



PTA Matters!

Volume 25, Issue 3

Illinois PTA District 28
January 2010

<http://www.illinoisptadistrict28.org>

A Message from Debbi —

It's hard to believe that half the school year is over! I hope all of you had a safe and healthy holiday season and enjoyed some time with your families. January is a good time to review what your PTA has accomplished this year and what still needs to be done in the next few months.

Plans should be underway to elect the members of your Nominating Committee. The purpose of this committee is to select a slate of candidates to be elected by your general membership. According to the Illinois PTA Local Unit Bylaws, the members of this committee must be elected and should include representatives from your Executive Board as well as your general membership. Please refer to your bylaws for the specific numbers and make-up of the committee. The committee should be made up of people with knowledge of PTA and officers responsibilities. If they also know a large number of parents and teachers in your school community, it can be an advantage when looking for the best candidates. Remember, the candidates selected/recruited by the Nominating Committee must be announced at least 30 days prior to the actual election of officers. Keep in mind that the committee may need a month or more to recruit the best possible candidates for your PTA.

Your plans should be well under way for your Founder's Day celebrations. Founder's Day is a commemoration of the birthday of PTA, which was formed in February 1897 and often celebrates the anniversary of the founding of your local PTA – especially during a milestone anniversary year. This meeting is often used to recognize volunteers and community members with PTA awards such as the Life Membership, Book of Recognition, Distinguished Service Scroll, and Educator of the Year. Donations made to the Illinois PTA for these awards support the Illinois PTA Lillian E. Glover Scholarships that are presented to high school seniors around the state. More information about the award program may be found in the Illinois PTA Yearbook or on the PTA Web site: <http://www.illinoispta.org>.

We hope many of you will be able to attend the Illinois PTA District 28 ***Celebrating Kids Paths To Achievements Through the Arts*** event being hosted by Blythe Park PTA in Riverside on Tuesday, February 23rd. We will be honoring the children whose Reflections entries advanced to state judging. We are in the process of arranging for the children to read their pieces and talk about their art and photography projects. Whether or not your school participated in Reflections, please come out and enjoy the evening. Refreshments will be served. A flyer will be mailed in the second half of January with more details.

Make sure to celebrate the accomplishments of your PTA by applying for state and district awards. The state awards can be found on the Illinois PTA website. The district awards will be mailed to you shortly. The District Awards are: Gold Ribbon Award (for the Outstanding Local Unit), Legislation Award (for outstanding advocacy work) and Newsletter Award (for outstanding newsletter). The Membership Awards this year are: The three PTAs with the greatest number of members, all PTAs who have an increase of at least 15 members over last year, and the PTA with the highest increase in membership over last year. Membership Awards do not require an application, as membership information will automatically be determined by district membership assistant, Kathy Meitzler. I will gladly join any PTA who asks me. Mail your membership form and dues information to me at 1514 Euclid Ave., Berwyn, 60402. Don't forget to ask past officers, especially past presidents, as well as your superintendent, school board members, and community businesses to become members. Remember, if they do not have children in your school, they are community members for your PTA. Presentation of awards will take place at our Annual Awards Dinner and Auction, tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 23rd.

Please remember, as your District Director, I am here to assist you. If you need help or advice about something, please e-mail or call me.

Debbi Scollard
dscollardpta@sbcglobal.net
(708) 484-1472

Current Bylaws

If the date of your most current bylaws is 2007 or earlier, then your bylaws are not up-to-date. Please review them as soon as possible. Contact the District Director for a copy of the most current, standard local unit bylaws

Adams.....	90
Ames.....	08
Berwyn Council.....	99
Blythe.....	08
Edison.....	07
Emerson, Berwyn.....	10
Emerson, Maywood.....	06
Forest Hills.....	08
Franklin Park.....	04
Freedom Middle.....	10
Garfield, Forest Park.....	08
Garfield, Maywood.....	91
Grant.....	New
Hauser.....	07
Havlicek.....	07
Heritage Middle.....	06
Hiawatha.....	07
Hollywood.....	07
Home.....	06
Irving, Berwyn.....	09
Irving, Maywood.....	06
Jefferson, Berwyn.....	06
Komarek.....	09
Komensky.....	97
Leigh.....	01
Lexington.....	09
Lincoln Middle.....	06
Lincoln, Brookfield.....	06
Lincoln, Cicero.....	95
Lincoln, Maywood.....	09
Mannheim Council.....	06
Mannheim Middle.....	07
Thurgood Marshall.....	New
McKinley, Bellwood.....	08
Melrose Park.....	no bylaws
John Mills.....	08
Northlake Middle.....	03
Pershing.....	08
Piper.....	05
Pleasantdale.....	09
Prairie Oak.....	06
Proviso East.....	05
Proviso Math & Science.....	05
Rhodes.....	06
Riley.....	06
River Grove.....	08
Roosevelt.....	08
Roy.....	08
Scott.....	08
Stevenson.....	09
Sunnyside/McArthur.....	08
Union Ridge.....	03
Washington, Lyons.....	07
Washington, Maywood.....	no bylaws
Westdale.....	05
Whittier.....	06

Keep your PTA on track:

- Continue your membership drive.
- Attend **“Beauty is...Celebrating Our Children's Paths To Achievements through the Arts” February 23rd at Blythe Park PTA in Riverside**
- Set up membership tables at each school/PTA event.
- Dues should be submitted on monthly basis.
- Invite a District Board member to attend one of your board meetings. We'd be happy to meet each of you.
- Observe deadline dates for Illinois PTA Awards such as legislation, newsletter, web site.
- Elect a nominating committee.
- Observe the deadlines for the Illinois PTA Convention on March 12 - 14, 2010 in Naperville
- Observe deadlines for District 28 Awards

Membership

You're looking good with membership but we still need to keep on going and ASK! ASK! ASK! We have about



5000 members, but many PTA's did not get their membership dues in before I received the report for October. If each PTA can get another 100 members, we can reach our goal of 10,000. Some of you may be able to get more than others.

Don't forget your community members, lunchroom supervisors, bus drivers, park districts, library boards, school boards, and anyone who advocates for children. Don't forget Grandma and Grandpa and aunts and uncles. Together we can reach our goal. We have the best local units in the state of Illinois. When we are at convention we see many of you receiving awards because of the work you do for the kids in your school. Keep up the good work and thank you for all you do for children.

Kathy Meitzler
Membership Assistant

All Illinois PTA District 28 Store
Items will be 60% off at the
February 23rd "Celebrating Our
Children's Paths To Achievement
through the Arts" at Blythe Park
PTA in Riverside.

The Treasurer's Corner

IRS 990 Tax Returns

New IRS laws enacted last year makes it mandatory for ALL non-for-profits to file a tax return. All PTAs should have filed their tax return no later than November 15th based on a July 1 - June 30 fiscal year. Did yours?

If the return is filed late, a penalty of \$20 a day may be charged. The penalty is not to exceed the less of \$10,000 or 5% of the organization's gross receipts for the year. Also, a penalty may be charged if the return is filed incorrectly or incompletely. If your PTA receives a notice of an IRS tax fine, please notify your District Director Debbi Scollard (708) 484-1472 or the Illinois PTA Treasurer Barb Miralgio (847) 455-6150 immediately! Don't jeopardize your tax-exempt status!

Pat Denofrio, Treasurer

2222222222222222	2222 22222222	2 22 22222222
222222222222 2222	LL2222 22	2 222222
22 2222222222222222 2222222222	LL2222222222 2222222222 2	2222222222 2222 222222
2222222222222222 2222	LL22222222 2222222222 2	2222222222 2222 222222

Scholarship Applications Available for High School Seniors

Applications for the Illinois PTA Lillian E. Glover Scholarship have been mailed to high school guidance departments throughout District 28. Scholarship applications are also available online on the Illinois PTA Web site. Go to <http://www.illinoispta.org>. Access Program/Scholarship/Application.



This Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors who intend to study in the field of education, as a primary or secondary teacher, guidance counselor, school psychologist or other education-related fields. Two scholarships will be awarded in each Field Service Area of the Illinois PTA: one for \$2,500 and one for \$1,500. The student does NOT have to attend a high school with a PTA/PTSA. If you, as a local PTA leader, are aware of high school seniors who are eligible for this scholarship, please encourage them to apply. **The application must be postmarked by February 15, 2010!**

Barb Miralgio, Scholarship Assistant

Free Convention Registration

Is your PTA planning to attend the Illinois PTA Convention March 12th-14th? If so, contact me via e-mail, dscollardpta@sbcglobal.net, or phone, (708) 484-1472, to be eligible to win a coupon good for one free registration. All units that respond by January 15th will be entered into a drawing to win one of three free convention registration coupons. The winners will be notified by January 25th.



The unit must be designated in "good standing" to win.

The coupon **MUST** be attached to your registration form and submitted to the State office no later than February 23rd to be valid. Please respond only if you are sure your PTA will be attending the convention, as we want to ensure the coupons go to PTAs who will definitely use them.

Debbi Scollard, District Director

History of the Illinois PTA Lillian E. Glover Scholarship

In 1935, the first state scholarship was established, as Illinois PTA voted to budget \$300 annually for a scholarship to be awarded at the University of Illinois.

Over the years, this single scholarship has evolved to encourage college-bound high school seniors, entering the field of education or an education-related field at the college/university of their choice. The Illinois PTA has provided more than \$2,400,000 in scholarship monies to those seniors.

This year, two education scholarships will be awarded in each of the five Illinois PTA Field Service Areas. Illinois PTA is dependent on the generosity of PTA local units and councils to maintain this program through bestowing special awards on persons in their PTA and/or community. Community/business partner's support and individual donations are essential, as well, to the continuance of this important scholarship program. If you wish to make a direct donation or a memorial donation, please contact the Illinois PTA state office directly. Show your support for the scholarship program.

From the Illinois PTA Web site: www.illinoiwppta.org

Barb Miralgio, Scholarship Assistant

Membership is important! Continue your membership drive throughout the year. Just Ask!

Legislation

Dear PTA Advocate,
Senate Bill 2494 has been introduced for passage by Senator James Meeks and co-sponsors, Senator's Dan Cronin, and Senator Chris Lauzen.

This bill, if passed, will amend the School Code. It will create the Illinois School Choice Program, which shall be administered by the State Board of Education. It will provide that any State-Certified, non-public school wishing to enroll eligible students and be reimbursed for vouchers available under specified provisions shall notify the State Board of Education in writing of its intent.

- This bill would specify the eligibility for reimbursement of vouchers.
- It would also specify reporting requirements for non-public schools that are participating in the program. It contains provisions concerning the calculation of vouchers and how they may be used by parents.
- It also contains provisions concerning the verification of the household income of participating parents.
- It provides that the State Board of Education may adopt rules for administration of the program.
- It will amend the State Finance Act to create the School Choice Fund as a special fund in the State treasury and provides that permitted fees collected by the State Board of Education shall be deposited into the fund and shall be used by the State Board of Education to cover the administrative costs of the program.
- If this bill is passed it would be effective immediately.

The Illinois PTA opposes this bill as it directly conflicts with our position regarding "Public Money for Public Schools."

We strongly oppose the use of public funds for non-public schools and will continue to work against any such appropriation of funds. We will participate in court actions instituted to challenge any laws, which would provide such aid.

We reaffirm the position to oppose Parental Choice legislation that would negatively impact local school funding or could result in inequitable educational opportunities for all children.

Please write, call or email your Senators, and let them know that you oppose SB2494.

Sources: www.ilga.gov, Illinois PTA Monitor, and the 2008-2010 Illinois PTA Legislation Platform

Bill Vest Jr.
District 28 Legislation Assistant

Celebrating Kids in the Arts!

Help us celebrate the artistic talents of our children. We will honor the student Reflections entries that are being forwarded to the Illinois PTA for state judging. Please invite ALL parents and children in your school — not just your Reflections participants. Bring your own children out for this PTA event. This celebration will take place at Blythe Park School in Riverside on Tuesday, February 23, 2010.

An Important Friendly Reminder

After giving time for the board members to read the minutes, the president should ask if there are any corrections to the minutes. If so, the secretary should record the changes. The president then states that the minutes are approved as corrected. The corrections should be inserted manually; corrected minutes do not need to be re-typed. If there are no changes to the minutes, the president should state that the minutes are approved as written.

Minutes become the official record of a meeting once they are approved. Minutes are the official record of your PTA's activities. **If it's not in the minutes, then it was not addressed in the meeting and therefore didn't happen!**

Ann Marie Suter, Secretary

Do you want to learn more about PTA?

...Then call or e-mail your District Director, Debbi Scollard, to schedule a "PTA: Road to Success" course. This course includes information about your non-profit status, PTA policies and procedures, officer responsibilities, how to make a motion during a meeting (and change that motion), as well as bylaw issues. This course may be presented days, evenings or weekends at your convenience.

Invite all of your PTA members as well as school administration to participate, but especially, those individuals who are prospective officers and/or committee chairman.

Speak Out Speak Up Week

**April 19 through
April 23, 2010**

Parents: Protect Your Children from Lead Poisoning

Lead is a neurotoxin, which has been known to cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, lowered IQ, and even death at high levels. Illinois ranks number one nationally in the number of lead-poisoned children.

The most common cause of lead poisoning today is from exposure to house dust, which contains lead from chipping or peeling lead-based paint. Seventy-five percent of all homes built in the U.S. before 1978 have lead-based paint in them (in Cook County, greater than 80% of all homes were built before 1980). Therefore, if you live in a home built before 1978, you should assume your house has lead-based paint in it and take precautions to assure that your children are not exposed to any peeling or chipping paint. This is particularly important if you have children under the age of three, because these children tend to have a high occurrence of hand-to-mouth activities, which could result in the ingestion of paint dust and chips.

On occasion, children have contracted lead poisoning through exposure to toys containing high levels of lead. Information on children's products, which have been recalled for various reasons, including lead content, can be obtained at www.recalls.gov.

Lead poisoning is preventable. There are steps for adults to take to protect children from lead poisoning. These include:

- Keeping them away from chipping or peeling paint
- Not using hot tap water for cooking or drinking
- Serving frequent meals and snacks which include foods high in iron, calcium, and Vitamin C
- Keeping floors, carpets, toys, and children's hands clean

For more information about lead poisoning or Cook County's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program contact the Cook County Department of Public Health's Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit at (708) 492-2076 or visit: www.cookcountypublichealth.org. Audrey McAdams, Juvenile Protection and Safety

Berwyn Council of PTAs

The Berwyn Council consists of six elementary schools (K-5) and two middle schools (6 – 8).

All of our schools held open houses and/or curriculum nights with a much higher turnout from parents than in previous years. It is great to see more participation and involvement.

We believe many more parents are visiting the schools due to our Smart Boards and enhanced technology. Our children love the Smart Boards, are excited to learn and interact with them, and have become far more engaged in the classrooms. This large investment from the School

District 100 School Board and the South Berwyn Education Foundation has given our children a whole new exciting way to learn.

All of our schools celebrated Veteran's Day and held assemblies for local veterans and their families. Schools held concerts, poetry readings. They drew pictures and wrote thank you notes to the veterans and displayed them throughout the schools. It is always an extremely emotional day for everyone.

Just about all of our schools had a fall book fair, and as usual, with huge success. Many schools give back the proceeds to the school library and the classroom libraries with the teachers' wish lists.

District 100 has begun a Parent University with evening sessions to help parents become a more active participant in their children's education and homework. The Parent University also helps parents become more computer-savvy. The University class sizes are rising.

Many of our elementary schools have begun having *movie nights*, an evening for the entire family to come out and enjoy some quality time together within their child's school. Our two middle schools, Heritage and Freedom, have had overwhelming success with their *open gym nights*. Typically, one evening a month a specific grade comes out and spends time with classmates and enjoys basketball, volleyball, and other activities.

As difficult as membership has been in the past years, we are slowly increasing memberships amongst all our schools. School District 100 is proud and honored to have an extraordinary Superintendent, Dr. Stan Fields, who has been a great support and encouragement to our PTA/PTAs, not to mention our entire School Board led by President Joanne Zendol. Both Dr. Fields and Joanne Zendol attend the Berwyn Council meetings with great enthusiasm, full of ideas and suggestions. Just about every school has achieved 100% Staff membership. This is great encouragement to our units.

Holiday Programs, concerts, and class parties were held during the holiday season. It is hard to believe 2010 is here.

Sherry Kritikos, President, Berwyn Council of PTAs

History in the Making

January is a great month to rejuvenate and prepare for the rest of the school year. Local unit historians should start making plans to celebrate Founder's Day. This year the Illinois PTA will celebrate their 110th anniversary. This is a golden opportunity to explore your PTA's past and preserve its future. Local units have over the years found many creative venues to celebrate Founder's Day.

Some ideas may include inviting past presidents, PTA Board members, school board members, administrators,
(Continued on next page)

and local politicians. Illinois PTA was founded on May 30th and National PTA Founder's Day is February 17th. Some PTAs use this event to show their members just what they have been able to accomplish over the years. This can be a great marketing tool for membership as well. When parents see what accomplishments have taken place in their own schools, they sometimes are more interested in being a part of our organization.

So use this event to toot your own horns! Take your family to school week is February 8-14. This is another great time to show our parents all that we do. Please remember to share your ideas with us. Send us your pictures or ideas so that we can share them with our District PTAs. Remember each of you have the power to create your future and shine from the past. If you need ideas, please feel free to contact any of your district assistants.

Terry Christenson, District Historian

National PTA Announces First National Advisory Board

National PTA is calling on some big names to help with its continuous campaign for kids. The association will activate its first-ever National PTA Advisory Board comprised of nine of today's most influential and well-known figures in their respective industries. Advisory Board members were selected based on their executive-level leadership; experience and qualifications; valuable contributions to education; and shared vision to transform tomorrow's families today. They will serve a two-year term as a representative voice for the association as they are a diverse balance in age, race, sex, ethnicity and geographic distribution.

- **Tichina Arnold** Actress (best known for her role as Pam on the sitcom *Martin*)
- **Charlotte Frank** Senior VP, McGraw Hill Companies
- **Patrick Gaston** President, Verizon Foundation
- **Floyd W. Green III** Head of Community Relations, Aetna Foundation
- **Greg Schumann** VP and Group Publisher, Parenting Magazine
- **Guy Vickers** President, Tommy Hilfiger Foundation
- **Judy Werthaus** VP of Human Resources, Target
- **Denise White** Executive VP, Viacom
- **James White** President & CEO, Jamba Juice

"Advisory Board members will serve National PTA immensely by offering leadership, resources, and networking opportunities that will help us reach out to a broader audience." said Betsy Landers, National PTA President-Elect and Chairwoman of the new Advisory

Board. "That is why we are honored to have on board a diverse group of distinguished individuals to help further our mission in improving the quality of life and education for America's children." Meeting for the first time December 17 in New York City, Advisory Board members will work directly with National PTA Officers, Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer to: provide counsel and guidance, develop new strategies, play a role in public relations, share with PTA staff and volunteer leadership a fresh perspective on important issues and policies, and foster relationships that will create sustainability, credibility, and relevance to PTA to continue serving tomorrow's families, schools and communities. In addition, the Advisory Board will heighten the association's awareness and capacity to broaden fundraising opportunities by cultivating new relationships with influential figures, securing vital resources, and enhance our culture by recruiting new leaders and supporters of PTA.

Source: National PTA Communications

Illinois PTA 108th Annual Convention March 12 - 14, 2010

Holiday Inn Select
1801 Naper Blvd.
Naperville IL 60563

- Plan to attend and join in the experience..
- Convention expenses are an appropriate use of PTA funds.
- Speakers
- Workshops
- PTA Courses
- Sharing Successes and Concerns
- Celebrating Children
- PTA Awards Dinner

Please join your fellow District 28 PTA members at Saturday's Breakfast Breakout Caucus.

Illinois PTA District 28

<http://www.illinoisptadistrict28.org>

Debbi Scollard, District Director

1514 Euclid Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402

(708) 484-1472 Debbi@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Council – South Berwyn

Sherry Kritikos
3424 S. Grove Ave.
Berwyn, IL 60402
(708) 484-4530

Legislation

Bill Vest
7868 West Cressett Drive
Elmwood Park, IL 60707
(708) 452-2816
Bill@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Secretary

Ann Marie Suter
3518 Kenilworth Ave.
Berwyn, IL 60402
(708) 484-4837
??

Cultural Arts

Linda Bartkowicz
9605 Palmer
Melrose Park, IL 60164
(847) 455-2314
Linda@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Membership

Kathy Meitzler
1422 Manchester
Westchester, IL 60154
(708) 345-1310
Kathy@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Scholarship/Leadership Development

Barb Miralgio
10146 Nevada Ave.
Franklin Park, IL 6131
(847) 455-6150
Barb@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Historian

Terry Christenson
3118 76th Avenue
Elmwood Park, IL 60707
(708) 453-3640
Terry@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Newsletter/Webmaster

Mary Ann Daugherty
2913 Louis
Franklin Park, IL 60131
(847) 455-0427
Mary_Ann@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Treasurer

Pat Denofrio
1347 S. Elmwood
Berwyn, IL 60402
(708) 516-8315
Pat@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Juvenile Protection and Safety/ Legislation Consultant

Audrey McAdams
4034 S. Scoville
Stickney, IL 60402
(708) 484-0534
Audrey@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Resource/General Arrangements Vacant

**Please contact the District
Director at (847) 484-1472 to
arrange for Leadership
Courses.**

— Illinois PTA/District Events/Workshops 2009 - 2010 —

*Packet Orientation and
Training Courses*

Saturday, August 1, 2009

Franklin Park Community Center

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Pleasantdale School, LaGrange

*Deadline for District
Reflections Entries*

Friday, December 4, 2009

Rhodes School, River Grove

Reflections Recognition

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Blythe Park School, Riverside

Illinois PTA Convention

March 12 - 14, 2010

Holiday Inn Select, Naperville

District 28 Awards Dinner

Friday, April 23, 2010

Location to be announced

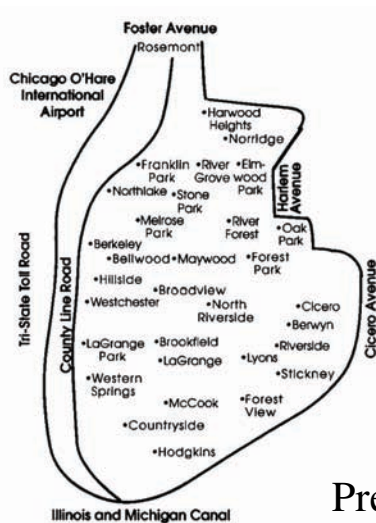
National PTA Convention

June 10 - 13, 2010

Memphis TN

- ☛ Plan to attend the "Celebrating Kids **P**aths **T**o **A**chievements through the Art" on February 23, 2010, at Blythe Park PTA.
- ☛ Review and update your bylaws! Send to the Director for approval before you take them to your membership for adoption.
- ☛ Check out the District 28 Web site for the latest information.
<http://www.illinoisptadistrict28.org>
- ☛ Continue to solicit membership in 2010. Let's increase our membership in District 28 to 10,000. JUST ASK!
- ☛ Call the District Director to set up a date for PTA Courses. Leaders are available day or evening!

Debbi Scollard, District Director
1514 Euclid Avenue
Berwyn IL 60402



Presidents: Please share this newsletter with your PTA Members.