

# Michigan PTSA<sup>®</sup> Bulletin

*every child. one voice.*

Volume 82 Issue 9

October 2006

## President's Message

by Barbara Blanchard, President

It was very exciting to have over 180 PTA Leaders follow the "Yellow Brick Road" to Leadership Academy! Thanks to the Leadership team, the workshop presenters and the state office staff for planning a quality learning day for officers and committee chairs. We also appreciate the hospitality of Huron Valley Schools for hosting the Academy. Certainly a highlight at lunchtime were the MPTSA Players with a rendition of "The Wizard of Oz".

Your PTA/PTSAs are off to a great start. With trained leaders, a dynamic membership plan and quality fund raising activities, your ship is ready to set sail again this year. As you fill your ship with members (crew), chart your course wisely to reflect the goals of your PTA/PTSA. This will ensure that you leave the dock with a plan and don't spend the year sailing around in circles!

Administrators in your school district are valuable members of your crew. Include them as you sail this year. They can provide information and resources so that your crew is working as a team. Fill your ship to capacity! There's always room for one more.

Recently our President Elect Debbie Squires, Executive Director Donna Oser and I attended a National PTA Leadership Conference in Chicago. The focus was "Ethics for Collaborative Leadership". We will be giving you information throughout the year from the conference. A statement from one of the speakers to think about is: The decisions you make today shape not only your reputation but your character and, in the end, your character is your legacy to your children and your tribute to your parents.

I enjoyed visiting PTAs in Rochester, Royal Oak and Southfield this fall. I hope to visit others soon. Enjoy your cruise this year and tell us about your excursions. PTA people love to share ideas!

Reminder: National PTA is coming to Detroit, October 27-29, for a conference focusing on "Emerging Minority Leaders". The National PTA President, Anna Weselak, will be visiting PTA schools before the conference begins. We will highlight



From left to right: Sue Bellows, Libby Benton, Kevin McLogan, Debbie Squires, Doris Hetzel, Keith Warnick, Lindsay Haycock, Ruthann Jaquette, Barb Blanchard, Mary Deyoung-Smith, Violet Streeter, Vickie Craig and Deanna Nazaroff.

## Share 'Em!

Are you proud of something your PTA/PTSA does? Tell us all about it and we'll put it in the *Bulletin*. U.S. mail or email us your 250 word story about what it is that your PTA/PTSA does well. Remember to include your name, email address, and phone number as well as your PTA/PTSA name, city and Michigan ID number.

[donnar@michiganpta.org](mailto:donnar@michiganpta.org)

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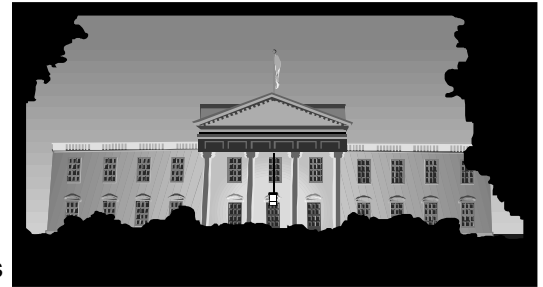
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**Capitol Connections**

by Kevin McLogan, Legislative Vice President

After taking the month of October off, the Legislature resumes session after the election to begin the most dangerous of all legislative seasons — the lame duck session. (Why pundits pick on defenseless ducks is not really clear...not only does this term identify politicians and political bodies serving after the end of their term, but also to a stockbroker who has defaulted on his debts — not a pretty picture no matter how you paint it.)



Although this is a time for legislators at the state and federal level to pass bills that define their legacy (or exact revenge) and pack their bags, it is also a new beginning and a time for advocates to reach out and develop relationships. At least one third of the State House and State Senate will be new in January and they need your help in defining the agenda for children. Make sure that you spend some time reaching out to your new legislators. There is no better time than now, before the new folks are bogged down with hiring staff, and arranging all of the details of their new office, to make that personal connection to the decision-makers and to let them know that you can be a valuable resource to them as they move forward.

Remember, it only takes a couple of minutes to make the calls that can make a difference. Winter, spring, summer or fall, we are advocates one and all!

**Stories From the Field...**



The Office Depot Back Pack give away was a huge success in Michigan. Michigan received 2,500 back packs to give away and give them away we did!

One PTA that received back packs was Buena Vista PTA in Highland Park. They received 200 of the back packs to give away to children at their middle school. James Spear, Buena Vista PTA's president, says that they have distributed 50 of the back packs and are working with the teachers and administration to determine the best avenue for handing out the rest. As the school has roughly 450 students, almost half of the students will benefit from the back pack give away. Mr. Spear also stated that the children who received back packs so far were extremely excited and their parents were very appreciative.

The back packs were filled with useful things for the students. Items included were rulers, pens, pencils, crayons and tissues.

Thanks to Office Depot and National PTA. Your generosity has helped 2,500 children in Michigan to have the means to succeed.

**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

## What Does Bullying Look Like?

## Part 2 of 2 (continued from September edition)

### *Tips for Parents*

#### **What to Do if Your Child is Being Bullied**

Children frequently do not tell their parents that they are being bullied because they are embarrassed, ashamed, frightened of the children who are bullying them, or afraid of being seen as a “tattler”. If your child tells you about being bullied, it has taken a lot of courage to do so. Your child needs your help to stop the bullying.



- ✓ Focus on your child. Be supportive and gather information about the bullying.
- ✓ Never tell your child to ignore the bullying. What the child may “hear” is that you are going to ignore it. If the child were able to simply ignore it, he or she likely would not have told you about it. Don’t blame the child who is being bullied. Don’t assume that your child did something to provoke the bullying.
- ✓ Listen carefully to what your child tells you about the bullying. Ask him/her to describe who was involved and how and where each bullying episode happened.
- ✓ Learn as much as you can about the bullying tactics being used, when and where the bullying happened. Empathize with your child. Tell him/her that bullying is wrong, not their fault and that you are glad he/she had the courage to tell you about it. Ask your child what he/she thinks can be done to help. Assure him/her that you will think about what needs to be done and that you will let him/her know what you are going to do.
- ✓ Do not encourage physical retaliation as a solution. Hitting another student is not likely to end the problem, and it could escalate the situation or get your child suspended or expelled.
- ✓ Check your emotions. A parent’s protective instincts stir strong emotions. Although it is difficult, a parent is wise to step back and consider the next steps carefully.

Bullying happens in every school, but with an effective bullying prevention program, bullying can be reduced. If your child is being bullied, chances are that there are other children in the school who are having similar experiences. If your school does not have official anti-bullying policies or an active bullying prevention program, work with other parents and your school officials to develop one.

This information was provided by the Stop Bullying Now! Campaign. For more information and resources to help your school deal with bullying, visit [www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov).

Excerpted from the NPTA Programs Manual

## New Tool Helps Citizens Prepare For Public Health Emergencies

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is providing a public emergency handbook free of charge to citizens that outlines preparedness steps for public health emergencies, state officials announced today.

“Preparing For A Public Health Emergency – What You Need To Know” will be made available through local health departments and other community locations this week, said Janet Olszewski, MDCH Director. Federal preparedness dollars paid for the booklets, which have been shipped to local health departments throughout the state.

“It is important to remember that each type of public health situation is very different and requires a unique response,” Olszewski said. “Just as families in Michigan must prepare for winter storms, tornados and power outages, we want citizens to have appropriate information to prepare them for possible biological, radiological, and other types of public health threats.”

The booklet outlines many things individuals can do to be prepared for public health emergencies. Some of the guidance includes:

- Discuss with your family the types of disasters most likely to happen and what each family member should do.
  - Your family may not be together when disaster strikes. Plan how you will contact one another.
  - Keep some essential supplies on hand for emergencies: drinking water, dry or canned food, a battery-powered radio, first aid supplies, a flashlight and batteries, prescription medication, and special items for babies and family members with special needs.



Other sources of family preparedness information are available at the federal Department of Homeland Security website - [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). Telephone operators are also available to answer preparedness questions by calling the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Response Hotline, 800-CDC-INFO, 888-232-6348 (TTY).

## Proposal 5 Deserves a Yes Vote

by Donna Oser, Executive Director

*This appeared in the Lansing State Journal as an Opinion Editorial on October 14, 2006.*

The best way Michigan can support education and our children is to vote YES on Proposal 5.

Over the past few years, our K-12 schools have been repeatedly forced to make cuts to basic education programs. These cuts threaten the viability of Michigan's entire public school system, not to mention its economic future. Working with thousands of parents across the state, I can attest to how desperate the situation has become.

Parents tell me they are accustomed to paying personally through "classroom donation" requests for paper, pencils, and Kleenex. However, the past several years those requests have ballooned into pleas for all types of essential items, from toilet paper to chalk.

You've heard of pay-to-play sports? Today's parents must dig into their wallets for numerous learning opportunities that were once considered a basic part of any education. Enrichment, art and language programs have been cut from the traditional school day and are now only offered as "pay to participate" type programming. A Chinese professor told me that the one thing that sets America apart as a global economic force is our ability to innovate; he believed that we'd need to "create" ourselves out of this decline because we certainly wouldn't be manufacturing our way out of it. If that's true, then these programs, which once nurtured ingenuity in our children and have now been eliminated, are actually vital to their futures.

Likewise, PTAs throughout Michigan have supported schools for years by purchasing "extra items" such as field trips or school assemblies, and sometimes reimbursing teachers for classroom supplies. Schools today are asking for PTAs to pick up the tab for textbooks, building repairs, and even teacher salaries. Yes, PTAs are being asked to pay salaries for public school teachers. Worse, a few school districts have begun actually invoicing their PTAs for mandatory donations directly to the district.

The fact that parents have tolerated all of this is an indication of how badly we want our children to receive a world class education. We'd also like to keep quite a few of our highly educated children nearby us, right here in Michigan, working in good jobs and enjoying a high quality of life. As victims of the dying manufacturing economy ourselves, we understand that employers looking to locate or expand businesses in Michigan must know that they have access to a talented labor force. Microsoft's Bill Gates recently told the National Council of State Legislatures that a vibrant K-16 education system is the key to attracting businesses to a state and the creation of more high paying jobs within it. The 300,000 citizens and parents who signed the petitions for the education funding guarantee get it, Bill Gates certainly gets it, it's only too bad Michigan's legislature didn't get it. Proposal 5 is on the ballot because our elected officials could not find the political courage to resolve the funding crisis.

Experts agree that the best way to fix our economic problems is to invest in a world class educational system and create a knowledgeable workforce for the future. Do you *really believe* that world class education can be financed by bake sales and carnivals? I don't. Join me in supporting the future of our children and our economy by voting YES on Proposal 5.



Donna Oser,  
Executive Director

## Michigan PTSA Unveils Online Resources

Everything you need to effectively run your PTA or PTSA is now available online!

Do you need budget and audit information? It's there!

Do you need Reflections forms and information? It's there, also!

Do you want access to PDF posters and brochures?

Go check it out at [www.michiganptsa.org](http://www.michiganptsa.org) and see what information we have available for your officer position.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity! Register under the PTA/PTSA Leaders section of our website to receive your username and password.



## Membership Tips by Linda Bodnovits, Membership Chair

I can't believe how fast this school year is going already. Most of us have had open houses and welcome back nights. I hope that there was a membership table at each event you have had this year. You get the most memberships when parents are in the buildings.

One of the best ways and sometimes the hardest way to get new members is to simply just ask. One possible way is: "We have a great PTA at our school and it will be even better if you were a member. How about it?" I would like to hear from you on how you ask people to join. Please email me at [bodnovl@gcity.k12.mi.us](mailto:bodnovl@gcity.k12.mi.us).

### Basic tips for Membership Chairs

When you have a person join please have them fill out a membership form. The form should include: name, address, city, phone number and email if they have it. Have your activities listed for the year and have them check off what activities they would like to help with. The basic info goes on the membership roster unless you do it on a database or spreadsheet then you just print that out and send it to the state office with your check by the 28<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Feel free to go to our website at [www.michiganptsa.org](http://www.michiganptsa.org) for membership information, sample roster, recruitment posters and much more! The Leaders Only membership section has great information to help you run your membership campaign! Check it out.

Thank you for taking on this important job. But remember, it is not just the membership chairs job to sell membership. It is everyone's job. We are all there for the same reason – children. We care about them and we want our children, all children to get the best

### Lay the groundwork for Membership success:

- Ask your PTA board to explain to potential members what your PTA does for the children of your community.
- Determine whether your PTA is meeting the needs of your members and community.
- Align your goals with the needs of your members and community.
- Make sure you have the support of your principal and school staff.

### Promote membership throughout the year:

- Set up your membership table at every PTA and school event (maintain a current list of members in case people forget if they have joined already).
- Publish a list of PTA members in your newsletter.
- Regularly include articles about membership and a clip-out membership form in your newsletter.
- Publish your current membership count in your newsletter. Check it against your goal often.

## A PTA Success Story

As one of the first elementary schools in the country to launch a Power-Glide after-school language program, Midway Elementary in Utah is leading the pack. Under the direction of PTA President-elect, Dana Witt, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders meet once a week for 45 minutes in a lab setting at the Midway school. Mrs. Witt mentors the 30+ students in reviewing activities, playing language games, and providing supplemental instruction. Throughout the week students study the innovative Power-Glide curriculum using a combination of textbooks, audio CDs, and online interactive games and activities. The majority of the students are enrolled in Spanish, while several students have chosen French and Latin.

Mrs. Witt tracks student progress and quiz results via Power-Glide's Learning Management System. In this way she can provide personal assistance when needed. Mrs. Witt terms the program a success so far with consistent turnout on Monday afternoons and a high-level of student interest. She says that the "Power-Glide methodology is so engaging" that some of her students have already completed half of the book.

As more students learn about the program, enrollment continues to grow. Mrs. Witt expects even more students to take advantage of this exciting opportunity as time goes by and word of mouth continues to spread. Midway Elementary is sure to be a model for similar programs in Utah and throughout the country.

For more information on starting your own elementary foreign language program, please contact Power-Glide at 1-800-596-0910 or visit us at: [www.power-glide.com/pta](http://www.power-glide.com/pta).





**Join us!**

Look for registration materials soon via mail and at [www.michiganptsa.org](http://www.michiganptsa.org)!

**Radisson Hotel**

**February 15, 2007**

**Downtown Lansing**

**Advocacy Workshops  
Lunch with Legislators  
Networking with Advocates  
from around the State**

## Cervical Cancer Vaccine

by Margaret Blount, Health and Welfare Chair and Barb Flis, Health Consultant

On June 8, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration licensed the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer and other diseases in females caused by the Human Papillomavirus, known as HPV. The vaccine protects against four HPV types, which are responsible for 70% of cervical cancers (types 16 and 18) and 90% of genital warts (types 6 and 11). The FDA licensed this HPV vaccine for use in girls/women, ages 9-26 years.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. At least 50% of sexually active people will get HPV at some time in their lives. Every year in the United States, about 6.2 million people get HPV. HPV is most common in young women and men who are in their late teens and early 20s. While most HPV types cause no symptoms and go away on their own, some types can cause cervical cancer in women. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2006, over 9,700 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer and 3,700 women will die from this cancer in the U.S.

The HPV Vaccine has been recommended for females ages 11-12 years old, but can be administered to girls as young as 9 and is also recommended for 13-26 year old females if they have not been vaccinated. Ideally, according to the CDC, females should be vaccinated before they become sexually active because the vaccine is most effective in girls and women who have not yet acquired any of the four types of HPV covered by the vaccine. Females who are sexually active may also benefit from the vaccine, but they may get less benefit since they may have already acquired one or more vaccine HPV type(s).

It is suggested that the shot be given in 3 doses, over a 6 month period, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses given 2 and 6 months after the first dose.

It is important to remember that this vaccine will not provide protection against all types of HPV that cause cervical cancer. Vaccinated women will still be at risk for some cancers and therefore regular cervical cancer screening for sexually active women is recommended.

To check on the availability of the vaccine, contact your physician or your local health department. It is anticipated that the cost of the vaccine will be covered by most large insurance companies as well as Federal programs which cover vaccine costs for children and teens who do not have insurance or who are underinsured.

There are no federal laws that require children or adolescents to get vaccinated. All school and daycare entry laws are state laws – so they vary from state to state. Michigan legislation to require female 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to be vaccinated, has passed the senate and is pending house approval. For more facts about HPV and the HPV Vaccine go to: [www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV.htm).



## New Video Builds Public Support for Board Member Training

A new video from MASB illustrates the impact training can have on a school board's ability to do its job. The video builds on a survey released last fall by MASB that revealed the public's expectation for trained school boards.

Key findings of the survey include:

- 66 percent believe school board member training should be mandatory in order to fulfill their responsibilities under the law.
- 80 percent of respondents think training is necessary once board members are elected in order to fulfill their responsibilities under the law.
- 74 percent support local districts paying for training/professional development for their board members.
- 91 percent support board members attending training/professional development within one hour of their local district.
- 72 percent support board members attending training/professional development at a conference held within Michigan.

Counter to the belief of many board members and administrators, there is strong support from the public that school board members attend training and professional development, and that the district pay for training/professional development—so long as it is reasonable in terms of cost and location.

Trained school boards can actually save districts money by making informed decisions regarding personnel issues, legal matters and contractual obligations. Informed school boards are better negotiators ensuring that foundation allowances keep up with labor settlements. They are better prepared to handle harassment, bullying and personnel issues that may arise in their districts. Share this video with key communicators to build support of school board member training. Don't miss this chance to share with your public the importance of your school board receiving training!

For additional details or if you would like to schedule a presentation, contact Jennifer Rogers, 517.327.5908, [jrogers@masb.org](mailto:jrogers@masb.org).

Advertisement

# looking for a school fundraiser that's practical, meaningful, and educational for children?

Our fundraising approach is simple and our mission is clear — eliminate junk mail to help save the environment!

In a nutshell, our service stops postal junk mail from coming to your home. We provide a unique and worthwhile approach to fundraising that not only benefits the school's organization, but also educates students in helping the environment.

Our fundraiser is educational, easy to sell, and there are no start-up fees or inventory to worry about. Plus, your school is guaranteed credit for every sale made. Call or visit our website today to learn more about our unique service and how your school can get involved.

**866.417.4141**

[www.41pounds.org/fundraising](http://www.41pounds.org/fundraising)  
[marketing@41pounds.org](mailto:marketing@41pounds.org)





## Psssst! Pass It On!

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

### Who Will Carry on the Mission?

by Libby Benton, Secretary

I do realize that we have just kicked off a new school year but, as you know, the planning and implementation process that is PTA never stops! A very important part of each PTA Officer/Committee Chair's job is to mentor someone to follow in their footsteps when their term is over. In many instances the Vice President steps up to replace the President, but not always! Do you have someone you are mentoring?

On your Michigan PTSA State Board of Managers, it works the same way. We just elected our Nominating Committee at our September 23 board meeting. We will be mailing out nomination forms to all State Board Members, Council Presidents and Local Unit Presidents. We need input from you, as to who you would like to see in which position on your state board. Being out in the field in the local units, you have had the opportunity to meet many of us on the state board when you attended Convention and/or training events. We do not want to always just receive nomination forms from each other! That happens in local units as well and we wonder why we are referred to as "the clique".

Please watch for your mailing and take the time to fill out and return a nomination form for at least one position on your Michigan PTSA State Board of Managers for next year. **These nomination forms are due in Lansing by November 30, 2006!** A list of eligible/ineligible board members will be included to help you make your decision.

As always, your suggestions and comments are welcome and needed! See you at Convention!

### It's Audit Time!

by Brian Whiston, Treasurer



Treasurers it is our fun time of the year – Why fun you ask – well it is Audit Time! (yea!!!)  
Audits are due to the state office by February 28, 2007.

In preparing your audit, you should refer to Money Matters Quick Reference Guide – The PTA Audit found on page 21 and a sample audit form found on page 25. You may also go to our web site at [www.michiganptsa.org/download/index.html](http://www.michiganptsa.org/download/index.html) and find the Money Matters Quick Reference Guide under the Treasurers portion of the Leaders Only section of our website.

The audit is a review of your books for last year (2005-2006) and should be completed by a professional auditor or a committee of at least three people who were not signers on the checks for the previous year.

In preparing for the audit (list of items on page 22) you should give the auditor or committee a copy of all reports and transactions for the year. The audit procedure (found on page 23) should include:

- 1) Check last audit to make sure you are starting with the correct beginning balance.
- 2) Do a sample test of transactions.
- 3) Make sure state and national dues are separate from other receipts.
- 4) Check all reports for any errors.
- 5) When finished provide a report to your PTSA (see page 25).
- 6) The audit should be officially adopted by your local PTSA

The audit is important so we can maintain credibility with our fellow PTSA members and the rest of the school community. If you have any questions, while doing your audit, please feel free to call me at 248.770.8314 or email me at [Brian.Whiston@comcast.net](mailto:Brian.Whiston@comcast.net). Thank you for serving as your local treasurer, I appreciate your time and efforts.

***Please complete the audit and send to the state office when completed – but NO LATER THAN February 28, 2007.***

## National PTA Message

### Continuing Our Legacy of Service

by Anna Weselak, NPTA President



Anna M. Weselak,  
National PTA President

I have crisscrossed this country visiting schools and state, council, and local PTAs. Every community is different, but the comments I've heard and the work I've seen reaffirms that we all share common goals—to improve the lives of children, promote parent involvement, and support our public schools. Those goals have remained the same since PTA was founded 110 years ago.

As I reflect on those 110 years of service, I look at what the entire PTA organization has accomplished and all that we continue to do. As a national organization, we remained concerned with our children's health and the childhood obesity epidemic we find ourselves facing today. We are all striving to live more healthy lifestyles that include exercise and nutritious foods. The safety of our children has taken on a new meaning with electronic forms of communication and entertainment available to our children today right in our own homes. The quality of our public schools remains a primary interest of PTA as we work to save programs such as physical education, recess, and the arts.

*“We all share common goals—to improve the lives of children.”*

The tragedies and disasters we have faced in the past few years, including 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, brought us together as a nation and as a national organization to address the needs of schools, children, and families. I'm very happy to say that PTA efforts to help stricken communities return to normal did not end when the headlines faded. Our Adopt-a-PTA program and hurricane relief efforts are ongoing and a tribute to PTA's ability to create a real and lasting sense of community, wherever our members are located.

As we look forward to our second-ever *Take Your Family to School Week*, held in conjunction with Founders Day in February, I hope you will share my pride in our successes and feel as inspired as I do by what PTA can do to add to our legacy of service to children, families, schools, and communities.

## 50 Ways Parents Can Help Schools

*Continued from September edition*

### Serve on an advisory or decision-making committee.

26. Serve on the school-wide site council.
27. Serve on a school committee that reports to the site council.
28. Serve on a district committee representing the school.
29. Serve as an officer in the school's PTA.
30. Help organize a parent organization for the school.
31. Help design a parent and/or student survey for the school.
32. Help conduct and/or tabulate results of a parent survey regarding the school.

### Share information or advocate for the school.

33. Serve as a member of a “telephone tree” to distribute information quickly.
34. Write a letter to legislators about the school.
35. Write a letter to school board members about the school.
36. Go to a school board meeting to advocate for the school.
37. Go to another school to provide information about this school.
38. Help design a brochure or booklet about the school.
39. Help translate information from the school into another language other than English.
40. Help translate at parent-teacher conferences.
41. Provide transportation to a parent-teacher conference for a parent who needs a ride.
42. Write an article for publication in a magazine about the school's activities.
43. Help arrange for a political leader to visit the school.

### Increase financial resources available to the school.

44. Help write a proposal that would bring new resources to the school.
45. Donate materials to the school.
46. Arrange for a business or other organization to donate materials to the school.
47. Help with a fundraiser for the school.

### Help other parents develop their parenting skills.

48. Help teach a class for parents on ways they can be stronger parents.
49. Help produce a videotape on more effective parenting.
50. Help write, publish and distribute a list of parenting tips.

## 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

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Cass, Eaton, Kalamazoo, Van  
Buren & St. Joseph counties.

### Region E Vice President

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Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm,  
Osceola & Saginaw counties.

### Region G Vice President

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### Region G Field Service

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## Welcome New Michigan PTSA Board Members



Letetia Kemp Jarrett,  
Region F Field Service Rep

Not pictured: Shaton Berry,  
Region F Field Service Rep

Shaton Berry and Letetia Kemp-Jarrett are the newest additions to the Michigan PTSA Board of Managers. They are excited and ready to help Detroit with all of their field service needs.

Shaton Berry is 28 years old and has legal guardianship of her two younger brothers; Anthony, 17, a senior this year and Deontae, 15, who is in the 10th grade. Deontae is a very special child because he has autism spectrum disorder. She has been involved with her local PTA for four years. For the 04-05 school year she won President of the Year for the Detroit Council. She is currently the President of the PTSA at Western International High School. She is also involved in different community service organizations such as Meals on Wheels, Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Berry can be contacted via email at [slb2u2@comcast.net](mailto:slb2u2@comcast.net) or via phone at (313) 218-9801.

Letetia (Dee Dee) Kemp-Jarrett is a single parent raising a child with a disability and working a fulltime job. She has been active with local PTAs for 12 years. She is currently the Vice President for Boynton Pre K-8 PTA. Ms. Kemp-Jarrett is also actively involved in church, civic organizations, neighborhood associations and educational groups. Ms. Kemp-Jarrett can be contacted via email at [dee@calldeedee.com](mailto:dee@calldeedee.com) or via phone at (313) 834-5974.

## Backstage Pass to Student Involvement

by Lindsay Haycock, Youth Conference Member

My name is Lindsay Haycock. I am in 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Churchill High School in Livonia. This is my fifth year of involvement in the PTSA. I am just beginning my second year as a Youth Board Member on the Michigan PTSA Board of Managers. I became involved in the PTSA when I started 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Frost Middle School and attended my first meeting with my mom.

The purpose of this article is to promote student involvement within our PTSA's. Why? Student involvement in a PTSA can help promote self esteem, assist with public speaking, help develop decision making skills and learn how to deal with conflict resolutions. By encouraging students to get involved, students are able to help make changes to better their school and bring issues to the table they would like addressed.

So why don't students get involved with the PTSA? Many kids probably do not understand what the PTSA does. They do not view the PTSA as an opportunity to voice their opinions and/or ideas, rather they view it as parents and teachers planning a fundraiser to buy a new playground set or a new sound system for the school. Do you know any kid that does not have an opinion?

A great way to promote student involvement is to encourage students to attend their schools PTSA meetings. If your school is a PTSA...why not consider having a student rep on your Executive Board. Students who attend the Michigan PTSA conventions Youth Rally "007-Detecting Student Involvement" will have opportunities to attend several different informational workshops. These workshops will assist students to learn about health issues, money management, and the basics on parliamentary procedures.

Convention is an awesome experience, especially for students at the middle school age. They are able to see how they can make a difference and their voices can be heard to encourage them to work together with parents and administrators. Once they attend convention, they will want to go back!

So....In this upcoming school year, please focus on the "S" in your PTSA's. It will make a difference in your schools and the students as well!



## Dates to Remember

### October

- October 28th**—Treasurer's Remittance Form Due
- October 28th**—Membership Roster Due
- October 8th-14th**—Fire Prevention Week
- October 12th**—Lights on Afterschool! (go to [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org) for more information)
- October 28th**—Make a Difference Day ([www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for more information)
- October 29th**—Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Month of October**—Diversity Awareness Month ([www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for more information)

### November

- November 28th**—Treasurer's Remittance Form Due
- November 28th**—Membership Roster Due
- November 30th**—Nominations for Michigan PTSA Elected Positions Due
- November 1st**—National Family Literacy Day
- November 7th**—Election Day
- November 12th-18th**—American Education Week (go to [www.nea.org/aew](http://www.nea.org/aew) for more information)
- November 13th-19th**—Children's Book Week (go to [www.cbcbooks.org/cbw](http://www.cbcbooks.org/cbw) for more information)
- November 19th-25th**—National Family Week (go to [www.nationalfamilyweek.org](http://www.nationalfamilyweek.org) for more information)
- Month of November**—American Indian Heritage Month

### 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

#### Michigan PTSA Bulletin

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