

# *District 37 Dialogue*

National Congress of Parents and Teachers  
Illinois PTA – District 37 Publication – Fall: 2008

Michele Sheppard, Director

Nicole Fentem, Editor

## **From Our Director**

Welcome back! I hope that you had a relaxing and fun summer. Unfortunately, as the English Proverb states, “All good things must come to an end!” While that sounds a little depressing, I’m sure that although summertime fun has ended, numerous other good things are just beginning.

As you plan the PTA work for this school year, please remember to consider these three important items. First, we are working for ALL children not just your child. Second, the PTA Objects are the basis for all that we do. Do the programs and events that you have planned align with the PTA Objects? Lastly, the PTA belongs to all its members. Do you know what your members expect from the PTA? What programs and events do your members value? Make your PTA meeting a welcoming place.

On the District level, we are again emphasizing membership. This year’s challenge is titled “2 +2”. If your PTA achieved a 2% membership increase last year, we are challenging you to reach for another 2%. Thirty-three units and two councils achieved the 2% increase last year. Those units will be honored at the District Annual Meeting on October 20. If your unit didn’t quite make the 2% last year, our challenge is to make 2% by December 31, and then an additional 2% by June 30, 2009. We want everyone to achieve this goal. In most cases, all it takes is having personal contact and asking them to join. We are all so inundated with paper that a flyer might get overlooked, but a personal call needs to be dealt with immediately.

This year is also an election year for District 37. At our Annual Meeting on October 20, we will be electing the District 37 Director for 2009-2011.

You should have already received the report of the nominating committee. It is very important that your delegates come to the meeting prepared to vote for your unit. The person that is elected will be your contact and connection to Illinois PTA for the next two years. Please make sure to talk to your PTA about the nominating committee report and determine how they want your delegates to vote.

With this being a presidential election year as well, it is a good time to reiterate the rules governing 501(c) 3 organizations and elections. PTA must be nonpartisan. Your PTA cannot endorse or campaign for any candidate. No candidate literature can be distributed at your meetings or events, even if it is a PTA member running for office. If your PTA wants to host a candidate forum, all candidates must be invited and included and an impartial moderator must be used. The PTA can also hold a voter registration event and urge everyone to exercise his or her right to vote.

Lastly, I want to invite you to join us on the “Road to PTA Success” at the District 37 Annual Meeting. It will be at the Bristol Court Banquets, 828 E Rand Road in Mount Prospect on Monday, October 20. Registration and a cash bar begin at 6PM. The meeting will begin at 6:45. We will be honoring those units that achieved the membership challenge last year as well as our Local Unit Honor Award winners. Please join us for a fun night to celebrate all that you do for children. Remember that reservations are due no later than October 1.

Remember that my board and I are available to help at any time.

Have a great year!

*Michele*

Michele Sheppard

Illinois PTA District 37 Director

## TREASURER – Barb Quinn

### Tips for Treasurers

By now, many of you have already had your first general meeting of the year which should have included adoption of the audit report of the 2007-2008 financial records along with the presentation and adoption by the members of the 2008-2009 budget. The budget represents an estimate of income and expenses for the fiscal year as defined in your bylaws. Effective budgeting should take into consideration the goals and past practices of the association, along with the approved programs, projects and services your PTA is planning to undertake.

Should you wish to consider any changes to the budget, whether in income or expenditures, these **must** be presented as an amendment to the budget to the general membership for adoption. While the board may wish to periodically review the budget to determine if changes are necessary, the board cannot take any action without a vote of the membership.

Monthly financial reports will keep the PTA board and membership informed on the progress of the budget. These reports are based on a calendar month, presented and then filed for audit—no action is taken on the individual reports until the conclusion of the fiscal year, when the reports are verified by the PTA audit.

One of the areas that often cause confusion is the collection of membership dues. Here are a few tips to assist you:

- Work with the membership chair to keep accurate records including the number, names and addresses of members;
- Issue receipts if and when requested; (be sure to distribute membership cards)
- Dues receipts include the local, state and national membership dues portions, but **only** the local portion should be considered income to the PTA;
- Follow established PTA procedures when money is collected and counted;
- Deposit funds immediately; and

- Remit dues to the state office as prescribed in the bylaws. The first dues payment **must** be submitted postmarked by October 1<sup>st</sup> annually.

Create a check and balance system to safeguard the finances of the association. The Illinois PTA recommends:

- Bank statements be mailed to the PTA president for review before reconciliation by the treasurer;
- Blank checks never be signed;
- Funds should be counted by at least two (2) people and verified by the treasurer;
- Financial reports be based on a calendar month; and
- An Annual Report be completed at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

The job of PTA Treasurer can seem overwhelming! Please remember that we are here to help—answer questions, provide advice and assistance—since we are only a phone call or e-mail away.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 16, 2008 – Presidents Course  
6:30pm at Olive-Mary Stitt, AH
- October 6, 2008 – Illinois PTA Road to Success  
6:15pm at Olive-Mary Stitt, AH
- October 18, 2008 – Leadership Conference  
Road Trip: Prairie State College
- October 20, 2008 – Fall Conference Dinner  
General MTG 6:45pm  
Bristol Court Banquets, Mt. Prospect
- December 8, 2008 – Nominating Workshop  
7pm at Olive-Mary Stitt, AH

## **MEMBERSHIP – Liz Chlopowicz**

Well, the kids are “Back to School” again and there’s no better time to conduct a membership recruiting campaign. Many of us approach recruitment as an obligation to our children and our school – it usually is, after all, the PTA that supports those “extras” everyone has come to expect at our schools for our children.

Membership is a chance to make our voices heard. We can do that by serving on a committee alone and get to meet new people, or work with a friend on something you both enjoy; we can do that by serving as an officer or leader; we can do that by helping a new family get involved; we can do that by attending PTA events at our local unit, the District Annual Meeting, the Illinois PTA Convention, or the National PTA Convention. Membership is really an opportunity to decide which activities to participate, it’s a chance to decide how and where to volunteer our time and decide which fund-raisers to support.

Last year, District 37 issued a challenge to our PTAs to increase membership by 2%. We congratulate those PTAs who achieved that goal and believe that this challenge is still an opportunity for each and every PTA to strengthen their voice throughout their community, their state, and their Nation. That voice can make good things happen for our kids!

This year, District 37 is taking that challenge up a notch with the 2 + 2 challenge. For those PTAs who increased membership 2% during the 2007-08 year, we are challenging you to increase another 2% by June 30, 2009. What does that mean? If you had 100 members at June 30, 2008, you would need 102 members by June 30, 2009 – not a big number when you really think about it. For our PTAs who did not reach the goal last year, we still think you should be eligible. If you had 100 members at June 30, 2008, you need 102 members by December 31, 2008 and then an additional 2% or 2 additional members (104) by June 30, 2009. Just think of how much larger your voice will be. Your PTA will have a broader outreach in your community, you may get new members who will be future leaders, you’ll have more representation at the state and

national levels -- you’ll simply have more connections!

Please join us in making PTA bigger and better than before!

## **TECHNOLOGY – Nicole Fentem**

### **LabFest! Museum of Science and Industry**

WHEN September 20, 2008  
9:30 AM-4:00 PM  
WHERE Museum of Science and Industry  
57th St and Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60637

DESCRIPTION Science Chicago takes over The Museum of Science and Industry with non-stop fun, and more than 50 interactive exhibits, experiments, activities and explosive shows that will entertain, engage, and inspire. Enliven your science at the first-ever LabFest: It’s fun and free!

## **PROGRAMS**

### **PTAs Read for the Record**

**—and \$1,000 Worth of Books**

*Source: National PTA; [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)*

PTA is proud to join the Pearson Foundation in supporting Jumpstart's Read for the Record Campaign, which engages people across the country in reading the same book on the same day to break the Guinness World Record™ and attracts national and local media attention for early learning.

Local PTAs that host an event to read *Corduroy* on **Thursday, October 2, 2008**, are eligible to receive literature books valued at \$1,000 for their school library or media center, thanks to the collaboration of the PTA national organization and the Pearson Foundation. The one PTA school in each state with the highest proportion of participation (based on the school's student population) will receive the book donation. Recipients will be announced in November or early December.

Invite children, families, teachers, community leaders, and others to join you in this fun activity.

Learn more online. All event participants should register at [www.pearsonfoundation.org/pta](http://www.pearsonfoundation.org/pta).

## SCHOLARSHIP – Lynn Topp

This year Illinois PTA has moved the Lillian E. Glover Scholarship deadline to December 1<sup>st</sup>. If your high school senior is interested in majoring in Education or other educational-related major in college, then be sure that they pick up an application at their high school guidance office. Each year 2 scholarships, \$1000 and \$500, are awarded to high school seniors residing in Illinois PTA District 37 that are planning to go into an education field of study.

## LEGISLATION

### **You Can Make a Difference. Vote for Kids!**

Source: National PTA at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

In the 2008 federal elections, voters will determine our president, our vice president, all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and 35 U.S. senators. In state elections, voters will elect 11 governors, more than 6,500 state house and senate members, and countless mayors, regents, city council members, boards of supervisors, county officials, and school board trustees. By exercising our democratic right to vote, we are able to give children a voice. It is critical that all PTA members demonstrate their role as child advocates by voting for candidates for public office who support children and public schools. Use your 2008 Election Guide (found in the National PTA Back to School Kit) to learn more about what makes someone a strong child and education candidate.

Encouraging our members to participate and vote in their local, state, and national elections is a major PTA initiative this year. Parent involvement is core to PTA's mission. PTA was founded as an advocacy organization over a century ago. Voting and participating in our democracy is a fundamental part of both parent involvement and advocacy.

Please take the time to vote. Our nation, now and in the future, needs to hear your voice.

## NEWSLETTER – Nicole Fentem

### *Tips for an appropriate PTA Newsletter*

1. A PTA-sponsored newsletter should have an easily identifiable PTA title.
2. The PTA president's message must be prominent.
3. It must contain material from the BOTH Illinois PTA and National PTA, reprinted or rewritten, AND the source credited.
4. It must contain information about PTA committees, activities and events. (fundraising is not an event)
5. Each newsletter must support and promote the PTA mission and purposes.
6. All newsletters are required to follow the PTA policies of being noncommercial, nonsectarian and nonpartisan at all times.
7. The content cannot include material that is not consistent with the PTA's 501(c) (3) status.
8. No endorsements in the name of PTA can be made.
9. Include school and PTA news regarding honors and awards for students and teachers, health information from the school nurse, upcoming meeting information, and current PTA projects and activities.
10. Encourage the PTA chairs and school principal, as well as other "experts," to contribute articles for the newsletter.
11. Be sure to add school calendars and proposed changes in curriculum or school board policy.
12. Don't publish copyrighted material without the permission of the owner.

For more ideas as to what should be included in a PTA newsletter, watch for upcoming articles and in the meantime check out the National PTA website: [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) and the Illinois PTA website: [www.illinoispta.org](http://www.illinoispta.org).



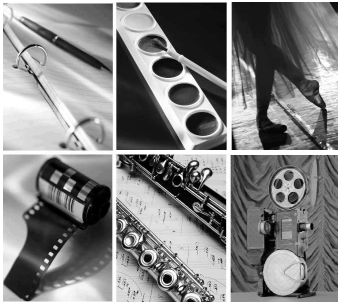
## REFLECTIONS – Joan Scovic

### **WOW! It's time for Reflections!**

Reflections is the National PTA program that asks students to get CREATIVE!

Designed to enhance rather than replace a quality arts education, the Reflections

Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts.



### ***The 2008-09 Reflections Program Theme is "Wow!"***

National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections Program. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to create and submit works of art in six areas: literature, musical composition, photography, dance choreography, film/video production, and visual arts (including art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage). In its more than 30-year history, the program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to create works of art. The Reflections Program was started in 1969 by then Colorado PTA President Mary Lou Anderson.

- Students participate in the Reflections Program by submitting entries to their local PTA or PTSA. Any PTA/PTSA in good standing is eligible to sponsor a Reflections Program. Local PTA units all have their own project deadlines. Please contact your local PTA Reflections chair for complete program details at your school.
- Each local unit will then submit projects to their Council PTA. The deadline for the local units to submit their portfolios to their councils is November 14<sup>th</sup>. Local unit Reflections Chairs should contact their PTA Council for drop off details.

- NWSC: Joan Scovic  
[thescovics@hotmail.com](mailto:thescovics@hotmail.com)
- AHC: Tricia Milligan  
[phmilligan@comcat.net](mailto:phmilligan@comcat.net)
- STC: Mary Kay Prusnick  
[mprusnick@hotmail.com](mailto:mprusnick@hotmail.com)
- The deadline for the councils to submit their portfolios to Illinois PTA District 37 is December 5<sup>th</sup>. Councils should deliver their portfolios no later than December 5<sup>th</sup> to Michele Sheppard, District Director, at her home.

Each council can submit the following maximum number of projects to District 37:

STC:	21 projects in each category
NWSC:	18 projects in each category
AHC:	15 projects in each category
MTP	5 projects in each category

Mark your calendars! The Illinois PTA District 37 Reflections and Scholarship Reception will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Please watch for more complete details in future issues of the D37 Dialogue!

For more information on the Reflections program, please visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

### **2007-2008 TRAVELING EXHIBIT**

Please visit the 2007-2008 Reflections traveling exhibit displayed at:

*Mount Greenwood Branch Library  
11010 S. Kedzie Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois*

The exhibit will run from September 8<sup>th</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup>. The hours for viewing are Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm; Friday and Saturday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.



**ARE YOU THE MISSING LINK?**

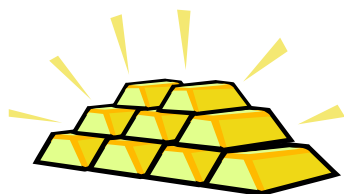
## LOCAL UNIT HONOR AWARD APPLICATIONS

Every year in the spring, a Local Unit Honor Award application is sent to the president. It is the responsibility of the president for that year to complete the application. It is very difficult for a new president to recap a year they might not have been involved with. To help with this process, it is my goal to get the application out earlier in the year. That way, you can be collecting data throughout the year. It is important that you turn in an application. It allows us to know what your PTA has accomplished.

Some people don't turn in an application because they think that they won't win. You never know who will win. The district board has predetermined a point value for every question. Every member of the district board scores the answers. Once all the questions are scored, the scores are added together and averaged. The unit with the highest point total is the winner. A unit that has a great membership year, but doesn't promote membership, legislation, or the PTA Objects, won't necessarily win over a unit with a membership decline that promoted membership, legislation and the PTA Objects.

Last year we added three questions on legislation. As a child advocacy group, the district board felt that this was an area that we didn't emphasize enough. The questions are not designed to trip you up or disqualify your unit from consideration. Possible answers could be anything that you did to promote legislation from attending school board meeting, publishing legislation articles in your newsletter, or working on a resolution to supporting a resolution.

Let us know the great things that your PTA does by completing the application in Spring 2009 for this school year. We are proud of what you do.



## DISTRICT 37 COUNCIL CORNER

### **North West Suburban Council**

Our council has many great things planned for the 2008-09 school year. One of the most exciting programs we're working on is our Anti-bullying campaign in October.

One of our presidents, Jen DeFranco from Paddock PTA, started this project with her Brownie troop last year. From there she's had Governor Blagovich sign a proclamation that October 5 – 11, 2008 will be Bullying Prevention Awareness week. So, the state of Illinois has proclaimed that during the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> all schools and social organizations are encouraged to promote Anti-bullying messages. During Jen's research into how to promote this campaign, she came across an amazing young woman, Gabrielle Ford. Gabrielle or Gabe, was diagnosed with a rare genetic neuromuscular disease in high school. Her dreams of becoming a professional ballerina were shattered and as her disease progressed she was relentlessly bullied. After high school, Gabe became severally depressed and refused to leave her home. Only until a coonhound named Izzy arrived, did Gabe find the courage and strength to realize a new dream, speaking to school children about bullying and the lasting effects it has on both sides.

Jen & Paddock PTA has worked throughout the summer to ensure that Gabe & Izzy's "No School Bullying" program can be seen by as many children in Community Consolidated School District 15, as possible. They have coordinated with many PTAs in our council and CCSD 15 to participate in this Anti-bully campaign. We are very excited to have Gabe spend the entire week of Bullying Prevention Awareness week with us.

NWSC would like to extend an invitation to you and your family to come and see Gabe & Izzy. We are hosting "Gabe & Izzy Speak Out Against School Bullying" presentation on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Pleasant Hill School, 434 West Illinois in Palatine.

*Lynn Topp*

**DISTRICT 37 COUNCIL CORNER**  
**(Continued)**

**Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs**

*Growing Leadership*

When the STC Executive Committee sat down over the summer to set goals for the year, we quickly realized that 20 of our 27 local units would have new presidents this year. Right away, we realized that growing that leadership would be key to our success and theirs. To get everyone in our Council moving in the right direction right away, we conceived of a simple, but powerful way to let those presidents know that they are connected to all of STC and that we are here to support them. The whole Executive Committee has committed to staying after our monthly meeting to answer questions, solve problems, be cheerleaders and lend experience to our local units. Some months this will take the shape of informal chats – talking about whatever the issue of the day is. Other months, there might be a mini workshop about Membership, Reflections, Volunteer Retention, Scholarship or our Annual Auction. Our biggest hope is to make our local units feel a stronger relationship between their PTAs and the Council. During September’s informal chat we fielded questions about back to school, membership, and benefits from National PTA. As I looked around the room at the small groups who stayed to talk, I was glad to see lots of smiles, nods and looks of relief. Everyone seemed bolstered by the support and experience we were able to lend. We will continue to grow our new friends into strong leaders by encouraging them to work toward our **S**trength **T**hrough **C**onnections Award (which walks them through tasks and training they need to attend for a successful year). We will also promote as much training as possible from Illinois PTA. Finally, together with our entire District 37, we will create a user-friendly bylaws workshop that will be just one more way to grow new leaders throughout the Schaumburg Township Council and all of PTA.

*Mary Kay Prusnick*

**DISTRICT 37 BOARD**

Director	Michele Sheppard <a href="mailto:mls1960@aol.com">mls1960@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Rose Ann Yanik <a href="mailto:Ryanik@sd25.org">Ryanik@sd25.org</a>
Treasurer	Barbara Quinn <a href="mailto:BQuinnPTA@aol.com">BQuinnPTA@aol.com</a>
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Reflections	Joan Scovic <a href="mailto:jscovic@sbsd.org">jscovic@sbsd.org</a>
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AHC	Jeanne Hamilton <a href="mailto:hamiltonjeanne@comcast.net">hamiltonjeanne@comcast.net</a>
NWSC	Lynn Topp <a href="mailto:Lynnietopp1@aol.com">Lynnietopp1@aol.com</a>
STC	Mary Kay Prusnick <a href="mailto:mprusnick@hotmail.com">mprusnick@hotmail.com</a>

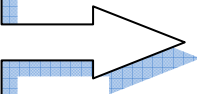




**Illinois  
PTA<sup>®</sup>**

*everychild.onevoice.®*

**REMEMBER  
TO RESERVE YOUR  
SEATS**



**District 37**

Invites you to our

## **District 37 Annual Dinner Meeting**

**Monday, October 20, 2008**

6 PM Registration & Social Hour (with cash bar)

Meeting & dinner will begin at 6:45 PM

Bristol Court, 828 E Rand Road, Mt. Prospect

Please join us on our "PTA Road to Success" as we celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our Local PTA Units. The evening will include a short business meeting with the election of the District 37 Director for 2009-2011 and presentation of the Local Unit Honor Awards. Please remember to bring your delegate credential card and PTA membership card in order to vote.

Please return RSVP sheet before October 1, 2008.

Contact Terrie Poczatek with questions 630-980-8286 or [tpocz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tpocz@sbcglobal.net).