

# Michigan PTSA<sup>®</sup> Bulletin

*every child. one voice.*

Volume 82 Issue 8

September 2006

## President's Message

by Barbara Blanchard, Michigan PTSA President

Welcome back to another great year for PTA/PTSA!

September is PTA membership month. Highlight and advertise your "Back To School" events to promote membership in your PTA/PTSA. Remember to use the "Back to School Kit" sent to you from Office Depot. It has brochures and ideas to get your PTA/PTSA off to a great start this year.

Our focus words this year are "Commitment and Responsibility". With these in mind, you can expect the following from your MPTSA Board of Managers and our state office:

- An updated and current website
- A new strategic plan
- A Leadership Academy with quality workshops (October 7th)
- An Advocacy Day that encourages and promotes Advocacy for all children (Feb.15th)
- A MPTSA convention to excite and educate your members (May 3-5th)
- Service and communication to our Local Units and Councils
- A special "Reflections" Celebration (not part of convention)



Barb Blanchard,  
MPTSA President

I hope to expect the following from our Local Units and Councils:

- Share your unit packet with your officers and committee chairs
- Encourage Parent Involvement and request presentations from our BSP presenters
- Check out "The PTA Parent Book Club" on National PTA's website
- Budget, Register and Attend Leadership Academy, Advocacy Day and Convention
- Encourage students to participate in "Reflections"
- Learn about and use Online Membership and Dues Reporting

The time for us to start our year of "Commitment and Responsibility" is NOW.

I'm looking forward to working *with you and for you* this year.



Michigan PTSA 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, May 3-5, 2007

*Great Ideas Et Great People*  
**make the PTA connection...**

**Location: Best Western Sterling Inn, Conference Center, and Indoor Waterpark  
Sterling Heights, Michigan**

**Connect** with great ideas in learning and sharing sessions designed to improve your leadership and advocacy skills

**Connect** with great people when you join with hundreds of fellow PTA/PTSA members from all over the state

**Connect** emotionally as you gain a renewed drive and enthusiasm for your home and PTA life!

**REGISTRATION MATERIALS COMING SOON!**

**Inside this issue:**

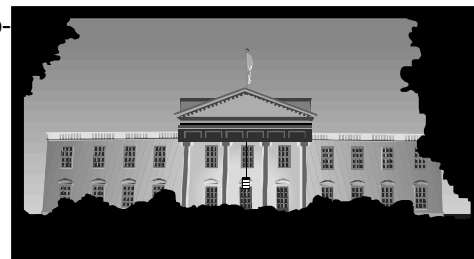
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**Capitol Connections**

by Kevin McLogan, Legislative Vice President

Fall is upon us and it of course it brings “back-to-school”, leaves that change colors and politicians that seem to go stark raving mad! They don't call it the “Silly Season” for nothing!

This edition of whatever they are calling this piece now addresses the following: a couple of ballot proposals to remember and a couple of important rules for you to remember. First the proposals:



◇ **Proposal #6 Stop Overspending:** Proposal 6 failed to qualify for the November 7 statewide ballot because the Board of State Canvassers determined its supporters collected massive numbers of illegal and fraudulent signatures. By voting not to certify the controversial amendment, the Canvassers largely affirmed a challenge to the Proposal 6 petitions filed by Defend Michigan, No on Proposal 6, a coalition of more than 100 Michigan-based business, labor, public safety, health care, education and human service organizations fighting the measure. Go to [www.defendmichigan.com](http://www.defendmichigan.com) for more information.



◇ **Proposal #5 K-16 proposal:** Michigan PTSA supports this proposal. Go to [www.michigank16.org](http://www.michigank16.org) to download and print the new Proposal 5 window sign today! Show others you agree that investing in public education – kindergarten through graduate school – is key to Michigan's future economic growth, prosperity and success. Yard signs and bumper stickers are available now!



Go to page 3 of this bulletin for special election year activity information for PTA/PTAs. Now is the time to make the calls, and make Legislative activity an important priority in your unit, and that can make all difference for children. No matter how silly the season, when advocating, remember the reason.

**Stories From the Field...**

by Vickie Craig, Region C Vice President

City High-Middle School, Grand Rapids (Region C) was formed in the 1970's to serve gifted and talented students attending Grand Rapids Public Schools. The parents, staff, and students have a long history of collaboration and good will that, like the program itself, have changed and grown over the years. This year, “City” is making a big move – from a small, crowded downtown location to a “new” building that formerly housed a middle school. Music, drama, assemblies, and lunchroom all shared space; the media center was small, and there was no access to a gymnasium. We are looking forward to spreading out.

The PTSA at City is a dynamic group that sees the value of diverse, urban education and works to support this strong academic program. There are three big reasons that the PTSA has succeeded and endured: committees, communication, and commitment to transition.

All of the work happens in committees. There are standing committees and ad hoc committees to work at tasks that can get too ungainly in a large meeting. Good energy and great results spring from these committees.

Back when e-mail was a novelty, City pioneered e-mail communication among parents, staff, and students. The notes from the Guidance Counselor are invaluable. Now, the e-mail system is giving way to a web site (under construction) to help families see the “big picture” of events and activities they need to know about.

The board and committees keep records (a.k.a. Procedure Books) of their work that they pass on to their successors. Parents are willing to make a one or two-year commitment to serve their students because they know that when they step down, another person will step up.

Thanks, City Parents, Teachers, and Students!

## Election Year Know How for PTA/PTSAs

**It's an election year and now is the time that many PTAs and PTSAs are considering how they can get involved.**

Here are a few points for reference:

1. PTA members may engage in legislative activities on behalf of children and youth and may educate the general public and policy makers about officially adopted PTA positions and resolutions as permissible under federal tax laws.
2. As long as PTA/PTSAs remain strictly nonpartisan, members may educate the general public about issues affecting children.
3. PTA/PTSAs are allowed to attempt to influence legislation through lobbying efforts, but they may not devote more than an insubstantial part of their activities to influence legislation (generally interpreted as not exceeding 5 percent of gross income).

Simply stated, PTA/PTSAs may actively support or oppose issues but not people.

### **Supporting Candidates & Candidates' Forums**

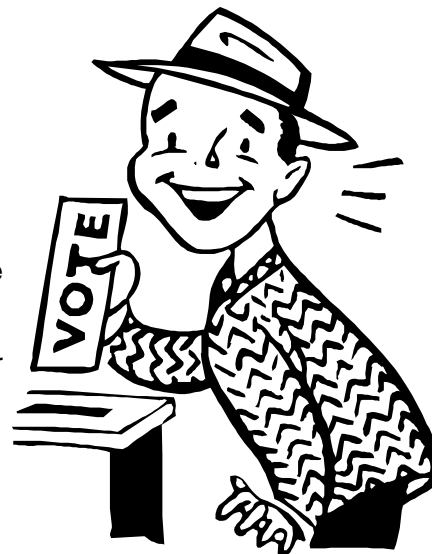
PTAs are 501(c)(3) organizations, which according to IRS rules are tax-exempt public charities. Because of PTAs' status, donors to PTAs may deduct their contributions to the extent permissible under tax laws. In order to maintain charitable status, PTAs may not campaign for or against candidates for federal, state, or local public office.

PTAs may conduct candidates' forums alone or as part of a coalition with other nonpartisan groups. All candidates for the public office involved must be invited and asked to present their views at the meeting. A nonpartisan moderator should be in charge, and fair procedures must be established and agreed to in advance. Contact the state office or go to [www.michiganptsa.org](http://www.michiganptsa.org) the *Hosting a Candidate's Forum Brochure*.

### **Political Action Committees**

The PTA, at any level, may not contribute to a political action committee (PAC), which is defined as an entity whose whole purpose is to influence the election of any individual to public office.

The only exception is PAC support of ballot issues-A PAC may be supported when it takes a position on a ballot issue (such as for a zoning or constitutional matter, school levy, or statewide referendum). To the extent that a state PAC law clearly, precisely, and definitively distinguishes between activities to support issues and those to support candidates, PTAs may engage in issue-oriented activity (within Internal Revenue Code [IRC] limits) with the understanding that the appropriate record keeping and reporting requirements are maintained. If there are any questions about a state PAC, an appropriate professional with expertise in regulatory law should be consulted.



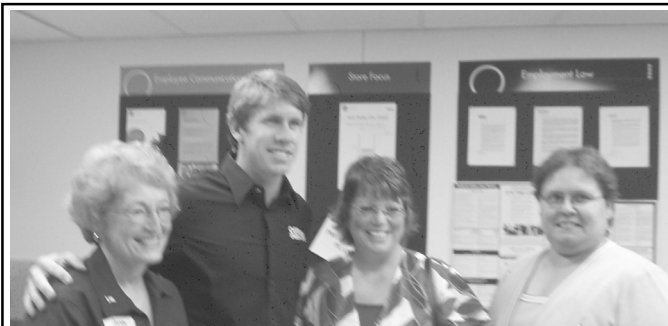
## MPTSA President Convenes NCLB Parent Education Coalition

Recently, Barbara Blanchard, Michigan PTSA President, attended a conference open to all state PTA presidents in Baltimore. The conference was co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and PIRC, Parent Information and Resource Center. One of the main topics at the conference was NCLB (No Child Left Behind). Due to the fact that this is a very important issue in Michigan, Ms. Blanchard took it upon herself to convene the NCLB Parent Education Coalition made up of the groups below, so they may work together to provide access to necessary information for all parents and help parents to apply it. The coalition includes:

Communities in Schools	Kids First
Child & Family Resource Council	Life Services System
Parents as Teachers	

Providing programs for children to support their health and welfare and to provide parents with the tools and support to have the programs succeed are the common goals of the NCLB Parent Education Coalition. This wonderful networking

## Michigan PTSA and Office Depot Gives Away 2,500 Back Packs!



Barbara Blanchard, MPTSA President; Carl Edwards, Nascar Driver; Doris Hetzel, MPTSA Vice President for Leadership and Sue Bellows, MPTSA Parent Involvement Chair.

Michigan PTSA was chosen as one of eleven state PTAs to participate in an Office Depot back pack give away. Michigan PTSA was given 2,500 back packs to give away to students attending PTA and PTSA Title 1 schools!

The kickoff ceremony for Michigan was held at the Office Depot in Flint on August 17th. Carl Edwards, Nascar driver and NPTA Ambassador for Youth, and Michigan PTSA members were in attendance.

Office Depot is, also, allowing PTAs and PTSAs to set up tables at their local Office Depot for membership drives. Call your local store for more information!

From a million back packs to promotional space for membership drives, Office Depot is a wonderful supporter of

## What Does Bullying Look Like?

## Part 1 of 2 (continued in next edition)

### What is Bullying?

Bullying is aggressive behavior that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power or strength. Bullying can take many forms, such as hitting, threatening others, teasing, excluding from a group, or sending mean notes. A child who is being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Often, children are bullied not just once or twice, but over and over (Olweus, 1993; Roland, 1989; Smith and Sharp, 1994).

### Where Does Bullying Happen?

Most bullying (2-3 times as much) happens at school and on the school bus to and from school (Hoover, Oliver, & Hazler, 1992). Bullying is more likely to happen when large groups of students are supervised by a small number of adults, including lunchtime, recess, physical education, and when kids change classes (Espelage & Asidao, 2001; Olweus, 1993). Students also report being bullied in the classroom when their teacher's attention is diverted.

### Who Is Bullied?

Any child can be bullied. It is important not to blame or look for faults in children who are bullied, because nobody deserves to be abused by their peers. However, understanding some common characteristics of children who are bullied may help adults identify children who are likely targets of bullying and help protect them from abuse. Research indicates that children who are bullied tend to be socially more isolated than other children (Espelage & Asidao, 2001; nansel et al., 2001). These children may seem to be easy targets for bullying because they have few friends to help to protect them. They also may be shy, sensitive, insecure children (Olweus, 1003). Boys who are bullied are often (though not always) physically weaker than their peers. Educators, parents, and others should be especially watchful for bullying of children with disabilities, since these children are often bullied.

### Possible warning signs that a child is being bullied;

- Comes home with damaged or missing pieces of belongings
- Has unexplained cuts, bruises, and scratches
- Has few, if any, friends with whom he/she spends time with
- Seems afraid of going to school or organized activities
- Takes a long, illogical route when walking to school
- Has lost interest in school or is doing poorly in school
- Appears sad or depressed when at home
- Has trouble sleeping or has bad dreams
- Experiences a loss of appetite
- Appears anxious or suffers from low self esteem



## Michigan Bullying Legislation Update

by Brian Whiston, Treasurer

The Michigan Legislature is looking at the issue of bullying in schools.

The Senate Education Committee has SB's 44, 369, 1012 & 1156 all of which require schools to address the issue of bullying. The House Education Committee has the following HB's: 4026, 4581 & 5616, all of which would require schools to address school bullying. These bills can be viewed at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

On the surface it seems silly that the legislature would have to pass laws to force schools to address the issue and of course many schools are looking at programs to help students – but the issue remains and we must continue to look for ways to stop bullying from occurring and having the legislature discuss legislation is a helpful reminder of how we must address this issue.

## World Languages and Your Child

Did you know that learning a foreign language at an early age can improve your students' test scores and performance in other academic subjects? Extensive research over the past four decades shows that learning a foreign language has many benefits.

- **Higher Test Scores:** Research conducted in 1998 shows that students who studied a foreign language had higher SAT (Verbal section) scores in the 70 to 149 point range. Studies also demonstrate that students taking a foreign language typically perform better on standardized tests.
- **Improvement in other academic subjects:** Students who study a foreign language have shown improved scores and performance in reading, writing, verbal activities, social studies, problem solving and math.
- **Thinking and communication skills:** Foreign language programs help students improve cognitive abilities, including mental flexibility, creativity, memory, divergent thinking and higher-order thinking skills.
- **Improves self-confidence:** Children who study a foreign language tend to have a higher level of self-confidence and greater sense of achievement in school.
- **Long range benefits:** In our ever-changing and global world, students with diverse backgrounds and abilities in technology and foreign languages have more career opportunities than those who do not. In addition, students who are multi-lingual develop more flexibility in thinking processes and are more adept at exchanging professional ideas and information in commerce, science, law and the arts.



### When is the Best Time to Get Started?

The earlier the better! Neurobiological research strongly suggests that the best time for a child to learn a second or third language is before the age of 10. Recent studies suggest that the brain of a child has more synapses and greater plasticity and is therefore much better suited to learning foreign language than the brain of an older child or adult.

Foreign language curriculum that is fun and engaging, as well as instructionally sound, will impact not only the student's foreign language understanding, but will also benefit their studies in other areas, thus contributing to an enhanced and well-rounded educational experience.

### Learn More

Please contact Power-Glide to receive a white paper containing research references (800-596-0910)



## Psssst! Pass It On!

Please pass this and all mailings onto your fellow PTA/PTSA officers and members.

## Preparing Our Children for Their Future



Governor Jennifer Granholm (center seated) and Donna Oser, Michigan PTSA Executive Director (center standing), join others for a picture after Governor Granholm signs the new graduation bill.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed into law a rigorous new set of statewide graduation requirements on April 20, 2006 to ensure Michigan's students have the skills and knowledge needed for the jobs of the 21st Century global economy. (Public Acts 123 & 124)

This law is a result of an extraordinary partnership between the Executive Branch, State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Legislature and numerous education associations (including Michigan PTSA) who worked together to better prepare students for greater success and to secure the economic future of our state.

Go to the Michigan Department of Education website at [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) for additional information on Michigan's Graduation Requirements and other educational issues.

## PTA Goes to Work

Welcome to the world of Exploration!

Your quest toward finding a job or a career – whether you're a student or a parent – begins at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

Why Wait?

Children begin exploring and thinking about careers almost from the day they first begin exploring and thinking about the world around them.

As "super achiever-ish" as it may seem, it's really never too early to start thinking in earnest about life after high school. It can be stressful for parents to talk with their child about a job or career, but relax: the mere act of discussing future job prospects doesn't mean locking your 13-year-old into a career path that he deviates from at his peril.

What You Will Find

The information available through PTA Goes to Work can help both you and your child begin thinking about the future, how to explore the child's natural strengths and interests, and how to ask the right questions at the right time.

But if you're a parent who's considering a return to the workforce – or a change of careers – you'll find plenty of help here as well, as we'll assist you in finding information on jobs available in your area, including those from the fastest growing, most in-demand industries in your area and in the United States.

The world of exploration begins at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org). Go to the National PTA website and search for Goes to Work. Start your track to a wonderful job or career opportunity!

*...It's really never too early to start thinking about life after high school.*

**ARE YOU  
IN GOOD  
STANDING?**

- Submitted Unit Dues & Completed Remittance Form
- Minimum of 25 Members Posted
- Bylaws Updated Every Three Years
- Budget & Audit received by February 28



## LAST CHANCE REGISTRATION! Leadership Academy 2006

October 7, 2006  
Milford High School

- Learn the basic responsibilities of your position
- Find out about resources and programs available to you
- Gain a better understanding of how an effective parent group operates
- Share experiences and ideas with fellow parent leaders

Download registration materials  
at [www.michiganpts.org](http://www.michiganpts.org)

Registration deadline—Sept. 29th!

### Guest Editorial—Michigan's "New" High School

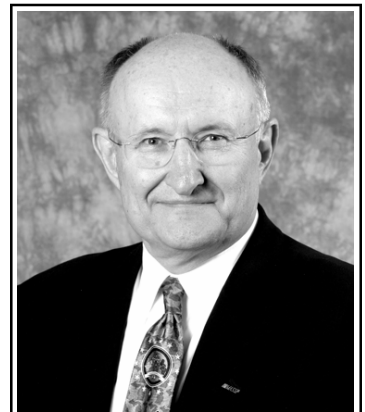
In today's global economy, many employers are looking for a highly skilled, educated workforce before they invest. This means that education is what will define our children's quality of life. A two-year or four-year college degree or a technical certificate will be crucial to their future. That said it is essential that our K-12 education system prepare children for that next step post high school, be it college, university or vocational school.

Michigan has really stepped up to this challenge. Our newly implemented legislation goes beyond requiring four credits in math; it names the minimum classes a student must take: algebra I, algebra II, geometry, and a fourth math content class. Add to this a requirement for English classes every year in high school, science that must include biology, chemistry or physics (both are preferred), plus one more science class, and three credits of history and geography.

If you have an eighth grader, your child is a member of the first high school graduating class to meet a new expectation that ALL children, who graduate from high school in Michigan, will be READY academically for two-year, four-year, or technical training. And if you have a third grader, when they graduate from high school they must have taken two credits of foreign language. Ideally, this will happen while they are in elementary school.

The enhanced curriculum should save you money, as well - when your child arrives at that post-secondary school adequately prepared there will no longer be a need for expensive remedial classes. The numbers tell us this should save Michigan parents about six million dollars a year!

There are some familiar requirements packaged a new way; The Michigan Merit Standard (those required classes); The Michigan Merit Exam (The ACT and WorkKeys); and possibly, a new Michigan Merit Scholarship that rewards your child for completing two years of college or technical training.



Jim Ballard,  
Executive Director,  
Michigan Association of  
Secondary School Principals

*“...Education is what will define our children's quality of life.”*

If you have a junior in high school this year instead of taking the high school MEAP test they will be taking a new exam called the Michigan Merit Exam. It is a combination of the ACT, yes, the same test you took when you enrolled for college, a test used for admission into journeyman training, WorkKeys, and a social studies exam. This new test tests the same stuff the MEAP did, but it's used by colleges and technical training programs through out Michigan to determine readiness and scholarship eligibility.

To help you pay for this schooling after high school there are changes being proposed to the Michigan Merit Scholarship. If your child gets a passing score on the Michigan Merit Exam they have earned the right to receive the award of \$4,000. This will be given to them in pieces. The first \$1,000 is to help them get enrolled in schooling post high school. The second \$1,000 is to bring them back for the second year and the final \$2,000 if they complete that second year!

The world of economic competition has changed the rules. The combination of technological advances and better educated populations in third-world countries has meant that the low-skill/high paying jobs have left the USA. If Michigan builds a work force that is better educated and skilled, high paying employers will come to Michigan. And our children? They'll enjoy an excellent quality of life.

## Let's Make a Connection at Convention!

By Bela Antal, Vice President of Organization

Mark your calendars! May 3-5, 2007

The Convention Committee is in the process of planning the 89<sup>th</sup> annual convention. The 89<sup>th</sup> annual convention is being held at the Sterling Inn, in Sterling Heights; check out their website at [www.sterlinginn.com](http://www.sterlinginn.com). Besides having wonderful meeting accommodations, they also have a 32000 sq ft indoor water park for the family. Our goal is to make this convention the best one ever!

Our goal in planning this convention is for all of us to get connected:

- \*Get connected with great ideas in learning and sharing sessions designed to improve your leadership and advocacy skills.
- \*Connect with great people when you join up with fellow PTA/PTSA leaders from all over the state.
- \*Connect emotionally as you gain a renewed drive and enthusiasm for your home and PTA life.

We are planning this by searching for experienced facilitators and an uplifting keynote speaker. We are looking at having roundtable like discussions and having time for networking and enjoying the facilities.

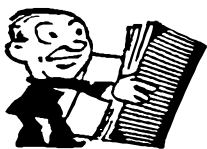
The cost of convention will include the Banquet and Awards Breakfast. This year we are electing a new slate of state officers and installing them at the banquet.

Keep an eye out for further information that will be coming soon and check out the MPTSA website.

## 2006-2007 Quick Reference Guides

Get The 2006-2007 PTA President's Quick-Reference Guides Now!

Based upon feedback from PTA leaders, Quick-Reference Guides were created to replace the Annual Resources for PTAs and to have a new, user-friendly format. Your PTA president should have received the guides listed below recently.



President's Quick Reference Guide  
Membership Quick Reference Guide  
Money Matters Quick Reference Guide

PTA Programs Quick Reference Guide  
Spanish Language Supplement  
Reproducible Materials

If you did not receive one or more of the guides above, contact (800) 307-4782 to request one or download the PDF files from [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

## New Reflections Categories!

By Deanna Nazaroff, Reflections Chair

A new year and a new look! Students now have six categories in which to express their talents and creativity – Literature, Music, Photography, Visual Art, Film/Video, and Dance Choreography.

Dance entries must be original choreographed dance composition works, recorded on video tape or DVD. The choreography must be the work of one student only. There may be up to three dancers performing the choreography. The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but does not have to be. The entry will be judged on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the current Reflections theme.

Film/Video productions must be original works and may be with or without sound. The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and camera person. The entry will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the current theme. Please refer to the National rules regarding both categories for specific wording of rules, guidelines etc.

Information regarding Reflections is in your unit packet. As always, please read the entire packet noting all deadlines and criteria for participation. Failure to meet any of the requirements could result in the disqualification of individuals and/or PTA or PTSA units.

If you have questions regarding Reflections please call Deanna Nazaroff at 248-348-8514. Your support of children and the arts is greatly appreciated.

**Theme:** My Favorite Place

**Drop off Site:** Walled Lake Schools Educational Services Building.

**Drop off Dates:** January 9-10, 2007 between 10:00a.m. and 2:00p.m



## Back-to-School Made Easy

by Anna Weselak, NPTA President



Anna M. Weselak,  
National PTA President

Now that we are in the midst of Back-to-School season, I hope you have found a lot of uses for the tools PTA has provided to make membership recruitment and retention a fun and easy process. Every year, PTA works to improve our services to you. We support your local efforts to improve the lives and education of the children in your communities as you bring more parents on board to share in the effort and reap the rewards.

This year's Back-to-School kit contains many great recruitment tools, including brochures, posters, and a membership outreach guide in English and Spanish. Membership chairs also will find a wealth of useful information in the *Membership Quick-Reference Guide* found in the kit. The updated CD-ROM that was sent to all local units as part of September PTA Membership Month, includes many customizable forms, posters, and reproducible. You don't have to reinvent the wheel in coming up with membership recruitment ideas. PTA gives you a big head start with proven, successful strategies with suggestions to carry them out.

Your states also have a number of excellent tools and resources for your use. Just contact them and ask what they have available for you. Whether you're concerned about membership, fundraising, programs, or any other activity for your PTA, your state and national offices stand ready to serve you. Make this back to school time an easy way to kick-off your year-long PTA membership

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## Math with Hart

**The Joy, Wonder, and Fun of Mathematics.**  
Highly interactive assemblies for ANY K-12 audience.

By Michigan's Professor of the Year 1989-1990  
"Helping Students LOVE Math"

MEAP relevant, Fun, Math/Music & other connections!

visit [www.mathwithhart.com](http://www.mathwithhart.com) or call (586) 286-2018

## 50 Ways Parents Can Help Schools

**Come to school to assist.**

1. Share information with a student or class about a hobby.
2. Share information with a student or class about a career.
3. Share information with students about a country you visited or lived in.
4. Tutor one or a small group of students in reading, math, or other area.
5. Help coach an athletic team.
6. Help check a student's written work.
7. Help put out a school or classroom newsletter.
8. Help sew or paint a display.
9. Help build something (loft in a classroom, playground).
10. Help students work on a final exhibition or project.
11. Help answer the school's phone.
12. Help plan a new playground for the school.
13. Help plan a theme-based presentation for students.
14. Help present a theme-based presentation for students.
15. Demonstrate cooking from a particular country or culture to students.
16. Share a particular expertise with faculty.
17. Help students plan and build an outdoor garden or other project to beautify to outside of the school.
18. Help coach students competing in an academic competition.
19. Help bring senior citizens to the school to watch a student production.

**Help arrange learning opportunities in the community.**

20. Help set up an internship or apprenticeship for a student at your business, organization or agency.
21. Host a one-day "shadow study" for one or a small group of students about your career.
22. Go on a local field trip with a teacher or a group of students.
23. Go on an extended (3-5 day) cross-country field trip with a teacher and students.
24. Contact a particular local business or organization regarding possible cooperation.
25. Help to create a natural area outside the building where students can learn.

Continued in next edition

Article excerpted from the PTA Program Manual

## MPTSA Board of Managers 2005-2007

### President

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### Region A

Serves Alger, Baraga,  
Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson,  
Gogebic, Houghton, Iron,  
Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac,  
Marquette, Menominee,  
Ontonagan & Schoolcraft  
counties.

### Region B

Serves Alcona, Alpena,  
Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix,  
Cheboygan, Crawford,  
Emmet, Grand Traverse,  
Iosco, Kalkaska, Leelanau,  
Manistee, Missaukee,  
Montmorency, Ogemaw,  
Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle,  
Roscommon & Wexford  
counties.

### Regions A & B Vice President

VACANT

### Regions A & B Field Service

VACANT

### REGION C

Serves Ionia, Kent, Lake,  
Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo,  
Oceana & Ottawa counties.

### Region C Vice President

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### Region C Field Service

VACANT

### REGION D

Serves Genesee, Huron,  
Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland,  
Sanilac, St. Clair & Tuscola  
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### Region D Vice President

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### Region E

Serves Allegan, Barry,  
Berrien, Branch, Calhoun,  
Cass, Eaton, Kalamazoo, Van  
Buren & St. Joseph counties.

### Region E Vice President

VACANT

### Region E Field Service

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### Region F

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### Region G

Serves Arenac, Clare,  
Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella,  
Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm,  
Osceola & Saginaw counties.

### Region G Vice President

VACANT

### Region G Field Service

VACANT

### Region H

Serves Clinton, Hillsdale,  
Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee,  
Livingston, Shiawassee and  
Washtenaw counties.

### Region H Vice President

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### Region H Field Service

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## Send in Your Nomination for Teacher of the Year!

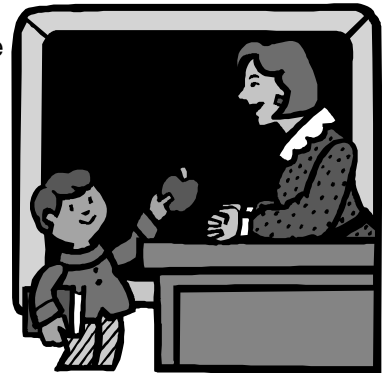
The Michigan Department of Education has three great ways for which you can nominate an exceptional teacher from your local school! Show a teacher how much you appreciate their dedication to children with one of the following manners:

**Michigan Teacher of the Year Award**—The Michigan Department of Education would like your help in honoring the best of the best! The online nomination form and guidelines can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mtoy](http://www.michigan.gov/mtoy).

**Presidential Award for Mathematics and Science Teaching**—Do you have a wonderful math or science teacher in your school? Nominate them at [www.michigan.gov/paemst](http://www.michigan.gov/paemst).

**Michigan Department of Education Talent Pool**—The Michigan Department of Education maintains a talent pool of distinguished teachers and principals. This group of educators has been called upon for membership on advisory boards and the State Board of Education task forces. To nominate a teacher or principal for the talent pool, go to [www.michigan.gov/talentpool](http://www.michigan.gov/talentpool).

The Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan PTSA urge you to take the time to recommend candidates. It is time to highlight the efforts of those who dedicate their professional lives to the children of the state of Michigan.



## Michigan PTSA Resources Online

For your convenience, we're putting our resources online! Please go to [www.michiganptsa.org](http://www.michiganptsa.org) to sign up for your password.

Have access to unit packet materials, registration forms and much more. It will be all be a mouse click away!

Units with all officers signed up by October 1 will be entered into a drawing to win four complimentary convention registrations! The 2007 Convention will be held at the Sterling Inn Conference Center and Water Park in Sterling Heights.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity!

## Backstage Pass to Student Involvement

by Laura Karasinski, Student Representative

As your local PTSAs budget for the school year, consider budgeting money to send students to the annual Michigan PTSA Convention in May. These comments came from student evaluations from this past convention when students were asked to list the top things that they learned:

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -What parliamentary procedure is | -Self confidence and self control |
| -What motion means               | -We're the future                 |
| -To be a leader in PTSA          | -Making a motion                  |
| -Why PTSA is so important        | -How to get students involved     |
| -How to be a leader              | -Conversation listening           |
| -How to debate in PTSA           | -How to make a motion             |

All of that in just two days! Imagine what your students could learn through a year of involvement in your local PTSA...leadership skills, communication skills, the importance of a grassroots effort, respect by and for adults, decision making skills, the importance of service and volunteering, responsibility, personal power, friendships...the list is endless!

Consider turning your PTA into a PTSA or starting a student component to your PTSA. The Youth Assembly of the Michigan PTSA can present to your local unit on how to do so and share with your members what being involved in PTSA has taught them. Contact me for more information. Also, begin planning for Youth Rally 007: Detecting Student Involvement, May 3-5, 2007. We have guest speakers lined up and lots of fun planned. As always, youth rally is open to grades 6-12.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at [karasin1@msu.edu](mailto:karasin1@msu.edu)!



## Dates to Remember

### September

- September 28th**—Treasurer's Remittance Form Due
- September 28th**—Membership Roster Due
- September 29th**—Leadership Academy Registration Due (registration information available at [www.michiganptsa.org](http://www.michiganptsa.org))
- PTA Membership Month** (go to [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for membership campaign ideas and information)

### October

- October 7th**—Leadership Academy at Milford High School in Huron Valley
- October 28th**—Treasurer's Remittance Form Due
- October 28th**—Membership Roster Due

### November

- November 28th**—Treasurer's Remittance Form Due
- November 28th**—Membership Roster Due
- November 30th**—Nominations for Michigan PTSA elected positions due

### December

- December 1st**—Reflections Deadline for Unit Dues paid, 25 members posted and current bylaws
- December 28th**—Treasurer's Remittance Form Due
- December 28th**—Membership Roster Due
- December 31st**—Unit & Individual Legislative Advocacy Awards due to state office

### January

- January 9 & 10**—Reflections Drop-Off 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. at Walled Lake ESC
- January 28th**—Treasurer's Remittance Form Due
- January 28th**—Membership Roster Due

### February:

- February 15**—Advocacy Day
- February 28th**—Membership Awards Eligibility Form due to state office, 06-07 Budget due, 05-06 Audit due, Treasurer's Remittance Form due and Membership Roster Due

#### **Michigan PTSA Bulletin**

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