

District 37 Dialogue

National Congress of Parents and Teachers
Illinois PTA – District 37 Publication – Spring: 2009

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From Our Director

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.

~ By Sherry Anderson

As the end of the school year rapidly approaches, it is the perfect time to thank all the people that have given generously of their time and talent to support PTA. I want to thank you for all that you have done! You have given selflessly to make your PTA a voice for all children. In every PTA, there are numerous volunteers that assist with PTA work. Please take the time to thank them for their contributions. Many units purchase Scholarship Awards from Illinois PTA to honor those individuals that have volunteered countless hours. The money paid for these awards supports the Illinois PTA Lillian E. Glover Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is available to a graduating senior who are entering an educational related field. If your PTA hasn't taken advantage of this opportunity, please consider doing so.

Another end of the year activity is the election and installation of new officers. Once elected, incoming officers should begin planning for their term in office. This requires more than deciding who will chair what committee. The PTA should set goals to accomplish. Has your PTA set their goals? By working with the outgoing officers, the new officers should be able to determine what areas need improvement and what worked well. If you take some time now to plan for next year, it will be off to a good start.

In order for your PTA to continue receiving information for Illinois PTA, National PTA and District 37, it is vital that every unit register by completing the registration form. Registration

forms were due May 1. The form is available on the Illinois PTA website at www.illinoispta.org. Every unit should have received a copy in the mail as well as an electronic copy from your Council President or District Director. The form should be mailed to Illinois PTA at P.O. Box 907, Springfield, IL 62704, or faxed to 217-528-9490.

Additionally, while you are planning for next year, I want to make you aware of some important upcoming dates. District 37 will be holding training courses in June at the School District 15 Educational Service Center, 580 N First Bank in Palatine. These courses provide knowledge of the basic understanding, the legal requirements, and the financial concerns of PTA. It is required in your bylaws that all officers take the PTA Road to Success course within six months of their elections. All courses begin at 6:30 and will last approximately three hours. The schedule of course is as follows:

June 9 - PTA Road to Success

June 11 - Money Matters

June 16 - Presidents Course

June 18 - PTA and the Law

Please RSVP to attend to MLS1960@aol.com.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Michele

Michele Sheppard

Illinois PTA District 37 Director

See page 7 for Important Dates to Remember



D37 Connecting Communities For Kids

TECHNOLOGY – Nicole Fentem

Congratulations to all our website winners!!

Honorable Mention:

Hunting Ridge PTA
Webmasters: Linda and Tim Millar
President: Tracey Coleman

Carl Sandburg Jr. High PTSA
Webmaster: Debbie Guzan
President: Jan Dykstra

Award of Merit:

Frank C. Whiteley PTA
Webmaster: Jennifer Mondy
President: Jennifer Nemec

Outstanding:

Pleasant Hill PTA
Webmaster: Sue Quinn
President: Margo Ban

Eisenhower Jr High School PTA
Webmaster: Tarranum Akthar
President: Tom Goodrich

If you are wondering what it takes to have a winning website, logon to www.illinoispta.org and click on the left tab entitled “Links”. This will allow you to go directly to these PTA websites.

As always, if you have any questions or topics you would like to see covered on technology, be sure to email me.

MAKING RESOLUTIONS REALITY

At the 2008 Illinois PTA Convention, delegates from across the state adopted a Resolution on Children with Food Allergy calling for Illinois PTA to do the following:



Disseminate information to its constituent bodies on food allergy including suggestions for identifying dangers such as anaphylaxis, possible solutions and appropriate PTA activities which involve food;

Encourage the Illinois State Board of Education and local school districts to incorporate information on food allergy into school wellness policies, including but not limited to education staff members and parents; and

Support legislation which addresses concerns on allergy.

House Bill 281 was introduced by Representative Bellock, and amends the school code by requiring the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Health to develop guidelines for management of students with life-threatening food allergies through the establishment of an ad hoc committee. The bill will not invalidate previous school district policies implemented prior to the guideline development as long as the policies are consistent with the guidelines. The bill, as amended, also requires an in-service training program for school personnel at least every two years. This bill has already passed out of the House of Representatives and is currently in the Senate Education Committee.

The Illinois PTA supports this bill since it aligns with our position on student health, and addresses the concern contained in the Resolution cited above.

Here are some questions for you to ask in your school/school district:

Does the district have a policy on students with food allergies?

Do staff members and parents know what the policy says?

What are some practical ways the PTA can align activities with the policy?

If your school district currently has no policy, why not have a conversation with your superintendent and school board to volunteer to work with them to learn more about possible solutions? As an advocate for every child, here's a great opportunity to make a difference for children.



TREASURER – Barb Quinn

MONEY MATTERS - SPRING NOTEWORTHY NEWS

As you approach the close of the current fiscal year, it's time to review where your PTA is in relation to the budget you adopted for this fiscal year. Here are a few questions to ask:

- 1) Has our anticipated income been realized? If so, are you using what you learned from those activities to plan for the new PTA year? If not, how have you amended your budget to reflect actual income?
- 2) Have you filed the appropriate forms with the Internal Revenue Service for the fiscal year? Any PTA with gross receipts under \$25,000 should have filed Form 990-N, an electronic postcard. Any PTA with gross receipts over \$25,000 but under \$100,000 should have filed Form 990-EZ. Any PTA with gross receipts in excess of \$100,000 should have filed Form 990.
- 3) Have you set a final date for the submission of all outstanding invoices for the current fiscal year? Once you have made all necessary payments and recorded them in the ledger, prepare the information for the required annual PTA Audit. The purpose of the audit is to verify the accuracy of the financial reports for the current fiscal year. Please be sure to review the bylaws to determine how the audit committee is convened. The audited balance should include the final bank reconciliation.
- 4) If your income exceeds your expenditures, have you convened a budget committee meeting to prepare a recommendation to the membership regarding the use of the unanticipated income (excess funds)? Remember, only the membership can make decisions regarding the expenditures of any funds whether you decide to increase the budget for the current year by adding new and/or increased line items, or you decide to carry forward the unanticipated (excess) funds to the following year for new programs, projects and services or to reduce the amount

of fund-raising necessary to meet the fiscal year budget.

As the close of another PTA year approaches, have each committee chairman complete an End of Year report for comparison to the Plan of Work adopted at the beginning of the year. This information can be useful in helping evaluate the programs, projects and services undertaken during the fiscal year.

SCHOLARSHIP – Lynn Topp

ILPTA District 37 is proud to announce our winners for the Lillian E. Glover Scholarship; they are Kelly Mincey and Jennifer Less both from Buffalo Grove High School.

Kelly won our \$1,000 scholarship and will be entering college to major in Secondary Education. Jennifer is our \$500 scholarship recipient; she will be majoring in Secondary Education, as well.

All of our applicants had to attend a public Illinois high school and be in the top 25% of their graduating class with the intent to attend a college or university and enroll in an education or educational-related degree program. A selection committee was formed to judge our applicants on scholastic achievement, leadership abilities, activities in and out of school and personal statements on their desires to become educators and their thoughts on parental involvement in education.

Our Scholarship Selection Committee consisted of 7 people from Arlington Heights School District 25, Community Consolidated School District 54 (Schaumburg) and Community Consolidated School District 15 (Palatine/Hoffman Estates/Rolling Meadows). The members are Barb Quinn from ILPTA District 37, Kristy Csenich and Rosie Baldwin from AHSD 25 and Mary Prusnick from CCSD 54 and Mary Zarr and Elizabeth Bratkiv from CCSD 15. We'd like to thank our Scholarship Selection Committee and acknowledge their commitment to ILPTA District 37 and to our future educators.



HEALTH & SAFETY

GREAT JOB!

The following District 37 PTAs were honored at our State Convention on a job well done for Juvenile Safety and Protection.

First Honorable Mention

Hunting Ridge PTA, Palatine

Second Honorable Mention

Lincoln School PTA, Palatine

Award Winner

Stuart R. Paddock PTA, Palatine

ON ANOTHER NOTE, the following information has just been released by National PTA:

The federal government on April 26, 2009, declared a public health emergency after several cases of SWINE FLU were confirmed in the United States. It is expected that more cases will be confirmed in the coming days. A number of US schools have been affected and are taking appropriate precautions to avoid the spread of the disease.

PTA suggests that all schools and PTA units follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other appropriate agencies, in response to preventing the spread of flu germs. We will continue to monitor the situation and will keep you informed about developments to the best of our ability.

Influenza and its complications, in general, remain a critical public health issue. Many people think influenza, or "the flu," is just a bad cold. However, influenza can be a serious and potentially deadly virus. With the occurrence of the Swine Flu strain, the chance for infection does increase. As a PTA, consider this as an opportunity to educate your parents, teachers, and community about common sense ways to prevent the spread of the virus in order to keep children in school, help parents stay at work, and help to save lives. Additionally, you may want to share information around the indications that a visit to the doctor is necessary as well as to share classroom precautions to take for children, teachers and parent volunteers.

Additional resources are located on the PTA national website at <http://www.pta.org/2940.htm>.

For more information, tools and handouts please refer to the following US Center for Disease Control resources:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/>

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flugallery/2008-09/parents_guide.htm

http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm

MEMBERSHIP

Making Membership Matter. . .

Congratulations to the PTAs in District 37 who ran away with the membership awards at the 2009 Illinois PTA Convention!

As this year begins to wind to a close think about your membership campaign for the 2008 ~ 2009 year. What goals did you set? What methods did you use to reach those goals? Who did you recruit this year that you may have missed in the past? Did you ask past presidents and board members to join as community members? Did you thank everyone who joined? Did you inform the membership about your goals and roles as advocates for all children? Are you ready to begin a new campaign?

One of the most effective tools of a PTA is the evaluation of each activity undertaken. Develop an evaluation tool for your membership campaign that will allow you to continue the progress you are making. Membership is about much more than having a "card" ~ it's about having a voice at the local level, at the district level, at the state level and at the national level. As your membership grows, so does your voice for all of our children.

Membership Matters!



REFLECTIONS – Joan Scovic

Reflections is the National PTA program that encourages children to get creative!

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 different artistic categories. 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.

There are six different categories in which students may express themselves:

- Visual Arts
- Musical Composition
- Photography
- Literature
- Dance Choreography
- Film/Video Production

Reflections entries are judged in different age groups within each artistic category:

- Primary - Kindergarten through 2nd Grade
- Intermediate - 3rd Grade through 5th Grade
- Middle - 6th Grade through 8th Grade

Students participate in the Reflections Program by submitting entries to their local PTA or PTSA.



Progression in the Program is as follows:

Local Unit PTA/PTSA

(Your School)



Council PTA

(Northwest Suburban Council, Arlington Heights Council, Schaumburg Township Council)



District 37 PTA

(Representing over 60 schools in the Northwest Suburban Council, the Schaumburg Township Council, the Arlington Heights Council and Mount Prospect in the Northwest Suburban Area)



Illinois State PTA

(Representing the 22 PTA Districts in the State of Illinois)



National PTA

(This includes the 53 congresses that make up the National PTA: 50 states, European Congress, Pacific Congress, and the Virgin Islands)

The theme for the 2009-2010 School Year is "Beauty Is. . ." Children can begin to think about and even work on their projects this summer.

Local Unit Reflections Chairs should watch for more information regarding the District 37 Reflections Workshop to be held in August. If you have any questions about the Reflections Program, please contact Joan Scovic, District 37 Reflections Assistant, at (847) 991-0093 or thescovics@hotmail.com.

NEWSLETTER – Nicole Fentem

Beauty is...

When our PTAs submit award applications and are recognized for a job well done!!!

Five (5) District 37 local units were recognized at our state convention in the Honorable Mention category for PTA Newsletter. One (1) unit received the Outstanding Newsletter Award for the state and yes, it was from our district as well!

Outstanding Newsletter Award

Eisenhower PTA, STC

Honorable Mention Awards

**Whiteley PTA, NWSC
Dryden PTA, AH
Carl Sandburg PTA, NWSC
Paddock PTA, AH
Hunting Ridge PTA, NWSC
Jane Addams PTA, NWSC**

Each year, Illinois PTA furnishes every local unit with a CD and/or paper printout, depending on the choice of the unit, with a plethora of valuable information for PTA usage. Amongst the information is a one page newsletter award application. I urge each unit to read the page which gives all the requirements of what a PTA newsletter should include and follow the award directions. Come late Winter when it is time to submit your newsletter for award consideration you will have to use very little effort to apply. If you choose not to apply for some reason, you will at least know that you are continually preparing a noteworthy newsletter for your community.

If you are an outgoing officer, please share this information with your successor so that YOUR PTA continues to be successful.

Don't Forget!

If you are planning on going to National Convention this June, please visit www.illinoispta.org to learn how to obtain your convention delegate card from our state office.

Important Dates to Remember

2008

June 9 *PTA Road to Success*

June 11 *Money Matters*

June 16 *Presidents Course*

June 18 *PTA and the Law*

June 26-29

National Convention



Fort Lauderdale, FL

Aug 9 *Local Unit Honor Award Deadline*

Aug 10 *Packet Orientation, 6:00pm*
Eisenhower Jr. H., Schaumburg

Oct 1 *First Membership*

Dues Payment Deadline

Oct 19 *District 37*

Fall General Membership Mtg.

2009

Mar 12-14 *Illinois PTA Convention:*

Naperville, IL

DISTRICT 37 COUNCIL CORNER

Schaumburg Township Council

Vendor Fair and Information Workshops

Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs held its annual Vendor Fair on April 29th at 6:00 at Addams Junior High. Vendors ranged from Hot Lunch and Yearbook to Cultural Arts and Book Fair Alternatives. We expected about 60 Vendors to help our 27 local PTA units plan for their coming PTA year.

Along with the Vendor Fair, STC provided free Information Workshops, open to all of our PTA members, on the 29th as well. This year's training focused on some hot topics throughout our School District. *Family Folder 411* and *Waste Free Lunches* will help PTAs on the way to running more "Green" programs, reducing waste in publicity and handouts as well as at Lunchtime. *Finding and Retaining Volunteers* and *For Committee Chairs* focused on growing leadership and helping executive boards strengthen relationships that they currently have with Chairs and Volunteers. A *Three for Me* workshop was held to introduce National PTAs Parent Involvement program more seriously into our School District. Participation in the training from all of our PTAs will lay the groundwork for making a big push for more parent involvement, a central theme for the STC in the coming year.

REMEMBER:

All officers and chairman should obtain PTA training for a successfully run organization.

Trainings are available this June

Make sure the incoming Board Members are aware of this.

DISTRICT 37 BOARD

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