



LOUISIANA PTA

THE MONITOR

F A L L I S S U E

I S S U E O N E 2 0 0 9

DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 1st

- Reflections Theme Search Deadline.

November 6th—8th

- Board of Directors meeting, Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge.

November 15th

- District Deadline to report enrollment figures.

December 15th

- Early Bird Membership Award Deadline

January 15th

- LAPTA Reflections Deadline for entries from Districts.

February 1st

- Safety Drawing Theme Search Deadline.
- Safety Drawing Deadline.
- Educator of Distinction and Scholarship Application Deadline.
- Honor and Outstanding Unit Application Deadline
- Outstanding Newsletter entry Deadline
- Outstanding Website entry Deadline
- Resolutions/Bylaws recommendations Deadline

February 5th—7th

- Board of Directors meeting, Marksville

CHUCK SAYLORS, NATIONAL PTA PRESIDENT

If you were unable to join me at the national convention in Fort Lauderdale this past June, let me say once again how incredibly grateful I am that you have entrusted me to be the first ever male National President of PTA. But I owe you even more thanks for your decision to be involved in this association at this time in our history.

We have reached a defining moment, and members committed to our mission have work to do. When faced with the question of whether you, personally, were committed to helping PTA reach out to *all* communities, you have stood up and said, "Yes!" When given a choice between supporting your child and supporting *all* children—even knowing the challenges involved—the decision was clear. Because it's not really one or the other: by working on behalf of America's



students, you truly are helping your student, your family, and your school.

These can't just be words, however. We are asking you to follow through in action as well. There is no question that PTA must work harder on its growth and its diversity. The only question is: what *you* do to help PTA expand into the communities where it is most needed? We need more men to be involved in PTA, and in children's lives. Will you help PTA raise its male membership from 10% to 20% over the next two years? We need better representation in PTA from the very youth we have chosen to serve. Will you help PTSAs get more students to join

us? We need to improve our service to the families who have members serving in our military. Will you help the families in your community when their loved one gets deployed overseas?

Now is the time for serious people to get engaged. At a time when we need to ask everyone in our schools and communities—especially those who have never been asked before—to become part of the PTA family, we need serious people. Serious people who will embrace new ideas, new methods, and a new look. Serious people who will make PTA the family experience it needs to be: a place where all families are welcome. Please join me as we make our PTA, *America's PTA*.

**Charles J. "Chuck"
Saylor**

**PTA National
President**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to welcome all of you to a new PTA year. Our theme for the next two years is "Changing for the Future." We have an exciting year ahead of us and are looking forward to working with all of you.

The board has decided that our focus this year will be membership. We will be working to grow our PTA by helping units to reinstate and organizing new units throughout the state.

Our November Board meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge, which is

where we will be having our state convention on April 9-11, 2010. Please mark your calendar! Check your budget to be sure you have funds available to send delegates to the convention. You do not want to miss it!

The members of the Louisiana PTA State Board of Directors are available to assist you with your questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact any of us.

Susan Laborde
LAPTA President
lapta@bellsouth.net

LEGISLATIVELY SPEAKING

We have some very exciting news for PTAs in Louisiana! Once again, September 2009 was declared PTA Membership Month for Louisiana. This resolution was drawn up by Senator Ben Nevers, Senate Education Chair. We have encouraged all local units to make use of this declaration to build their memberships throughout their communities this year.

Another important piece of legislative news is the concurrent resolution developed by Senator Nevers and Representative Harold Ritchie. This resolution, passed by both houses of our legislature during this past session, resolves that "the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge

and request each city, parish, and other local public school board and school superintendent to encourage all schools under their jurisdiction and administration to support the formation and ongoing activities of a Parent Teacher Association unit." This is very big news for the children throughout our state for, as we all know, the more parental involvement a school has, the more their students learn and achieve! We hope that all schools will soon have active PTAs working with them for "every child" with "one voice!"

Watch here for more updates and for information on the 2nd Annual Louisiana PTA Legislative Conference

SAVE THE DATE



National PTA Convention
June 9—15, 2010
Memphis, Tennessee

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Leadership and Development Committee is in the process of gathering information from surveys to help determine what the local leaders would like to have included in the annual workshops. Your District President has a link to the online survey if you would like to contribute your opinion! You can also complete the survey by clicking on the following link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=g5wynM5Neng1jIwqhhGH1w_3d_3d

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

Membership has kicked off with a bang this year. Thank you for all of your hard work thus far. I understand there has been frustration with the implementation of National PTA's OMDR website. But with change comes great sense of pride in tackling this new program and finding out what all it can do for you and your unit. As always if you feel overwhelmed or just have a few questions please feel free to email me or give me a call.

OMDR TIPS:

- If you do not have an address to input please enter the school's address.
- Please do not put the schools email address. Email addresses are not a required field. Please keep in mind that you want to use the email feature of OMDR it will only email to the email addresses that you have entered.

- You can download the member list from OMDR once you have entered all of your members. You will not need to list your membership twice.
- OMDR can print your membership cards for you once you have entered the information for your members.
- National PTA has taken the membership card template from the website.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Michelle Roy
1st VP LAPTA Membership
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985-643-5700



PAINT YOUR
FUTURE...
JOIN PTA!

2010 LA PTA CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendar for the Louisiana State PTA Convention now! It will be April 9-10, 2010 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near College Drive. **The theme for this year is: Soaring to New Heights!**

If you are a vendor and are interested in an exhibit or contributing to the participant bags, please contact Susan Delle Shaffette, Convention Chair at susandshafette@bellsouth.net.

Exhibitor and sponsor packages are currently under revision and will be posted online as soon as they are available.



2009-2010 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM



It is that time again. Time to start thinking about your Reflections entries. **The theme for this year is "Beauty is..."**

As you prepare to have your students enter this very worthwhile program please be sure to read the guidelines closely. There are several changes that have been made to how things must be saved on

disk. The newest change is that there will be **NO cassette tapes or VHS tapes** accepted this year. Also, be sure to **save your entry as a file on the DVD, NOT as a movie**. The deadline for having entries to the State PTA is January 15. No entries will be accepted late. If you have any questions please contact Robyn

Hutchinson by e-mail.

Thank you for supporting this very special program. I look forward to seeing all the wonderful talent that we have in the State of Louisiana.

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TIPS FROM YOUR TREASURER

Greetings Everyone!

Just a few reminders to help our Treasurers stay on track!

- Make sure books are audited before new Treasurer takes over.
- Prepare proposed budget and get approved at general meeting.
- Send budget approval to State office and District Secretary.
- IRS 990 Tax Form should be received by the IRS by November 15, 2009.
- Sales tax exemptions do not apply to PTAs.

Also please take the time to read the Treasurer section in your resource handbook and Money Matters from National PTA; which is full of information that will guide you to be a successful treasurer! If you do not have a copy of Money Matters, it can be found online at http://www.pta.org/Documents/MoneyMatters_QRG.pdf

Please feel free to contact me anytime!!!

Lisa Landry
Treasurer LAPTA

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INSURANCE CORNER

Common Misconceptions:

- PTAs are immune from liability because of their non-profit status
- The school's insurance covers the PTA for all of its events.
- Liability protects the PTA from all risks.

Taken from Risk Management Guide for the benefit of Local and State PTAs. This Guide is only a summary of policy coverage and in no way takes precedent over actual policy language.

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