullen, Missouri PTA Scholarship Committee Chairperson*

The PTA Scholarship Committee selected five (5) outstanding students to receive Missouri PTA Teacher Education Scholarships during the fall 2010 school term. The awardees were:

Angelica Hodgdon	William Chrisman High School	Irma G. Detjen Scholarship	(Independence School District)
Taylor Parks	Glendale High School	Helen Maupin Scholarship	(Springfield School District)
Mitch Stewart	Oak Park High School	Dillard A. Mallory Scholarship	(North Kansas City School District)
Spencer Keith Webb	School of the Osage High School	Caroline B. Ullmann Scholarship	(Miller County R-2 School District)
Samantha Wynne	Liberty High School	Caroline B. Ullmann Scholarship	(Liberty School District)

Sixteen (16) students received an annual scholarship disbursement of \$500.00; totaling \$8,000.00 of scholarship awards in the fall of 2010. Historically, scholarships have been funded by endowment funds, individual donations and local PTA Council and Unit gifts.

As a result of the downfall in the economy, gifts have decreased and investments have yielded poor or negative returns, drastically affecting the scholarship investment funds. Accordingly, the Missouri State PTA Scholarship Committee initiated fundraising activities to augment scholarship funding and increase awards. Scholarship fundraising t-shirts can be purchased at the State PTA Office, or by placing orders with the office.

It is imperative that PTA officers and members promote and encourage donations to the scholarship program; because, nothing is more important than educating Missouri's future teachers. Unit and council gifts engender the growth of the State Scholarship Program, enabling student endowments to perpetuate. Our children are relying on PTA members to continue support of the Missouri PTA Scholarship Program.

Additionally, the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Memorial Award (PAH) is bestowed upon one or more scholarship recipient seniors, with a record of exceptional academics, outstanding character, community service and a commitment to teaching. Income from the PAH Fund is used to finance these awards. Mr. Brant Melvin from Mexico High School-Missouri State University, Springfield, received the 2010 award at the October 2010 PTA State Convention in Columbia.

Mr. Melvin was born in Maryville, where he attended school until the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He moved to Mexico, Missouri, whereupon he graduated in 2007 as Valedictorian of his class. He graduated in December 2010

from Missouri State University with his B.S. Educational Degree in mathematics. Brant is a member of Kappa Mu Epsilon Fraternity, has repeatedly been on the Dean's List and worked part time.

Brant conducted his initial block of student teaching at Rock Bridge High School in Columbia and worked with Mrs. Lisa Holt. Brant stated that she was "an outstanding teacher and role model. I learned a lot from her that I will be able to use in my own classroom." His second block of student teaching was at Community R-IV High School in Laddonia. Brant related to me that "interning at two very different schools allowed for a rich student teaching

experience."

Brant is passionate about math and teaching math. He loves waking up and going to school every day to help students learn about math; so much so that he says he is 100% sure this is the job for him.

His future plans are to teach high school math, while working on a Masters Degree in mathematics. Eventually, he would like to earn his PhD. in mathematics and teach at the college level.

As is evident from the list of student triumphs and PAH Award winner, your gifts to the PTA scholarship program are dollars well spent. Together, we are making a difference for our children.



MOPTA Scholarship Chair Sheryl Kaullen, PAH Scholarship recipient Brant Melvin, Helen Maupin, a former MOPTA treasurer and an honorary vice president, and MOPTA President Wendy Jackson.

## Scholarship Raffle at Convention

Thank you to all who participated in the Raffle at Convention to benefit our Scholarship Fund. Thanks to your generous donations of raffle items and the purchase of raffle tickets, \$1450.00 was raised!

# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

By Kathy Nevans

What do spoon relays, hula hoop contest, balloon relays and lots of dancing have in common? All of these were activities that could be seen or participated in at this year's Saturday evening party at convention. Graciously accepting their roles as team captains, President Wendy Jackson, President-Elect Donna Petiford and National PTA President-Elect Betsy Landers randomly selected teams and led them to victory in various contests. Everyone was encouraged to get up and move to the music and enjoy a great time while earning raffle tickets for a number of giveaways donated by friends of Missouri PTA.

A few minutes were reserved so Past Missouri Presidents, Tina Zubeck and Kathy Nevans could talk about the upcoming Missouri PTA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration coming in 2012. Units and individuals were encouraged to donate \$100.00 to help plan and prepare for our Centennial Celebration. All units, councils and individuals, who donate \$100.00 by June of 2012 will have their name engraved on a commemorative plaque to be located at our office in Columbia and will receive a special memento from our celebration. THANK



YOU to, Meadowmere PTA, Grandview who presented Missouri PTA with a check for \$100.00 on the spot and challenged all units to do likewise when they returned home. The DJ even got into the spirit of celebrating and challenged those present to donate \$25.00 for him to play an extra set of songs and keep the party going, which was accomplished on the spot.

Plans and activities are being developed as we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> year of advocating for children in Missouri. Look for more information in upcoming Contact publications and at special events.

100 years and going strong doing what is best for ALL OUR CHILDREN.

## New Unit

Please welcome our newest Missouri PTA units, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary PTA in Columbia, Jefferson PTA in Joplin, and Verona PTA in Verona!

## Evaluation Drawing Winner

Congratulations to Liz Hostetler of Columbia. Her name was drawn from the convention evaluations and she'll receive a certificate for a free registration to the 2011 Missouri State 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.

# Annual Meeting – Show-Me State PTA

On October 16, 2010, the Show Me State PTA held its annual at the Stony Creek Inn in Columbia, Missouri. Members voted to approve a bylaws amendment to change the fiscal year of the unit from September 1 through August 31 to July 1 through June 30. With this change the Show Me State PTA will have the same fiscal and membership year as Missouri PTA. Show Me State PTA continues its support of both the Missouri PTA Scholarship Fund and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund by approving \$100.00 donations to each fund.

President Oyler shared with members Missouri PTA's support of an All Pro Dads event to be held in conjunction with the St. Louis Rams on December 4<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that Show Me State PTA

members would provide volunteers for a Missouri PTA booth and sell memberships to those fathers and other male role models wishing to show their support for the children and the work of PTA in Missouri.

Linda Thiele, Show Me State PTA National PTA Convention Delegate, gave a brief report about her convention attendance and a drawing was held to select the 2011 National PTA Delegate. Kim Weber was chosen as the delegate and Linda Hyde will serve as the alternate.

All members of the Show Me State PTA enjoy our annual meetings and would like to invite others to become a part of our state wide PTA unit as we show our support for



all of the children of Missouri. To join this caring, dedicated and fun group, visit the Missouri PTA website ([www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org)) click on "Get Involved" and then click on "Show Me State PTA."



# Student Safety Award

The Missouri PTA Student Safety Award is given to honor an outstanding student who contributed to the safety of another person.

Corey Ryan Morris was an ordinary teenager. He enjoyed swimming, fishing, playing pool, playing guitar, and hanging with friends – oh, and girls! He had a special way of bringing a smile to everyone's face. People were drawn to Corey and his infectious optimism. He gave people a sense of ease just by saying hello to them. His friendships were strong and a lot of people depended on his easy, caring manner including his family members. When you ask his friends about him, they will say, "I loved him. He was always there with a ready smile and friendly teasing. That's just Corey. He made me laugh." Corey was a charismatic young man as evidenced by the numerous Facebook postings before and after August



Corey Ryan Morris 1993-2009



Accepting the Student Safety Award honoring their son, Corey, are Aaron, Roy, Donna, and Kelsey Morris.

15, 2009. You see, on August 15<sup>th</sup>, Corey became an extraordinary teenager. He saved a younger boy's life and as a result gave his own. Missouri PTA was proud to bestow

on Corey Ryan Morris the Student Safety Award. Corey was nominated by the Hickman High School PTSA.

## Keynote Speaker – Susanne Mitko

2009-2010 Missouri Teacher of the Year

By Ava Payne, Contact Editor

Susanne Mitko is the teacher every parent wishes their child would have. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher from Lee's Summit is passionate about education, curious about the learning process, and committed to her students. No wonder she was named the 2010 Missouri Teacher of the Year.

It's been a whirlwind year for Mrs. Mitko. She's traveled a lot. She met the President. She went to Space Camp. But her one concern was missing school – she didn't

want to leave her students. However, she brings all of her experiences back to the classroom. She described being a teacher as "Being part salesman, part thespian and part cheerleader."

She shared her teaching philosophy with us – that learning is most powerful when the connection is drawn by the learners. In her class, students sample foreign foods, become armchair archaeologists, and even mummify a cat. Her goal is to create lifelong learners, not to just "teach to the test".



Mrs. Mitko recommended two books during her speech:

**Teaching With the Brain in Mind**

by Eric Jensen

**Brain Rules** by John Medina

## Convention Donations Aid Rainbow House in Columbia, MO

Rainbow House in Columbia, MO, was established in 1986 to help siblings stay together in the foster care system. In the ensuing years, it has grown to include much more: The Children's Emergency Shelter which temporarily houses children who are in foster care, and assists parents who request placement for their children during a family crisis. The Regional Child Advocacy Center

(CAC) provides forensic interviewing, advocacy and therapy for children who have been sexually abused and/or severely physically abused. The Transitional Living Program provides housing and services for homeless youth in an off-site facility called "Sol House," who are interested in making a meaningful and productive transition into adulthood. All are part of

Rainbow House's mission to keep children safe and support families in crisis through prevention, assessment and intervention in child abuse and neglect. Thanks to generous donations from MO PTA members at the October Convention, Rainbow House will continue to provide services in the Columbia community.

## Resolutions

By Angel Davis, Resolutions Chair

Thank you all for your help passing our Substance Abuse Resolution at Convention this year. The Substance Abuse resolution was a result of the Resolution Committee's annual review and clean-up of the MOPTA resolutions. The Resolution Committee makes sure the active

MOPTA resolutions are an accurate reflection of our current Legislative Priorities, because without a resolution or position statement we cannot speak for or against an issue.

This is true for your local units and councils as well. When speaking on behalf of your PTA, you can only speak to issues for which National, State or your PTA has resolutions or position statements, and you must express the same stance as in the resolution or position statement. You can find all the MOPTA resolutions on the

Resolutions page at [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org).

Resolutions can be created for your local unit or council. They can be created for issues such as supporting a school bond, supporting an increase of cross walks at your school or even against the elimination of a school program. You can find a guide to creating resolutions in the Legislation Handbook. You can also contact the Resolution Chairperson, Angel Davis, at [angeld@mopta.org](mailto:angeld@mopta.org) for help

## AtLaw Awards Winners

By Denise McCarter, Vice President Legislation and Advocacy

In the more than one hundred years since its founding, the heart of PTA has been advocacy for children and youth, and the heart of that advocacy has been legislation. Historically, much of the legislation protecting the health, education and well-being of children and youth owes its existence to PTA as an initiating force or a driving force.

The need for advocacy through legislation continues as our young people are more at risk than ever before. So many Missouri children live in poverty, broken homes, and without adequate healthcare. They face a violent world and a culture that does not always encourage educational achievement as a key factor to success in life. These children need advocates, people who care about them, and people who will speak for them.

The Advocacy through Legislation Award (AtLaw) is offered by Missouri PTA to:

(1) give Missouri PTA members who champion

the issues of children the recognition they deserve, and (2) encourage other members to step forward as caring voices for children. Both individuals and Units or Councils are eligible for this award.

The recipients of the Individual Advocacy through Legislation Award were presented with their pin and certificate at the Awards Dinner at the 2010 State Convention in Columbia, Missouri on October 16, 2010. These individuals were Donna Petiford, Springfield, Missouri Council; Stephanie Miller, Springfield, Missouri Council; and Dorothy Gardner, Liberty, Missouri Council.

The groups receiving the 2010 Unit/Council Advocacy through Legislation Award were Liberty Council of PTAs and Springfield Council PTA. Congratulations to both the individuals and the Councils. They are making a difference in the lives of Missouri's children,



and you and your unit or council can join this prestigious group.

The applications for the AtLaw Awards are included in the "GRANTS AND AWARDS" section of the yearly Toolkit. We encourage all MOPTA members to be advocates and a voice for our children. Look over the requirements for the AtLaw Awards as this legislative year begins. The checklist on the applications will help set your legislative agenda and be an active participant in 2011. If you have any questions, contact Denise McCarter, [denisem@mopta.org](mailto:denisem@mopta.org).

## Bylaws Reminder

By Linda Klender, State Procedure and Bylaws Chair

Each unit should have a bylaws committee as a standing committee. The bylaws committee should review Bylaws each year and make recommendations for changes if applicable. Every PTA is required to update bylaws at least every three years. Please check for the Missouri PTA approval date on the last page of your unit's bylaws to determine if your bylaws are due for review. Suggested Bylaws may be ordered for free by emailing the state office at [office@mopta.org](mailto:office@mopta.org). A copy of your unit's current bylaws is also available from the state office.

Please follow these guidelines when submitting your bylaws or amendments:

- ✓ Bylaws and amendments must be submitted in Microsoft Word as an email attachment.
- ✓ The last page of the bylaws must contain the names of the bylaws committee.

Once approved, an electronic copy will be returned to your unit. Any email submission that is not readable is the responsibility of the submitting PTA. The PTA will be informed of the problem and allowed to resubmit by other means or by hard copy.

Please check the Missouri PTA toolkit for additional information and instructions. Also, remember that our state bylaws chair, your regional director and your council's bylaws chair (if your unit is part of a council) are available to assist you in updating or amending your unit's bylaws.

## Save the date!

Missouri's Child Advocacy Day – March 31, 2011  
Watch your e-mail for information about joining Missouri PTA and Missouri's Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families in Jefferson City!

## Kid-friendly Mascots for elementary schools.



Each mascot comes in its own clipart set featuring the mascot doing a variety of elementary school related activities.



See if we have a clipart set of your mascot already done at [www.toons4biz.com](http://www.toons4biz.com).



If we don't have what you want in our library of more than 7,000 images, we'll custom design a mascot for you.

The dog on the left was sent to us by a Principal and he asked us to redesign him and create a 50 pose clipart set.



# TOONS4BIZ

Visit [toons4biz.com](http://toons4biz.com) or call 816-366-0199

# Networking

Delegates to the 95<sup>th</sup> annual convention enjoyed 2 hours of Networking Sessions on various topics.

**Increasing Your Membership** -- Rachel Powers, President of Blue Springs High School PTSA, explained how her school continuously increases their memberships each year. This PTSA has won the Missouri PTA Golden Gavel award for the most members for three consecutive years.

**Lou Hibdon** discussed a new trend in combining a PTSA with a school booster clubs.

**Parent Involvement** – Melissa Erickson from All Pro Dad and iMom Mornings gave an overview of her programs. Eric Snow of WatchDogs also gave a brief synopsis of what how the Watch Dog program. Deann Jepson offered ideas of other programs delegates could

try in their school and how these programs relate to the National Standards for Family School Partnerships.

**Training For The Future Together** -- National PTA President-Elect Betsy Landers and Missouri PTA President Wendy Jackson talked about how training is important on all levels to have a successful PTA. Participants were challenged to come up with a workshop ideas and send to them to Missouri PTA.

**PTA & Today's Technology** -- Dorothy Gardner, Missouri PTA VP of Communications, discussed social networking and it's use for PTA. Angel Davis, webmaster for the Columbia Council, discussed their Outstanding Website Winner. Shelly Throckmorton, VP of Membership, led a discussion about Just Between Friends.

# Convention with the Students 2010

By Amanda Rupert

The theme of this year's convention was "Together We Shape The Future". Although our student attendance was low, the group of kids who did attend made it a very fun weekend!

Throughout the weekend, we attended a series of workshops and fun activities. We learned about bullying, government issues that affect students, and we also did some role playing to help us understand how to deal with conflict and everyday issues in our lives.

There were many great workshops this year, but one of the workshops that everyone seemed to enjoy the most was presented by Gwen Brune. Gwen is a former Missouri PTA Student Representative and was chosen to be one of 15 people to attend the PTA Legislative Conference in Washington DC, also called the Youth Institute. The Student Representatives had to be at least 18 years old and gave valuable input for future student leadership to National PTA. Gwen also told us about all the new people she met and us the fun things she got to do and see in Washington.

Before the conference had ended, we spent time as a group talking about what we would



like to see for the students at future trainings. Some of the questions that we considered as a group: what makes students want to attend convention; ideas for future workshops; how to advocate to your PTSA to attend the trainings; how budgets affect the PTSA student training; and ways to enable more students to get their Leaders Project award!

Our next student training opportunity is the Leadership Conference! We invite all PTSA student members to attend – Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, MO. – April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011! If you have a student workshop idea or questions about student leadership please contact Mark Kempf at [markk@mopta.org](mailto:markk@mopta.org) or the state office at 1-800-328-7330. We welcome your suggestions!



# Exhibitors

By Renee Benjamin and Linda Wansing

Tired of the same old fund-raiser year after year? Convention 2010 provided new options and answers for PTA units looking for something new and different!

The Vendor Fair had many new vendors this year displaying their products. There were vendors for spirit wear, hand cleanser, science shows, candles, music, field trips, cultural art show choices, playground equipment, pictures and publishing, new white board options, classes in making homemade supplies, entertainment books, science and math training, not to mention vendors offering catalog fund-raisers.

Exhibitors also provided information on Missouri Connections, the Parent Information Resource Center, American Heart Association, and MOST, the Missouri 529 college-saving program.

The majority of the vendors had samples to give to the convention delegates. A few of the vendor took the opportunity to sell their ever-popular product. Spirit Sleeve, a vendor selling colored sleeves, was a big hit, especially with the student attendees!

The convention delegates were happy to



see new vendors and options to help their individual units.

# January – NATIONAL EYE CARE MONTH

By Dani Riley, Health & Safety/Juvenile Services Chair

Good vision is a vital part of learning. According to the American Optometric Association, early detection and treatment of eye and vision problems for children needs to be a major public health goal. Statistics show that until the age of 12, 80% of all learning is done visually. The earlier a vision problem is diagnosed and treated, the less the potential negative impact it may have on the child's development.

**Warning signs for a vision problem include:**

- Short attention span or daydreaming
- Poor reading
- Avoiding close work
- Frequent headaches
- A drop in scholastic or sports performance
- Covering one eye
- Tilting the head (when reading)
- Squinting one or both eyes

- Placing head close to book or desk when reading or writing
- Difficulty remembering, identifying and reproducing basic geometric forms
- Poor eye-hand coordination skills
- Frequent rubbing of the eyes

Early detection is the best way for children to get the best start in learning. For more information, go to [seetolearn.org](http://seetolearn.org) or [aoa.org](http://aoa.org).

# Scholarship Fund Donations

Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA  
 Greenwood Elementary PTA  
 North Kansas City Council PTA  
 Center Middle School PTA  
 Glendale PTSA  
 Raytown High School PTSA  
 Prairie View Elementary PTA  
 Chouteau Elementary PTA  
 Espy PTA of Nixa  
 Springfield Council PTA  
 Nixa Jr. High PTSA  
 Delta Woods Middle School PTSA

Highland Park Elementary PTA  
 Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA  
 Mason Elementary PTA  
 New Mark Middle School PTA  
 Pleasant Lea Middle School PTA  
 Raytown Middle School PTSA  
 Independence Council PTA  
 Trailridge Elementary PTA  
 Franklin Smith Elementary PTA  
 Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA  
 Longview Farm Elementary PTA  
 Bridger Middle School PTSA

Sunset Valley Elementary PTA  
 Mark Twain Elementary PTA  
 Bingham Middle School PTSA  
 Hazel Grove Elementary PTA  
 Summit Lakes Middle School PTSA  
 Lee's Summit Council PTA  
 Smithton Middle School PTSA

# Bullying

By Amanda Weber, Missouri PTA Student Representative

Have you ever felt alone? Felt lost? Felt like no one cared? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you might know what it's like to be bullied. My name is Amanda and I'm a victim of bullying. I was bullied my freshman and sophomore years of high school. My bullies were my classmates, the people I thought were my friends. The things that my bullies said to me during that time have affected me till this day. I am who I am because of this. Being bullied leaves emotional scars that never seem to ever go away. The bullies at school are no longer the people who look tough and shove you up against a wall and take your lunch money or cut in front of you in the kickball line. No, these bullies can be your peers, your friends, and the people around you. There are many reasons to why bullies do what they do. It could be because of peer pressure, fear, and insecurity about themselves and or knowing that when they bully you, they are getting power from an innocent person who doesn't deserve to be bullied. Lastly they bully because sometimes they don't have a positive adult role model in their lives and they resort to bullying because it's the only way they know that they can get attention from some adults. No one deserves to be bullied, yet 160,000 kids/teens stay home from school because they are being bullied.\* You might have heard on the news about the four teenagers who took their own lives because they were being bullied

for who they were. They should have never taken their life because they were getting bullied. In today's high schools six out of ten teenagers witness bullying once a day and do nothing about it\*. 25% of students in school have experienced bullying\* and by the time they are 30 years of age, 25% of bullies will have a criminal record.\*

Talk about a wakeup call to all of us. Recently many celebrities have come together to bring awareness to bullying, such as Ellen DeGeneres and Demi Lovato, who was bullied in school and knows how it feels. In a recent tweet to bring awareness about bullying, Demi tweeted this quote, "Many people think of bullying as getting beat up in school, but it is so much more than that. For me it was all of the verbal harassment I had to deal with. People say sticks and stones may break your bones but names can never hurt you, but that's not true. Words can hurt. They hurt me. Things were said to me that I still haven't forgotten." Demi isn't the only celebrity that has either tweeted or said something on a T.V. show. Ellen DeGeneres on her television show had this to say about bullying, "Bullying is just so horrible..." she says." And somebody has to stop it. It goes on in schools for a lot of different reasons. That's really a shame."

I can't help but go back to thinking about the people who took their own lives and to think that, now that there are victims who have taken their lives, other people have

started listening and now speaking up to end the bullying. Would you have known the impact bullying has in schools if it wasn't for those kids who took their lives? Would there be this big of a need to end bullying if there hadn't been so much media coverage? What if this had happened at your child's school? What would you have done? We all know that bullying needs to stop, but how? We all have to start somewhere and that somewhere is within ourselves.

I am proud to be part of an organization that saw the need for education and resources to help with this issue in 2003 by adopting a Bullying Resolution. Did you know there is three part video on Missouri PTA's web site, [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org), on school bullying and prevention? There is, and I hope you take the time to view it and maybe to show it at your next PTA meeting. There are many other resources to get more information on bullying and to help you, your students, and/or your school advocate against bullying. But please don't wait. There might be a life you are saving by stepping up to raise awareness to this important issue.

"Remember that you are chosen to be on this earth, that it's something special for you. I think the fact that we are able to help one another is a big piece of this." ~Joe Jonas

- Facts obtained from [www.pacerteensagainstbullying.org](http://www.pacerteensagainstbullying.org)

## Founder's Day Donations

Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA  
Greenwood Elementary PTA  
Raytown High School PTSA  
Summit Pointe Elementary PTA  
Prairie View Elementary PTA  
Nixa Jr. High PTSA  
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA  
Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA  
Mason Elementary PTA  
Pleasant Lea Middle School PTA  
Raytown Middle School PTSA  
Trailridge Elementary PTA

Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA  
Longview Farm Elementary PTA  
Sunset Valley Elementary PTA  
Bingham Middle School PTSA  
Hawthorn Elementary PTA  
Hazel Grove Elementary PTA  
Summit Lakes Middle School PTA  
Lee's Summit Council PTA

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY PTA

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## Short Takes

### 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. You can't win if you don't apply!

### PROMETHEAN LAUNCHES INITIATIVES TO HELP PTAs

Promethean, a Proud National Sponsor of PTA, is launching two national initiatives to help members "Build their Dream ActivClassroom."

Promethean is a global education company committed to supporting teaching and learning with technology solutions proven to significantly boost student achievement. As part of a three-year partnership, Promethean will help local units interested in adding interactive technologies into classrooms and investing in digital-age learning resources.

#### Promethean is offering two programs for PTAs:

**"Great School Fundraisers" Contest** - PTAs share their best-of-the-best, most successful fundraising programs for a chance to win interactive classroom technology. Submissions will be judged based on the following three categories: originality and creativity, community involvement, and focus on philanthropy. Winners will be notified in May 2011 and the top 3 winners will receive Promethean classroom technology.

**"Fund Your Dream ActivClassroom" Matching Funds Promotion** - Conduct a PTA-sponsored fundraiser during the 2010-2011 school year at your local school and Promethean will match the dollar amount raised, up to \$3,800 per school, towards the purchase of any combination of qualifying Promethean ActivClassroom products.

Both programs begin on November 1, 2010. See [www.PrometheanWorld.com/PTA](http://www.PrometheanWorld.com/PTA) for eligibility, submission requirements, and the full contest rules for participation and to learn more about Promethean.

### MEMBER BENEFITS UPDATE

PTA Visa Card with OneCause and the PTA Rewards Card with Loyalty Access Solutions have expired due to low participation. Although

## Mark Your Calendar

### January

- PTA mid-year membership drive
- 1 Membership dues to state office
- 1 New Year's Day
- 14 Reflections entries due to state office by 4:30 p.m.
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

### February

- Black History Month
- 1 Membership dues to state office
- 13-19 Take Your Family to School Week
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 PTA Founder's Day
- 21 President's Day

### March

- Women's History Month
- Music in Our Schools Month
- National Nutrition Month
- 1 Membership dues to state office
- 2 Read Across America Day
- Principal's Day
- 9-11 National PTA Legislative Conference – Arlington, VA
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 31 Missouri Child Advocacy Day – Jefferson City
- 31 New Officers Form due to state office

these updates are effective immediately, the PTA Visa Card will remain valid until December 31, 2010 while the PTA Rewards Card will remain valid until each individual's term expires.

### IT'S TIME TO NOMINATE!

It's the time of year to form your nominating Committee for officers. For more information on forming this committee, please check your tool kit and the winter packet. Resources are also available in the "Members Only" section of [mopta.org](http://mopta.org).



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Missouri PTA  
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Columbia, MO 65202



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# Missouri PTA Leadership Conference

## April 29 – 30, 2010

Hilton Garden Inn  
Independence, Missouri

# *Destination:* Leadership



Make this **YOUR** destination to hear great ideas and information  
your PTA/PTSA can use.

Training, networking, team building, skills development and resource opportunities  
Adults and students (middle school & high school) are encouraged to attend.

Adult Registration: \$75.00 Student Registration: \$35.00  
(1 free student registration with each paid student registration!)

Reflections Student Showcase

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