



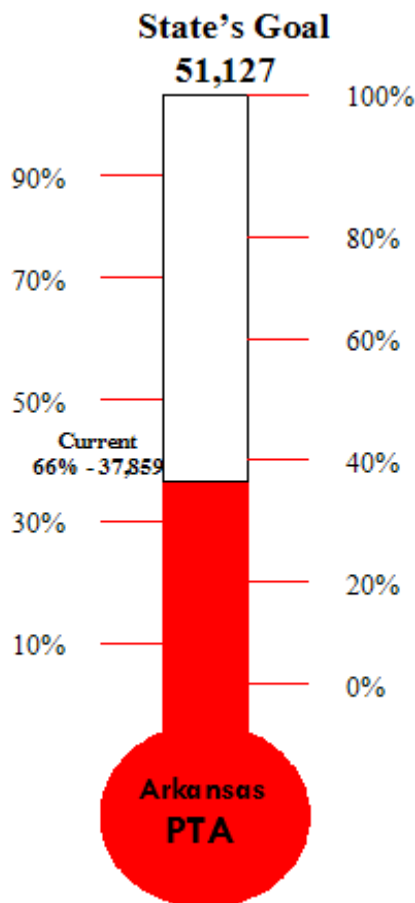
January/February 2006

Vol. 84 No. 3

Arkansas PTA

Visit us online at www.arkansaspta.org

Is there an increase in your PTA's membership?



Continuing the tradition.

As we go to press with this issue of the bulletin, we are just weeks away from the March 1st deadline for your final dues payment. Last year, past president, Kathy McFetridge, began the High Five Club. This is a new tradition that we would like to see continued. Arkansas State PTA is asking all of its local units to try to increase their membership by 5% this school year. **I believe that we can reach this 5% goal if all of us would just make one more push to promote PTA membership.** We are needing to increase our statewide membership to 51,000 to provide us with the voice power we need to be heard when the legislature begins voting on legislation affect our children.

Recently, the national legislature has voted to cut funds for education. These cuts will be felt at the state level. As we begin working with our legislators, we need the numbers of our membership to be behind us for our organization to make a difference in their decisions which affect our children and schools. Only with your help will we be able to do this important work for our children.

To help your members get excited about increasing memberships, Arkansas PTA is continuing the **PTA High Five Club**. By increasing membership 5% over last year's membership total, your local PTA unit will be put into a drawing for a \$50.00 cash prize to be given to your PTA. **Arkansas PTA will award 5 - \$50.00 cash prizes at our PTA convention in April.** Your president and membership chair will also receive a special High Five

pin. To be eligible for the drawings and the High Five pins, all dues must be submitted to the Arkansas PTA state office no later than March 1, 2006. Your PTA must be present to win the cash prize at our convention.

A number of PTA's have already reported their 5% increases throughout Arkansas and we hope all of you will participate. It is important to keep recruiting members all year long. I believe it would be appropriate to use Founder's Day celebrations and activities to help our PTA unit to achieve this goal. Please make sure to let your parents and friends know that their membership in PTA strengthens our public schools. **Our opinions do count and we want to represent your ideas when we discuss issues that affects our children and families.**

Keep up the great work and give me **Five**,
Don Johnson
Arkansas PTA President

Keep Parents in the Loop Via E-mail

Arkansas PTA is excited about offering to its membership the opportunity of on-line membership. It is extremely important the local PTA has a direct line of communication with the national PTA. Each local membership can have this opportunity by simply following a few simple steps.

We are hopeful by obtaining this information early in 2006 we will simply be able to update our database in the fall and our membership lists will be complete. This will enable local PTA's to provide timely information to parents as well as provide parents with up-to-date tools to assist their local schools. As I have shared with you before, it is only by working as a team can we better serve our children; the future leaders of tomorrow.

Enclosed you will find a form which will enable your membership chairperson to provide Arkansas State PTA with members' names, addresses, zip-codes, and e-mail addresses. Once this form is received, this information will be entered into the state database and members will begin receiving helpful information from the National PTA.

I believe this will be a great year to help all our members be informed and work for all children. Please continue your communication with me via e-mail and other correspondence, it is great to hear your views and opinions so I can better serve our state. Thank you PTA members for all your efforts to help the children that were affected by Hurricane Katrina. I am proud of our membership and the outstanding work which illustrates how much we care for our children. Thank you again for letting me serve as your President.

Don Johnson
Arkansas State PTA President

Don Johnson
Arkansas PTA
President



Ana Weslak
National PTA
President

Support PTA Take Your Family to School Week

This February 12–18, PTAs nationwide will introduce PTA Take Your Family to School Week. I'm so excited about this new program because it directly benefits parents, children, and schools by strengthening parent-school partnerships. PTA Founders' Day occurs during Take Your Family to School Week, and I think our founders would be gratified to see what PTA members are doing today on behalf of children.

There are numerous reasons why your school should take part in PTA Take Your Family to School Week. By participating in organized activities for families at school

- Parents gain a new perspective on their child's school day;
- Teachers build positive partnerships with parents;
- Children know that their family values education; and
- Schools build an excellent reputation in the community as an open and welcoming place for families.

Most active PTA parents already know the benefit of spending time at their child's school, getting to know teachers, students, and school staff. Many other parents who are not active in PTA are not aware of how valuable making a school connection can be to them and their child. Other family members, including siblings, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, have a profound effect on a child's life, but they rarely are included in school events. PTA Take Your Family to School Week provides the perfect opportunity to include the entire family in making a better future for the child in their lives. Take *your* family to school and encourage other families to ~~do the same!~~

Anna M. Weselak
National PTA President



Calendar

February

February 15
Founder's Day

March

Music in Our
Schools Month
Read Across
America

March 1

Final Membership
Dues
AR PTA Awards

Entries Due

April 7 & 8

PTA State Convention
Fort Smith Convention
Center

May

Send new officers form
to state PTA office

June

Audit Due

April 7 & 8, 2006

Annual Arkansas PTA Convention

Application for Pre-Registration and Meal Tickets

Please print or type. Register only **ONE** person per form. Make additional copies if needed.

Voting delegates must present a valid credential card and their current membership card to receive a voting card.

Name of PTA _____ Region _____

Your Name _____ Address _____

Person attending convention

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____ Council Name (if applicable) _____

Check appropriate box(es):

Voting delegate Non-voting delegate Honorary ARPTA Life Member

REGISTRATION

Circle appropriate fees

	Registration by March 15, 2006	Registration March 16- April 5
Adult Registration	\$30.00	\$40.00
Student Registration	\$15.00	\$25.00
*Reflection Luncheon	\$18.00	\$18.00
*Awards Banquet	\$25.00	\$35.00
*Membership Luncheon	\$20.00	\$30.00

Early Bird Registration and Meal Package Special \$83.00 If post marked by March 1

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to ARPTA

On Site Registration \$45.00

MEAL TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD ON SITE

***Everyone attending a meal function MUST pay Registration Fees**

Reflections Winners will be provided a Reflections Award Form

Mail To:

Arkansas PTA

P.O. Box 1015

North Little Rock, AR 72115

Deadline March 15, 2006

After due date: FAX 1-501-753-6168

Questions call Phone: 1-800-782-4782

Hotel Reservations

Holiday Inn City Center

700 Rogers Ave.

Downtown, Fort Smith

1-800-Holiday

Mention "PTA" for Convention rate of \$79.00.

Rates are guaranteed until March 15, 2006

Arkansas PTA

P.O. Box 1015

North Little Rock, AR 72115

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Join the Founders Circle

They shared a vision.
They invited friends to join them.
They founded PTA.

Our PTA founders, Alice McLellan Bimey, Phoebe Apperson Hearst, and Selena Sloan Butler shared a vision that parents and communities needed to become involved to work for the betterment of all children. They invited friends to join them in seeking solutions to problems and issues of the day concerning immigrants, homeless children and families, the unemployed and uneducated, and numerous health and safety concerns. The vision of these founders has been realized in many ways, and now it's up to us to continue the efforts. The Arkansas State PTA invites you to share our efforts to continue the vision of our founders. Please have a Founder's Day activity at your school during February to honor the valuable contributions of these women and to continue their tradition of helping children across the

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