

CONTACT

Volume 92, Issue 5
March 2011

Together



RUSSELL
TRAINING CENTER

WORLD CHAMPIONS
1951

WORLD CHAMPIONS
1999

NBC CHAMPIONS
2001

RAMS

MISSOURI CONGRESS
BUSINESS & TEACHERS

5

7

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RAMS

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PUMA

Missouri PTA
Annual Leadership
Conference

April 29 – 30, 2011

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!)

**Friday Night All-Conference Workshop: “Not Your Average Fundraiser”
*Your chance to learn about alternative fundraising ideas and network with units
that have successfully used them, WITH a little fun & prizes thrown in!*

Reflections Student Showcase
*Students winning honors at the state level will receive recognition from
Missouri PTA for their entries.*

Registration packets mailed to all unit and council presidents in March.

Cover photo:

All Pro Dads event in St. Louis

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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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or www.mopta.org

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.

NOTE: Advertisements appearing in this publication do not constitute PTA's endorsement of the product or service.

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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MO PTA 800-328-7330

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

Why did I join PTA???

How many times have you heard this question?

Everyone is different, and has their own reasons for joining PTA, but for me it probably isn't what you might think. It all started when my oldest (now a

25-year old military man) was a kindergartner at East Elementary School (now known as Thomas). His kindergarten teacher was Mrs. Mountjoy. Yeah, it is hard to forget when you spent almost as much time at school as your child. He would head off for school everyday, and by the time he got there he would be so nervous that he would vomit. The protocol was that he would be sent to the nurse and then they would call me. Each day for 2 weeks that was the routine. After 2 weeks we had to have a plan to get him back in the classroom. So Mrs. Mountjoy and I sat down and formulated a plan. I would put him on the bus and then I would meet him at school. I would then accompany him to class. When he was settled and working I was free to leave. It did work but not without much effort. I had to spend a great deal of time in the classroom before he was able to be successful. During that time I was extremely uneasy just sitting there. So I asked if there was something I could do to help. I felt I was invading her space and wanted to give back. I found myself cutting, copying, reading, and building bulletin boards. It was a win-win for all of us. After he got settled, I still continued to volunteer. The PTA was active and they saw that I was a hard-working volunteer so they asked if I would count Campbell's

soup labels. Sure, I said. Why? Because, by personally asking me to help out they made me feel that I had something to offer the organization. I went on to do many things at my local/council level, and have served in almost every position with the exception of Secretary. From there I was introduced to leadership conference, regional conference, and both state and national convention. I began to see that PTA was bigger than my own children's school and went on to join the state BOM (Board of Managers). To this day, I have continued to attend workshops and trainings. I find I learn something new even when I attend workshops that I have attended in the past. You can never know too much!

Now you might ask, why do I stay in PTA??

I started for my own children, but stayed for all children. Everything I know, I learned in PTA. I have tried new things, made speeches, written articles, and have amazed myself at what I can do when asked to do something on behalf of children and families. I do believe that PTA is the premier parent group. What do we offer that other groups don't? We have history and experience on our side. We have organization, accountability, name recognition, training, respect, and affiliation with other educational organizations. Most importantly, we have a volunteer spirit that is second to none. I am always in awe when I see or hear of the great things PTA volunteers are doing or have done. Never underestimate the power we collectively have. If we combine all the energy at the local/council/state/national level "**Together**" can move mountains, and hopefully influence the legislatures.

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

We Need More Than Good Enough for Our Kids

By Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor, PTA National President

"Good enough" is not good enough when the definition falls far below international standards and even our own aspirations for high-quality education. The American Institutes for Research pointed this out in October when its analysis revealed that only two states—Massachusetts and South Carolina—have 8th-grade math curricula equal to that of the seven leading nations and territories in math. When we know that 8th-graders in Hawaii are more likely to get a highly rigorous math instruction than their peers in Colorado, then we can't even say that we have "good enough".

The 2009 PISA results released last week are one more clarion call that "good enough" is failing our kids. Just 30 percent—that's three and one zero—of American high school sophomores read at the advanced, critical-thinking levels of proficiency our increasingly global economy demands. If our African-American students were categorized as a nation, they would rank 46th in the world in reading—behind, Russia, Chile and Serbia—while our Latino students would rank 41st among all nations. Meanwhile our young men are performing 25 points behind their female peers on PISA; this should be worrisome to every father and mother, including my fellow education experts.

I see the consequences of "good enough" every time I drive by the unemployment office in my home town of Greenville, South Carolina. I see the consequences of "good enough" when I see U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the unemployment rate for high school dropouts is 14 percent; that just 46 percent of them are participating in the labor market; and that few of them would qualify for high-paying jobs such as elevator installers and repairmen (who must have strong math and science skills before they can even begin apprenticeships).



We have failed far too many young men and women because our definition of "good enough"—from math and reading standards, to the funding of our schools—isn't anywhere close to preparing these young people for today's economic realities. We fail them further when we say that only some kids can succeed in school and in life and that diversity equals accepting less than the best. In fact, America's diversity is its strength, not a weakness, and we should build on it. As I tell my fellow PTA members, "good enough" and "I don't know" don't belong in our vocabulary. We make a promise to every child that their futures will be brighter than our present—and we cannot keep our word if all we accept from them and ourselves is "good enough".

With the help from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, PTA members have already

begun the first step in putting an end to "good enough" by working to get Common Core State Standards in English, math and science adopted in six states (out of the eight states in which we are working). We will offer a guide on the standards in order to help parents understand how they can help ensure that every child gets the same high-quality education no matter whether they live in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, or in Rochester, New York. Through our Million Hours of Power Campaign, we aim to engage more men in improving education for our kids—and especially for young men, who need the guiding hands of fathers, uncles, brothers and other caring adults.

The time for "good enough" must be over. Our kids should have more than that.

DONATIONS

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

Building Fund

Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
Woodland Elementary PTA
Truman High School PTSA

Laurel Hills Elementary PTA
Mathews PTA of Nixa
Indian Creek Elementary PTA

Scholarship Fund

Show Me State PTA
Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
Woodland Elementary PTA
Springfield Special Education PTA
North Kansas City High PTA
Laurel Hills Elementary PTA
Hickman Mills Council PTA
Meadowbrook Elementary PTA

Mathews PTA of Nixa
Underwood Elementary PTA

Founder's Day Donations

Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
Woodland Elementary PTA
Laurel Hills Elementary PTA
Hickman Mills Council PTA
Meadowbrook Elementary PTA
Peculiar Elementary PTA
Columbia Council PTA
Indian Creek Elementary PTA

All Pro Dads and Missouri PTA

By Jeff Rogers, Male Involvement Chair

The All Pro Dad's event kicked off at the Russell Training Center in St. Louis on Saturday, December, 4th. Former St. Louis Ram Aeneas Williams participated in the event. Mr. Williams played for the St. Louis Rams in their 2001 Super Bowl appearance, has had 4 Pro Bowl appearances and is an All Pro Dad.

There were 5 different stations during the All Pro Dad's day which over 1200 dads and their kids participated in. Those events included the following:

Quarterback Station – Ran a footwork drill. Dads helped teach their kids how to make the most of their finances, i.e. allowances, babysitting money, etc.

Halftime Station – Dads and kids wrote letters and/or drew pictures letting each other know how much they love each other. They also created an "I love you" signal.

Defensive Tackle Station – Ran a "seat roll" drill. Dads learned how to communicate with their kids about bullying. Dads were given signs for which to watch and how to stay on top of the situation if their child is a victim of bullying.

Running Back Station – Showed their "touchdown dance" skills. Dads learned about the importance of showing affection to their kids and demonstrated it with eye contact, an "I love you", and a 15-second hug.

Defensive Lineman Station – Simulated proper hitting positions (without the contact). Dads learned some facts about sports and recreation-related injuries and how to prevent their kids (and themselves) from experiencing them.

During the Half Time Station, Mr. Williams spoke about being an All Pro Dad, his son proudly perched on his shoulders for most of the speech. Missouri PTA President Wendy Jackson shared Missouri PTA's excitement to be part of the event. Wendy also spoke about the importance of PTA and especially how important male involvement is to our children.

The All Pro Dad's day finally came to a close after three hours of football drills, inspiring speakers and tons of Shriner Clowns. Tired Dads and children departed the field. This was a day I will not forget and I look forward to the next All Pro Dad's day. If you have any questions about how to start an All Pro Dad's Chapter for free please contact me at jeffr@mopta.org and I will show you how.

Allprodads.com

Missouri PTA is pleased to announce the formation of seven new All Pro Dads chapters in Missouri since our convention in October. Will your school be next?



MOPTA Wendy Jackson and her grandson, Hunter Jackson.

MOPTA's Jill Swearingen, Wendy Jackson, All Pro Dad and Former NFL Player Aeneas Williams and his son, MOPTA's Jeff Rogers and Linda Thiele.



MOPTA's "Third Party Child Abuse Reporting" Resolution endorsed by new legislation

Denise McCarter, Department of Legislation and Advocacy VP & Director



On January 13, 2011, Senator Will Kraus filed SB 112 concerning child abuse reporting. This Senate Bill is in direct alignment with Missouri PTA's "Third Party Child Abuse Reporting" Resolution. In 2007, the Missouri State Convention delegates passed a resolution that spurred this legislative movement. The resolution can be found on mopta.org in the legislation section. This resolution seeks to remove the risk of being sued when a legitimate report of suspected child abuse is made by a Third Party and therefore, remove a significant barrier to protect children from suspected abuse.

Currently in Missouri, a sincerely concerned Third Party who desires to report suspected child abuse MUST only notify a law enforcement agency, juvenile office, court, or child-protective service agency, otherwise that Third Party can be sued (civil or criminal liability). So, today, if a Third Party unknowingly reports suspected child abuse to other organizations (e.g. school or medical

institution administrators), that Third Party can be sued. In 2005-2006, one concerned Missouri family suffered because of this. Many people may be hesitant to report suspected child abuse because of the possible repercussions. Our children deserve protection from abusers. This new legislation (SB 112) and its minor changes to existing law can help remove fears of being sued for those who can make a report without affecting any increase in false reporting.

It is the position of MOPTA that ANY form of child abuse needs to be dealt with appropriately and any person who legitimately files a report should be able to do so without any fear of repercussions for trying to protect a child. It is a basic right of children to be protected against any abuser, and people who try to help them deserve protection as well.

CALL TO ACTION: As a member of Missouri PTA, please take the time to contact your legislators and tell them you want them to support SB 112. You can find the names and contact information for your legislators at http://www.mopta.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1302&Itemid=232. If you need any help with letter writing or how to speak to your legislators in person, there are excellent informative "how to" videos on the NPTA website, <http://www.pta.org/4233.htm>. The MOPTA Legislative Department is also ready and eager to help you advocate on behalf of Missouri's children.

Who's the Right Candidate for Your School Board

By Denise McCarter, Legislation and Advocacy Vice-President and Director

Local school boards are one of the most important groups that affect our children's quality of education. While national and state elections garner much attention from the media, school board elections often go unpublicized. As a member of your local PTA, you can play an important role in your school district's direction by attending or sponsoring a school board candidate forum to learn more about the candidates, and then making an informed choice in the school board election.

Select the right people for your school board

Local school boards act as watchdogs over a school district, performing many duties including hiring and evaluating the superintendent, analyzing school performance, and setting goals and policies for the district. School boards are nonpartisan, and a board member's term varies by district. To be eligible to run for a seat on a school board, in general a candidate must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the state, a resident of the district, a registered voter, and eligible under the state constitution to be elected to public office. Local requirements may vary. Successful school boards usually include members from diverse backgrounds with a wide range of skills and experience. Organizational, analytical, and financial experience are important qualities for school board members. Especially important are effective spoken and written communication skills.

Every PTA council should consider sponsoring a School Board Candidate Forum. This event can be effective and efficient at communicating important PTA issues to both parents and the community at large, as well as facilitating evaluation of the most qualified candidates.

The following are general types of questions that can be used to evaluate

school board candidates. Because school boards serve the local school district, district-specific questions are also important to ask.

- Describe your personal experience and public school involvement during the past five years that qualifies you to be a school board member.
- How long have you been a resident of this school district?
- Do you have school-age children or children that have graduated from this district?
- What do you see as the purpose of public education?
- What long-range plan would you want to implement for the school district?
- Do you have any specific changes you want to make in school district policies, programs, or the current school curriculum?
- How many school board meetings have you attended in the last six months?
- What is your position on tax credits or income tax deductions for tuition paid by parent or sponsors for nonpublic elementary and secondary school children?
- What is your position on open enrollment?

While PTA councils can sponsor School Board Candidate Forums, we cannot endorse or in any way support one candidate over another. By allowing the candidates to speak for themselves on issues that are important to our children, PTA provides its members and the community the tools they need to select the best candidates. If you have questions about sponsoring a School Board Candidate Forum or would like information regarding Missouri PTA legislative priorities, contact Denise McCarter denisem@mopta.org.

Resolutions

By Angel Davis, Resolutions Chairman

This past October, the delegates at the Missouri State PTA State Convention passed a resolution on substance abuse. This article walks you through the resolution and then suggests a few things you can do to support it.

To begin with, resolutions and position statements are passed by units, councils, state, and national PTAs so that we, as a group, can speak for or against a topic. They can also promote an action by the group. There are two parts to every resolution. The “whereas” statements deal with the issue itself.

In our substance abuse resolution there are six whereas statements, each dealing with problems caused by drugs and substance abuse. Each one of these whereas statements had to be researched and have at least three sources cited.

WHEREAS, Abuse of prescription medications, illegal drugs and synthetic “look-alike” drugs is a national problem among youth and adults; and
 WHEREAS, Abuse of these substances can cause anxiety, agitation, muscle tension and damage, nausea, depression, memory loss, hyperthermia, heart, brain and kidney damage, seizures and death; and
 WHEREAS, Abuse of these substances leads to substance use disorders and social, behavioral, and health consequences; and
 WHEREAS, Abuse of these substances is a strong predictor of school dropout occurrence; and
 WHEREAS, Abuse of these substances is a major contribution to crime and remediation in the United States; and
 WHEREAS, The legal sale of drug paraphernalia and synthetic “look-alike” drugs encourages drug experimentation and abuse; therefore, be it

The second part of the resolution contains the “resolved” statements. The “resolved” statements are the action the group wants to take on behalf of the problem. Our substance abuse resolution has two resolved

statements. The first deals with education and the second deals with legislation.

You can see that not only did we resolve to ensure there are drug education programs in the schools, but also that those programs are available and are being used. In addition to the education resolution, we also called for a specific legislative action supporting the creation and enforcement of laws banning “look-alike” synthetic drugs.

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers urge all PTA councils and units to provide and strengthen drug education and prevention programs to parents, teachers and students, and be it further
 RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers encourage legislators to create and promote enforcement of laws that prohibit the manufacture, sale and abuse of illegal and “look-alike” synthetic drugs.

Here are a few ways your local unit or council support this resolution:

1. Check with your school or district, and find out what type of substance abuse programs they offer students.
2. Host a program for parents on “look-alike” drugs and how to talk to kids about drugs.
3. Go to www.mopta.org and join the JC/DC Network. The JC/DC Network will email you when issues regarding the education and safety of children are being discussed in the House or Senate. Then, contact your legislator, and let them know MOPTA’s position on the issue.

Remember, when we all act together, our voices can make a difference in the lives of our children.

Open Enrollment

By MO PTA

If you have not already heard about it, you soon will. Open enrollment is a hot topic in the State Legislature this year. It can also be an extremely complicated issue to sort through.

There are two types of open enrollment policies. In Missouri the practice of an Intradistrict open enrollment policy is utilized by various school districts. This policy is determined by each school district and can allow for a student to transfer from one school to another within that district. Districts decide which buildings within their district they will allow students to transfer into and how many transfers they will authorize. These policies are made and handled at the district level.

What might be proposed through legislation is a type of Interdistrict open enrollment that would allow students to transfer from their home district to any other district within the state. Proponents of the Interdistrict open enrollment say this gives parents more choice in schools. It would allow for competition between schools. This type of competition would encourage school districts to perform at a higher level. It would also be up to the school districts to decide how many “extra” students they could handle. If the school district lacked the resources to handle an enrollment over a specific number they would not be required to accept transfers. Opponents however question how decisions will be made regarding acceptance of new students and if districts will be able to stop the inflow if capacity is reached. Proponents say, smaller school districts or districts facing a reduction in growth are able to fill already established space and hire additional teachers.

On the flip side, funding is a huge issue. Property taxes vary greatly from district to district. So if a student from district A transfers into

district B and district A has a lower property tax, then district B may have to supplement the education for that student. Interdistrict open enrollment could also open the gates for high school recruitment. Students who show potential in math, science, arts and sports could be lured from one district to another. One of the bigger questions Interdistrict open enrollment might pose - would this type of policy cause already struggling districts even more harm as they are abandoned for more stable districts.

Other states, have implemented Interdistrict open enrollment policies with success. While we could model a policy for Missouri from one already established a key component to note is the difference in how Missouri schools are funded compared to how other states fund their schools. There are also statistics from other states that an Interdistrict open enrollment would actually affect less than 3% of the student population, in Missouri that 3% would equate to 27,000 students.

What is Missouri PTA’s position on open enrollment? Currently the Missouri PTA does not have a position on open enrollment. However, we do have positions on some of the issues that may be included within an open enrollment policy. The Missouri PTA believes parents do have a right when it comes to choice in education. We also have positions on school funding and transportation. While the issue is complicated, the Missouri PTA is working to ensure any legislation proposed or passed will be in the best interest of all Missouri’s students. Most importantly we want you, our members, to become informed. Contact your representatives to see where they stand and let them know how you feel about the issue.

10 Ways to Increase Your PTA Membership & Keep Your Membership Campaign in the PTA PICTURE

PROVIDE copies of the PTA budget to members to show how their investment is spent to benefit children.

TAKE time to thank your members & volunteers for their support; without them there would not be a PTA.

ATTEND Rotary, Optimist, Kiwanis Club or other community meetings to inform them about PTA and invited them to join.

PROVIDE strong leadership, be inclusive, welcoming and embrace the vision & objectives of PTA.

INCREASE student membership by including a special incentive that targets students, i.e. free bake sale or concession stand item when they show their membership card.

CREATE opportunities to talk about PTA without creating more meetings.

TELL families what PTA does for the children at your school. Don't assume they know.

UTILIZE your school's website to post the top 10 reasons for joining your PTA. Include a membership form that can be printed out.

REACH OUT to community members, businesses & parents who have had strong interest and leadership in your PTA, but no longer have children in school.

EXAMINE barriers to joining & participation. They can be economic, family-related, or "comfort"-related.

Membership – What's in it for ME?

Benefits of PTA membership affect each child in the classroom, every member and the school community.

The following are PTA benefits for the individual member:

- ♥ Professional development: Develop skills in leadership, public speaking, advocacy, conflict management and interpersonal relationships.
- ♥ Access to information on issues and programs that affect the education, health, and welfare of your student.
- ♥ Opportunities to attend workshops and online e-learning programs to develop skills and knowledge.
- ♥ Connection with teachers, principal and staff: Learn about the curriculum, classroom activities and what programs are available at your school.
- ♥ Knowledge of the structure of the school administration and school district.
- ♥ A voice in issues that affect your student: Have the right to attend PTA meetings, ask questions and vote on issues that affect your student.
- ♥ Collaboration in advocacy efforts.
- ♥ Friendships with others having the same interests in student success.
- ♥ A sense of community.

Get in the Picture!

Fill It Out & Be Recognized!

Now is the time to reflect back over all your hard work and ask a few questions. Are we in good standing? How many memberships were sold compared to last year? Did we have 100 more members? Did 100% of our full time certified staff purchase memberships? Take time to look over the many Missouri PTA membership awards. The Exclusive 100, Silver Acorn, Oak Leaf and Golden Gavel Awards just to name a few. Tell us about your membership campaign this year. The unit with the best overall campaign will be awarded a check for \$100. Some awards required applications and some do not. The Blue Seal, Gold Seal and Council Achievement Award are designed to recognize those units and councils that follow the basics that create a strong PTA foundation. The details for each award and applications can be found in the 2010-2011 Grants & Awards Tool Kit and on the website under the tab Forms/Award/Grant. Get in the Picture! There is an award just waiting for you. All you have to do is be a unit in good standing and APPLY! All applications must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2011.

MOPTA Emerging Minority Leaders Conference April 9th

The 2nd Annual Missouri PTA Emerging Minority Leaders Conference will be held on April 9th at North Middle School, 4420 Vaile Ave., in Florissant. The site of the Conference will be announced soon.

The PTA Emerging Minority Leaders Conference is the perfect opportunity for you to build a national network of peers, and to learn how to overcome the challenges you face as a PTA leader, parent, caregiver or advocate in your community. PTA's Emerging Minority Leaders Conference offers anyone working in minority communities the opportunity to usable information and resources to help better engage in communities of color across the country.

PTA is committed to developing a leadership base that is reflective of the diversity of America's schools. The Emerging Minority Leaders Conference is but one way to ensure that PTA moves closer to fulfilling our vision of making every child's potential a reality.

For more information, please contact Norvel Johnson at norvelj@mopta.org.

Treasurer's End-of-Year Activities

By Patty Buckholz, Missouri PTA Treasurer

Treasurers have many responsibilities throughout the school year including documenting all financial activity, paying all approved expenses including dues, and reporting to the board and the general membership. As the school year draws to a close the treasurer has some final duties.

Pay dues: Dues should be paid every month in which they are sold as part of "unit in good standing". Pay dues by March 1 to qualify for awards. Pay dues before March 1 to avoid being delinquent.

Final treasurer's report: In addition to the monthly treasurer's reports presented at meetings a final treasurer's report should cover the activity between the last regular report and the end of the fiscal year.

Organize records: Make sure that all financial transactions are documented thoroughly and that the books balance. Conduct a preliminary self-audit prior to the official review or audit. Records should include documentation for every deposit and each expenditure, all bank statements, ledgers and copies of all reports. See Annual Financial Review Process* for details on what is examined and what to prepare.

Annual Financial Report: The treasurer also prepares the Annual Financial Report, a year-end summary of the fiscal year. The report begins with the balance carried over from the previous year, lists the income by budget lines, the expenditures by budget lines and ends with the final balance. See Treasurer's Annual Financial Report*.

Annual Financial Review (internal audit): After the records are closed for the fiscal year, the books must be reviewed or audited. The PTA bylaws, under treasurer's duties, will give direction on the formation of the review committee or assignment of the auditor. An annual review (internal audit) is conducted by a committee. An external audit is conducted by a professional auditor. The annual review or audit should be completed promptly after the close of the fiscal year. The treasurer does

not conduct the review but may need to remind the committee to proceed. See Annual Financial Review (Audit)*.

IRS 990s: All PTAs must file a 990 informational form with the IRS. New for the 2010 tax year (2010-2011 fiscal year) PTAs with gross receipts normally less than \$50,000 can file an information form 990-N (e-Postcard) Annual Electronic Notice for Small Tax-Exempt Organizations, this is up from last year. PTAs with receipts of more than \$50,000 must file a 990-EZ, with Schedule A. All 990s must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of the fiscal year. Any organization that fails to meet its annual filing requirement for three consecutive years will have its non-profit status revoked. The 990 may be the duty of the retiring or the new treasurer depending on the individual PTA, but no matter who is responsible, it must get done. MoPTA recommends filing soon after the end of the fiscal year.

Copies to Missouri PTA: Submit copies of the Annual Financial Report, Annual Financial Review (audit) and IRS 990 form or receipt to the state office by December 1st annually. This is critical to the PTA's status as a "unit in good standing." Missouri PTA recommends sending these in as soon as they are prepared.

Transfer: Arrange for the transfer of all records, reports and files to the new treasurer. Contact the bank to set up new signature cards so that the new treasurer will be authorized to sign checks without delay.

*Samples of an Annual Financial Report and Annual Financial Review (audit) along with a checklist for the financial review committee were included in the Winter Packet sent to presidents in December. If your unit has any difficulty with any of the above procedures, please contact:

Missouri PTA 1-800-328-7330
office@mopta.org
 or Missouri PTA State Treasurer,
 Patty Buckholz, pattyb@mopta.org,
 816-353-3698

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.



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 or call 816-366-0199

Officer Information Due March 31st!

MOPTA has gone electronic!

Current presidents will receive an e-mail containing an electronically fillable form in early March.

2011 Missouri PTA Leadership Conference for Students — Buy One, Get One Free Registration!! Amazing!!

First we changed the program to make it more beneficial to our student leaders than ever before. Now we are taking steps to make it more affordable than ever.

We understand the budget realities that may prohibit PTSA units from bringing their student leaders to events such as the Missouri PTA Leadership Conference. We also know that training leaders is vital, for both student and adult leaders, in order to ensure the most effective level of service that a PTSA unit can achieve.

However, no matter how good the program of training provided for the students is, it serves no purpose if units are not able to bring their student leaders. With that in mind, not only is the student registration price remaining the same as last year (\$35), but this year at the 2011 Missouri PTA Leadership Conference, for each student registered at the regular price of \$35 you will receive another student registration FREE!! That's right, student registrations for the 2011 Leadership Conference are BUY ONE – GET ONE FREE.

So please plan to take advantage of this remarkable deal and register your student leaders so that they can take advantage of the quality training opportunity. Your students and your units will both benefit.

This year's 2011 Missouri PTA Leadership Conference is being held April 29-30, 2011 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence.

It's *Our* Turn Now!

By Amanda Rupert, MOPTA Youth Representative

Four years ago, my mom, Susan Rupert, and other members of the Cameron PTA executive board began noticing how often their own children would come to help at various events. Then our friends started showing up to help out. We had watched our parents volunteer in the school for years. We thought it was fun to serve cookies and punch or pass out prizes at the Sock Hop. Students becoming members was a new concept in Cameron and the students were interested in the idea. It was then decided to change our title from PTA to a PTSA.

A student membership in the Cameron PTSA is the same price as an individual membership. Any student enrolled in the Cameron Middle School or High School (grades 5th thru 12th) may join. We currently have about 35 members. Students receive membership cards and have the exact same rights as adults. They are encouraged to attend and take part in general meetings. I even serve on the board as Public Relations Chair/Historian.

We have two adult sponsors, Laura Provin and my mom. Mom says, "In Cameron, we want to give our student members opportunities to learn about advocacy, develop leadership skills and understand the importance volunteerism and community service." We have our own student meetings where we use parliamentary procedure and make decisions about various projects; i.e. t-shirt designs and colors. We have student representatives who attend the board and general meetings to report about what we are planning. Students have represented Cameron at the National and State convention. We really enjoy attending the student workshops at Leadership Conference in the spring.

Our student members are very active. We volunteer at many of the Cameron PTSA events. We help with the 2nd grade reading fair by being extra "hands" at the various craft stations. At the annual Holiday shop, members help elementary students select items, make their purchase and wrap the gifts. Many of us shopped there when we were younger, so it's fun to go help and watch how much thought the students put into their purchases. We step outside the school environment every spring to learn about the value of community service by volunteering at our area Relay for Life.

Three years ago, we started a Book Bingo for 1st grade students and their families. This event is totally run by students from start to finish. Each student that attends receives a goody bag that includes a brand new book that was donated by a local publishing company. We

collect "gently loved" books that students and their siblings receive when they bingo during the evening. This free event serves as a family fun night and promotes reading at home.

If you are not currently a PTSA, this might be a great way to increase membership and volunteer base in your unit. Many times we see both the parent and student become members together. If you are a PTSA, involve your student members. Invite them to attend general meetings, serve on committees and volunteer at your events. PTA maybe the only opportunity they get to learn about the value of giving back to their school and community. Encourage student members to share their thoughts and ideas. Show them they are important by listening. What better advocate for children than children? We have firsthand knowledge of what we are faced with each day.



BackPack Program to Combat Childhood Hunger

By Dani Riley, Health & Safety/Juvenile Services Chair

Did you know there are children in your school district who don't have enough to eat? What about in your child's school? Even in affluent areas, childhood hunger is a growing problem. The prolonged recession has caused a huge increase in the number of free and reduced-price meals provided across the country. But, what happens to hungry children on the weekend?

The BackPack Program is one of the fastest-growing hunger relief programs across the nation. This program was started to help children ages pre-school through the fifth grade not go hungry. As free and reduced lunches in the school systems are at an all time high due to the economic downturn, there is a higher need for these types program. According to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website those that qualify for free and reduced-price lunches has gone from 383,339 in 2007-2008 school year to 439,749 in the 2009-2010 school year. The BackPack program was started in 1995 but was officially adopted by the National Council of Feeding America in July of 2006, with 3,600 programs now in schools.

Children, once they leave the school, may not have food for the weekend or through a long holiday. This program discreetly gives children food in a backpack to take home. The food inside the pack is nutritious, kid-

friendly and is easy to prepare. School staff or community volunteers will place the food into the packs to take home. The student picks up the pack on their way home on Friday. Once the backpack is emptied, it is then simply returned to school on Monday. When there is a long weekend or break from school, the packs are filled with more food in order to get the child through till school is back in session. "Research tells us that when children experience even occasional hunger, they may have trouble concentrating, aggressive tendencies, stunted growth and increased likelihood of obesity. Plain and simple - hunger hurts kids!" http://www.uwozarks.com/backpack_program.asp

Over the holidays, the Kansas City Star printed a series of articles about the BackPack program in the Kansas City area. In conjunction with Harvesters, the food pantry which administers the program locally, they hoped to raise \$25,000 in a "virtual food drive." That goal was met in two days. By the end of the drive in January, \$235,951 had been donated, enough to provide weekly backpacks to 1,200 students for an entire school year.

Obviously, the need is staggering. Many schools in Missouri have the BackPack Program already in use. If your school does not, there are many resources available in order to get one started. For more information, visit the following websites.



Feeding America – a comprehensive list of food banks across Missouri



<http://feedingamerica.org/our-network/network-programs/backpack-program.aspx>
United Way of the Ozarks – Springfield region
http://www.uwozarks.com/backpack_program.asp

Harvesters – Kansas City area
Harvesters.org

Department of Elementary and
Secondary Education
dese.mo.gov



PTA REFLECTIONS

Reflections State Showcase

3:00 p.m. on April 30, 2011
Leadership Conference
Hilton Garden Inn
Independence, Missouri

Missouri Units Receive National PTA Grants

As this issue of Contact went to press, MOPTA learned that the Springfield Special Education PTA (SEPTA) received a "Take Your Family to School" grant and Mill Creek Elementary PTA in Independence received a "Healthy Lifestyles" grant.

We'll have more on their programs in the May Contact. Congratulations!

Cupcakes, Cookies and Donuts – Oh My!

By Cathy Sweeny, Information Technology Chair

Childhood obesity has tripled in the past three decades. Studies have shown that obese children are more likely to become obese adults. Many people wonder how we got there but when children choose computer games over sports, schools reduce time for gym or recess, parents drive their children everywhere instead of letting them walk, why are we surprised? Children who are obese are more likely to have medical issues, as well as the social implications that accompany it.

What can you do to help? Some schools are working on the issue by putting in place policies which encourage healthy ways of life. Find out what your school wellness policy is and support it. When your PTA provides lunch or special treats for students or teachers, use this as an opportunity to practice healthy choices. Our children learn by example, so it

is your job to set a good one. Check to see if your school has a School Health Advisory Council (SHAC). If it does not, create one. There are eight components of SHAC which address school, home and community. More information on the eight components of SHAC can be found online at www.Dhss.mo.gov/SchoolHealth/SHAC_Guide.pdf.

School policies vary from district to district, but there are several things you can do to put the children on the right path. Food safety, food allergies and medical conditions have heightened the awareness of what can be brought into the school and classrooms. To ensure that a child is not exposed to contaminate food, many school districts have asked that only commercially prepared foods be sent to school. Children diagnosed with allergies and/or medical conditions are on the

rise. Make sure to ask your child's teacher about any issues in the classroom before sending in snacks to ensure the safety of all children. Some schools have limited the number of parties or where food can be consumed. Parents respond to these policies in a variety of ways, ranging from "Not my child" to "not sure what to do with the kids during a party if you are not feeding them." Rethinking party treats and activities can allow children to have treats and fun without over doing it.

We were grateful for the presentation provided by Mrs. Grennan Sims, a Nutrition Education Coordinator for the Hickman Mills School District. Check out her recipes in workshop handout in the "PTA Members Only" section of the website.

"Love and Logic in the Classroom"

By Lou Hibdon, Regional Director, Three Trails

You and your daughter have just finished the 3rd disagreement after her school day on when to start homework. You've been contacted by your son's teacher repeatedly regarding disruption in the classroom during a certain subject. What to do!

That's where the program "Love and Logic in the Classroom" can apply.

At the recent Missouri PTA Convention in Columbia, this workshop was given to a roomful of parents looking for answers and strategies that work in difficult situations. Joy Miller was the presenter, and has worked in education for 35 years and is presently teaching at Columbia College.

When inappropriate behavior in the classroom, or arguments regarding homework pop up, we need to remember that it's best not to deliver an immediate consequence. It's best to gather all the information you can, and when talking to your child, try saying something like – "this information is saddening. I'm going to have to do something about this, but not now... later. Try not to worry about it." This allows you the chance

to gain support of those you may need, and follow through on the appropriate action. It also gives the child time to "anticipate" what might happen and worry about a wide array of possible consequences. The Love and Logic Anticipatory Consequence technique has power from conditioning. When "try not to worry about it" consistently predicts something the child *really* must worry about, it becomes a consequence in and of itself.

When the child and the adult are both upset, anger takes precedence, and often threats are made that we cannot back up. We generally fail to deliver a dose of empathy before providing a consequence. That's why it's best to back away with a "later" statement before things escalate. Don't own your child's problem, hand it back to your child. If you don't hand it back, you do more thinking than your child does. Love doesn't tolerate disrespect, but it allows kids to make mistakes.

If we follow the rules of "Love and Logic" both adults and children will benefit. So... count to ten and "try not to worry about it!"

The Rules of Love and Logic

RULE #1

Adults set firm limits in loving ways without anger, lecture, or threats.

RULE #2

When a child causes a problem the adult hands it back in loving ways.

1. In a loving way, the adult holds the child accountable for solving his/her problems in a way that does not make a problem for others.
2. Children are offered choices with limits.
3. Adults use enforceable statements.
4. Adults provide delayed/extended consequences.
5. The adult's empathy is "locked in" before consequences are delivered.

Love and Logic Institute, Inc.

I am ... We are ...

By Dorothy Gardner, Vice-President and Director of Communications

It worked so well in elementary school. Parents of all types came together via the PTA to create and support programs for the school. Volunteers splintered off working with the committee or program they found most appealing. Although many worked separately, everyone came together through meetings and newsletters to report and share their events. There was a general feeling of togetherness, working for the good of the entire school. Years passed. Cute little kindergartners evolved into busy teenagers who moved into the dynamic setting of the high school experience. Somewhere during this process parents, in an effort to remain part of and support their child's school years, aligned themselves with the booster club(s) associated with their child's interests. While PTA in the high school setting did not become extinct, in many high schools, the notion of 'one stop shopping' for parental involvement did. Gone were the days of coming together to share all our success.

In Missouri, the Staley Club was the first to break the mold of separating the PTA and booster clubs. When the Liberty School District made plans to open a second high school, administrators and parents decided it was the perfect opportunity to follow in Staley's footsteps. But where they started and where they are now has been an evolution in itself, at times one might say a rollercoaster of an experience. Recently, officers and committee heads came together to reflect on the progression of the Eagle Club and map out ideas for the future.

In the beginning...

At the very first meeting two opposing convictions set themselves apart, those who thought it could work and those who simply did not. Even though the school was new – new bricks and mortar, new mascot, new traditions – the parents were not. These parents were well versed in and comfortable with the way various parent organizations had existed at the other high school. This new concept sounded much more uniting. Different groups would feel closer and be aware of what each other were doing. Many agreed that previously the booster clubs acted in a somewhat 'tribal' fashion – separate from other groups, self

focused. Under this new format, members would not only enjoy hearing about other group's activities and success, but they would feel more apart of the school. There would be much more communication and general overall support. However, there was the opinion combining all these groups would morph into an accounting nightmare. Some of the boosters were experiencing difficulties splitting based on the notion the money they had amassed would be lost to 'the club'.

In retrospect, organization was never the issue. Bylaws did turn out to be time consuming, but everyone was asked to give input. Sure among the members there existed quite a bit of apprehension and separate agendas, but worries about the organizational aspect did not appear a main concern on anyone's radar. The biggest problems came down to dealing with attitudes and money - a general misunderstanding of the concept, fear of change, and worries about money.

Moving on to the present...

Over the past six months the Eagle's Club has been able to identify a core group of individuals who understand the concept and, more importantly, get things done. They have worked hard focusing on the mindset that this group exists for the kids not the parents. The president utilizes the slogan "I am North..We are Eagles". Working as a united group they have been able to identify students needs and create a safety net. When a few families could not afford to pay for the entire incidental costs associated with wrestling or dance the Club was able to anonymously step in and help. As a group they have fostered a positive relationship with the

community. They have tackled with the misconception the club was going to do everything for everyone. Each chair, previously booster club, focuses on their own activities throughout the year – programs, events, and fundraising. However, they pull together as a group to support school wide activities such as after prom. One of their most successful endeavors has been the creation of the Talon. This electronic newsletter glues the members together. Not able to attend a meeting – look to the Talon – wondering what events are upcoming – scan the Talon – how did this or that team do last weekend – it's in the Talon.

The next chapter...

Train train train. In order for chairs to operate successfully they need to understand what is expected. With so many moving parts things have fallen through the cracks leaving others to scramble. More often than not it was due to a chair not being actively involved with the group. Expectations need to be clearly portrayed. Filling a board with warm bodies just won't cut it. The core group needs to proactively delegate. Burn out is a problem in all volunteer organization, not just PTA. In addition they have goals to get the students involved. Years down the road ideally alumni will look back and not just say "I attended Liberty North High School" but "I was part of the Eagle Club".

An easy road this evolution has not been. But they knew in the beginning it was going to be tough. Working together they have created an organization uniquely designed to their needs. With a much clearer focus they now move forward together as Eagles.



Short Takes

CREDIT CARD CHANGE

MO PTA is unable to accept credit card payments at this time. We hope to offer this form of payment again in the future.

INSTALLATION IDEAS ON WEBSITE

The "Installation Now" MO PTA publication is now available in the "Member's Only" section of mopta.org. This publication is also available in hard-copy form from MO PTA.

DOES YOUR UNIT OR COUNCIL WANT TO HONOR A SPECIAL VOLUNTEER?

Awarding a Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award is a great way to recognize and honor an extraordinary person for their service and dedication to PTA and the children of Missouri. The Missouri Distinguished Service Award fee is \$50.00 plus shipping and handling. This fee is divided equally between the Missouri PTA Scholarship Fund and the Missouri PTA general fund. The award includes a letter of recognition from the state president, a certificate suitable for framing, and a lapel pin. Forms are available in the Winter Packet and in the Forms/Awards section of mopta.org

NATIONAL PTA APPLAUDS CONGRESS FOR PASSING HEALTHY, HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT

In December, the House of Representatives passed S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, by a vote of 264-157. The reasonable, common sense measures included in this bill will allow child nutrition programs and school foods to enter the 21st century.

"This legislation is a tremendous step forward in the ongoing effort to protect and preserve the health and well-being of our nation's youth," says Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor, National PTA President. "At a time when one third of our nation's children are either overweight or obese and one fourth are at risk of hunger, the National PTA applauds Congress for passing the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act and helping us in our ongoing efforts to make every child's potential a reality."

The bill increases access to vital anti-hunger measures, improves the nutrition quality of all foods served in schools throughout the school day, and provides a wide variety of supports necessary for school food service workers to meet the needs of American children. For additional information on the specific provisions in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, please see PTA's fact sheet on the bill at pta.org.

OZARK REGION PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOP

Does thinking about parliamentary procedure make your head spin? Springfield Council is hosting a Parliamentary Procedure workshop on Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to noon at the St. John's "CHUB" Center Auditorium, 2055 S. Fremont Ave., in Springfield. Dr. Leonard Young, Professional Registered Parliamentarian and MOPTA's Parliamentarian, will lead the workshop. Dr. Young can handle your stickiest parliamentary issues, but he also makes it fun! The \$25 registration fee is waived for PTA/PTSA members. For more information or to RSVP (by April 2), please contact Angela Knight at angela.knight@mchsi.com.

Mark Your Calendar

March

American Red Cross Month

Music in Our Schools Month

National Nutrition Month

Parenting Awareness Month

Women's History Month

- 1 Postmark Deadline for Dues to Qualify for State Awards
Phoebe Apperson Hearst National PTA
Family-School Partnership Award
Application Deadline (to National PTA)
- 2 NEA's Read Across America Day
Missouri Principal's Day
- 7-11 National School Breakfast Week
- 13 Daylight Saving Time Starts
- 9-11 National PTA Legislative Conference
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 20-26 National Poison Prevention Week
- 31 New 2011-2012 PTA Officers Form Due to State Office
- 31 Missouri Child Advocacy Day

April

Alcohol Awareness Month

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Keep America Beautiful Month

Mathematics Education Month

- 1 Dues to State Office
April Fool's Day
- 1 Deadline for Awards & Grants
- 4 School Librarian's Day
- 7 World Health Day
- 9 **2nd Annual Missouri EML Conference in Florissant**
- 10-16 National Library Week
- 12 National Drop Everything And Read Day
- 15 Tax Day
- 10-16 National Volunteer Week
- 18 Passover Begins (Sundown)
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Easter Sunday
- 27 Administrative Professionals Day
- 28 Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
- 29-30 **Missouri PTA Leadership Conference
Hilton Garden Inn – Independence**
- 29 Arbor Day
- 30 Missouri PTA Reflections Showcase – Hilton Garden Inn,
Independence
- 30 National PTA Mary Lou Anderson
Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant Deadline

May

Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month

Hepatitis Awareness Month

Mental Health Month

National Bike Month

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

National Teen Pregnancy Awareness Month

- 1 Resolutions Deadline
Dues to State Office
- 1-8 National Music Week
- 2-6 National PTA Teacher Appreciation Week
- 2-8 Children's Book Week
- 5 Cinco De Mayo
- 8 Mother's Day
- 9-11 National Women's Health Week
- 11 School Nurses Appreciation Day
- 21 Armed Forces Day
- 25 National Missing Children's Day
- 30 Memorial Day
Missouri PTA Office Closed

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



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29th Annual Missouri Child Advocacy Day



The 29th annual Missouri Child Advocacy Day will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2011, in Jefferson City. This event offers an opportunity for parents, providers, and community members to speak up and ask lawmakers to make the health, safety, and education of Missouri's children a top priority for the state. Activities at Child Advocacy Day include:

- Workshops on current legislative and budget issues affecting children and families
- Meetings with legislators
- March to the Capitol and Rally
- Exhibits showcasing services for children and families

Members of Missouri PTA will be joining other statewide organizations at this event. Details can be found on the website, www.mopta.org under Legislation, Capitol Chatter. Please consider joining us, along with hundreds of other child advocates, in speaking to our legislators and making a difference for Missouri's children.