



everychild.one voice.

Iowa PTA Annual Report

June 1, 2006 – May 31, 2007

Since 1900, Iowa PTA has worked to promote the health, education and welfare of children and youth in homes, schools and communities, and to develop partnerships between parents, educators and the general public.

PTA Mission and Purposes

The mission of the PTA is three-fold:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation

The purposes of the PTA are:

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship
- To raise the standards of home life
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education

Service and Support for PTA Units and Councils

Iowa PTA serves PTA leaders and members throughout Iowa, presenting workshops and offering printed and video resources, quarterly bulletins, monthly electronic newsletters, and a website to assist PTAs in the important work they do on behalf of children.

The PTA Academy, first introduced in the spring of 2005, continued to bring support and training directly to PTAs in their own community. PTA Academies are interactive 3-hour workshops that are scheduled by PTAs at a time and place that is most convenient for them. PTAs are encouraged to collaborate with other PTAs in their community and to invite their entire board, principal, teachers and anyone else who is interested in strengthening support for children and schools.

Topics covered include:

- History and mission of PTA and benefits of membership
- Board roles and responsibilities
- Bylaws
- Effective meetings
- PTA finance and fundraising
- Developing effective communication tools
- Parenting and student learning – what PTAs can do to support parents/caregivers in their efforts
- Programs and publications from National and Iowa PTA
- Creating an effective school volunteer program and encouraging PTA membership
- Collaborating with the community

Iowa PTA State Convention

The 107th Annual Iowa PTA Convention was held April 20-21, 2007 at Clinton High School in Clinton. The convention theme, *The Heart of PTA is Still Beating*, honored our volunteers – the heart of PTA! Convention delegates were kept entertained by Dot Kane’s energetic and madcap presentation on Friday evening. Her message included two main points: Kids need to know that their voice matters, and to find humor in every moment – if you’re having fun, your kids will be having fun. Chuck Saylor, National PTA Secretary/Treasurer and our National PTA representative for our convention shared his passion for parent involvement.

The legislative program and amendments to the bylaws were adopted by the convention delegates. PTA members and leaders were able to choose from a wide variety of workshop topics designed to inspire them to fulfill their commitment to children.

New Iowa PTA officers were elected. The Executive Committee members for the 2007-2009 term are: Johanna Bobenhouse – president, Karen Rowan – 1st Vice-President, Stacy Bredbeck – Legislative Vice-President, Claire Leonard – Membership Vice-President and Lisa Dlouhy – Secretary/Treasurer.

Other events included ceremonies to recognize and honor the accomplishments of PTAs for membership, and the Life Achievement Award given to Dr. Randall Clegg, superintendent of Clinton Schools and Kim Winterhof, Iowa PTA President for 2005-2007.

Parent and Community Involvement

An important part of the mission of the PTA is to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation. Iowa PTA provides parent/family involvement workshops for parents, educators and community groups free of charge. *Building Successful Partnerships* topics include “Working with Teachers and Administrators”, “Defining and Overcoming Barriers to Parent Involvement,” and “How to Help Your Child Succeed.”

Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence is a certificate program designed to recognize schools that uphold the highest standards in parent involvement, based on National PTA’s National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs. The certification process also assists schools in documenting how they meet the parent involvement requirements in the No Child Left Behind Act.

Iowa PTA is proud to announce that six Iowa schools have received National PTA’s
Schools of Excellence Certification – the gold standard for parent involvement.



Greenwood Elementary, Des Moines (2007)

Eisenhower Elementary, Davenport (2006)

Hubbell Elementary, Des Moines (2005)

Clive Elementary, West Des Moines (2003)

Pierce Elementary, Cedar Rapids (2003)

Westridge Elementary, West Des Moines (2003)

Communications

Iowa PTA emails news, reminders and tips to PTA officers monthly. Four times each year, Iowa PTA creates the electronic bulletin, *One Voice*, which is emailed to all PTA officers. *One Voice* contains articles and information essential to PTA leaders in Iowa. Current and past issues of the bulletin and newsletters are also posted on the Iowa PTA website.

H. L. Taylor Scholarships

The Iowa PTA Scholarship Program, known as the H.L. Taylor Scholarship, is designed to recognize and award academic achievement. In 2007, three graduating seniors from Iowa high schools were each awarded \$500 scholarships to assist with tuition at an Iowa college or university.

Iowa PTA salutes the following 2006 H.L. Taylor Scholarship winners:

Jazmin Fountain, Central High School, Davenport

Tyler McCubbin, Prairie Valley High School, Gowrie

Jordan Kunkel, North High School, Sioux City

Advocacy – Every Child. One Voice

As advocates for children, PTA members speak before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children and youth. Iowa PTA conducted a variety of legislative activities throughout the year. The purpose of these activities was to gather information, to relay legislative information to PTA members and other advocates, and to provide opportunities for PTA members and advocates to contact legislators on a regular basis.

Legislative Program: The information in the Legislative Program pertains to issues concerning the health, education, and welfare of children and youth and is the document upon which all legislative activity of the Iowa PTA is based. The Legislative Program was approved by delegates at the annual convention. Members of the Iowa PTA Board of Managers work throughout the year to inform legislators and congressmen of the PTA position on important children's issues and to urge them to support appropriate legislation.

Legislative Network: The Iowa PTA Legislative Committee sends regular updates to PTA leaders and other individuals registered on the Iowa PTA Legislative Network. These updates provide information about issues being addressed at both the state and federal level and instructs members how to contact their legislators and congressmen. The legislative updates and the Iowa PTA website provide PTA members with the tools they need to be effective advocates for children.

Capitol Visits: During the legislative session, PTA members are encouraged to go to the State Capitol building to visit with their legislators. If requested, Iowa PTA Board members are on-hand to help first-time visitors through the process. It is an opportunity for legislators to hear from parents about children's issues and to learn what is happening in their district.

Issue Survey: Iowa PTA advocates for children at the local, state and national level. In January 2007, members of the Iowa PTA Legislative Network were surveyed in order to gauge the importance they attribute to various issues that affect children, families and schools. The Legislative Network is made up of a variety of individuals including PTA members, parents, community members, teachers and administrators. Sixty-seven percent of those who responded ranked *early childhood education* and *increased funding for schools* as "extremely important." Other issues listed as "extremely important" included *increased pay for teachers*, *bullying*, and *afterschool programs*.

Reflections – A PTA Tradition of Excellence in Programming Since 1969

The Reflections Program is a National PTA program promoting Arts in education with over 500,000 students nationwide participating each year. Reflections challenges students to create original works in visual arts, photography, literature or music based on a selected theme. The theme for 2006-2007 was “My Favorite Place...” PTA schools throughout Iowa participated in the Reflections program involving 2,195 students from all grade levels. A Reflections Ceremony to honor the state winners was held on May 5, 2007 at Stilwell Middle School in Des Moines. Entries that were awarded 1st Place, 2nd Place or Honorable Mention at the state level were on display during the ceremony. Families of the students were invited to attend the recognition and awards ceremony. 1st Place entries were sent on to the National PTA competition. Iowa PTA congratulates every student and adult who participated in making the Reflections program a success.

Iowa PTA Life Achievement Award

The Iowa PTA Life Achievement Award is given to those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to children and youth. It is the *highest* honor a PTA can give.

Iowa PTA is proud to announce the 2006-2007 Life Achievement Award recipients:

Dr. Randall Clegg, Clinton
Mary Gordon, Des Moines
Bill Perrenoug, Newton
Kim Wagner, Des Moines
Kim Winterhof, Cedar Falls

Iowa PTA Website: www.iowapta.org

The Iowa PTA website (www.iowapta.org) continues to be a valuable resource for PTA leaders, members, and the community. The site contains all of the instructions and forms for PTA units and councils to transact business, including sections on programs, leadership, advocacy, and membership. For those interested in learning more about PTA, the website has information about what PTA does and how it can benefit their school and community. For information about Iowa PTA, the website contains the most recent Annual Report, a history of Iowa PTA (founded in 1900), and the programs and services we offer.

Collaborations

Iowa PTA Board members serve on a variety of committees, task forces and coalitions across the state to provide input and to gather information about issues concerning children and youth. Joining forces also allows these organizations to pool resources to accomplish a goal. Some of the organizations Iowa PTA has worked with this past year are:

| | |
|---|--|
| Allowable Growth Coalition | Iowa Smart and Good |
| Des Moines Register Academic All-Star Program | Iowa Teacher of the Year Selection Committee |
| High School Steering Committee | Model Core Curriculum Project |
| Iowa Department of Education | New Directions Summit |
| Iowa Math and Science Coalition | Prevent Child Abuse Iowa |
| Iowa Partners for Healthy Kids Coalition | Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities |
| Iowa PIRC – State Team | Youth Policy Institute |
| Iowa Safe Schools | Youth Subcommittee |

PTA Councils

A Council is a group of PTA/PTSA units organized under the authority of Iowa PTA for the purpose of leadership training and coordination of the efforts of the local units in their city or community. The Council promotes communication and cooperation among member units and increases the capacity for service because of their united strength. Councils enable local units to collaborate on projects that an individual unit could not accomplish alone. They provide support and assistance to the local units within their area. Iowa PTA proudly acknowledges the five Councils in our state and the service and leadership they provide:

Cedar Rapids Council: The Cedar Rapids Council focused on bringing quality programs for the parents, teachers and administration. A different program was presented at the monthly meetings. Topics included: Bullying, Recognizing the Signs of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, PTA Membership, Helping Your Child Succeed and Wellness. The Council supported the SILO tax for schools which was approved by the Linn County voters in February. The council also supported the *National TV Turn Off Week* in April.

Clinton Council: Continuing with our How to Help Your Child Succeed platform – which expands beyond the NPPTA program – The council hosted an advocacy training for parents and others with the best interest of children at the Felix Adler Memorial Association’s Children’s Discovery Center. Sherry Brown facilitated the well-attended event. Along with the Clinton Educators Association, we hosted a public forum for school board candidates – which was locally broadcast by Mediacom and KROS radio. Kim Winterhof served as moderator of the event. Approximately seven new parents participated in the school district’s Parent Liaison training bringing new blood to the program after almost five years. Clinton hosted the 2007 Iowa PTA Convention discovering key note speaker Dot Kane who will be making numerous other visits to Clinton – and throughout Iowa as well – to further promote our How to Help Your Child Succeed platform. Clinton Council is represented on three community coalitions. The Clinton & Jackson County Breathe Easy Coalition promotes awareness of the effects of second-hand smoke on the community. The Healthy Lifestyles Coalition supports efforts throughout the community to avoid obesity in children and adults. Finally a newly formed task force in Clinton is attempting to be accepted into the Keep Iowa Beautiful organization in order to attract incoming industry and families to our city.

Davenport Council: The Davenport Council members believe in collaborating with the community! They provided volunteers for the area-wide “First Day Project,” was involved in the community outreach on behalf of the drive-by shooting victim, Vincelina Howard, co-hosted a School Board candidate’s forum and Promoted “Shadow Day” at the intermediate schools. The council also co-hosted a legislative forum for local candidates, distributed information on the new Wellness policies, provided volunteers for Dental Buddies and lends support to 21st Century Afterschool programming. They will once again host a tent in the Family Fun area of the BIX Street Fest. The Davenport Council provided much support to the local PTA units in Davenport by updating their webpage on the DCSD website, attended National PTA Leadership Conference, distributed info packets on PTA budget, audit and leadership, presented workshops such as “How to Help Your Child Succeed,” and BSP, relayed PTA’s view point on a variety of issues to local newspapers, and awarded scholarships to local seniors.

Des Moines Council: The Des Moines Council offered its members many training and informational meetings throughout the year. The council met personally with many of the local units in the Des Moines School District. Des Moines saw seven (7) principals retire this year. Gifts were purchased for each of them by the council. The Des Moines Council held its annual breakfast in May honoring all of the many PTA volunteers and to distribute the PTA Membership Awards. Patty Link was elected to serve as Des Moines Council President for the 2007-2008 school year.

Newton Council: The Newton Council continues to raise funds for a variety of clubs and programs for the Newton Community Schools. Most of the monies for these programs come from the annual used book sale the Council holds each year. Several kids received winter gear through the “Open Your Heart” program. The Newton Council provides volunteers for the concessions stand in their stadium, and provides meals and refreshments during teacher conferences and during Teacher Appreciation/School Administration Appreciation weeks.

On Behalf of Children...

The Iowa PTA Board of Managers works on behalf of Iowa children and schools. Some of the activities of Iowa PTA board members last year included:

- Working with the Iowa Department of education to promote parent involvement policies that affect children and education
- Representing Iowa PTAs on the National Council of States (a National PTA committee)
- Serving on National PTA's Membership committee
- Assisting PTA Councils with leadership training in their communities, as requested
- Contacting Iowa Legislators and Congressmen concerning children's issues
- Presenting bullying workshops at several statewide conferences
- Presenting *Building Successful Partnerships* program to several education organizations
- Facilitated school board candidates' forum
- Attending National PTA Leadership Conference
- Attending National PTA Emerging Minority Leadership Conference
- Attending the National PIRC Conference
- Relaying PTA information and positions to the media
- Contacting all PTA presidents by telephone to provide support, answer questions and assist as needed
- Attending PTA Founders Day activities around the state
- Attending National PTA State President's Summit
- Serving on the selection committee for the Des Moines Register's Academic All-State, Iowa Teacher of the Year and the Milken Family Foundation Educator of the Year Award
- Serving on the selection committee for the TE Davidson Award for Outstanding School Board
- Participating in numerous coalitions that the Iowa After-school Alliance, Iowa Community Education Association, Iowa Partners in Learning, Partners for Healthy Kids Coalition, and the Department of Education Technology Advisory Committee
- Presenting *How to Help Your Child Succeed* and *Building Successful Partnerships* workshops in numerous communities
- Attending PTA meetings throughout the state to present information about PTA programs, such as *Reflections* and *Schools of Excellence Certification*
- Providing bylaws assistance to PTAs
- Conducting an Issues Survey to learn what parents, principals, school superintendents, etc. felt were the most pressing issues today – results sent to legislators

BOARD OF MANAGERS 2006 - 2007

President

Kim Winterhof
(319) 266-5426
Gwinterhof@cfu.net

First Vice President

Bonnie Wheeler
(563) 243-9564
wheeler@clinton.net

VP Leadership

Tracey Adamowski
(515) 267-8919
children1st@mchsi.com

VP Legislation

Open

VP Membership

Linda Lakin
(563) 243-9937
print@clintonprinting.com

Immediate Past Pres.

Sherry Brown
(319) 277-1338
edandshrry@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Claire Leonard
(319) 362-0251
Famleonard3@mcleodusa.net

Parent Involvement Chair

Open

Legislative Chair

Sherry Brown
(319) 277-1338
edandshrry@aol.com

Membership Chair

Carol Winter
(563) 243-5641
tcwinter@jdv.net

Bylaws

Isabel Rodriguez
(954) 298-5853
Carlisabel@aol.com

Convention Chair

Nicole Wagner
(563) 242-9453
Nwagner4pta@yahoo.com

Executive Director

Kim Wagner
(515) 225-4197
(800) 475-4782
ia_office@pta.org

Cedar Rapids Council

Tammy Koolbeck
(319) 929-5755
TKoolbeck@compassgmt.com

Clinton Council

Maribeth Bousman
((563) 613-0096
mbousman1@mchsi.com

Davenport Council

Regina Clewell
((563) 359-4992
jClewell3@MCHSI.com

Des Moines Council

Stacy Bredbeck
(515) 277-9355
sbredbeck@earthlink.net

Newton Council

Doug Wolf
(641) 792-4465
drwolf@Iowatelecom.net

Iowa PTA Membership

(June 1, 2005 through May 31, 2006)

2006-2007 membership: 15,437

Number of PTA Councils: 5

Total Number of PTAs and PTSAs: 182 units

Iowa PTA

8345 University Blvd., Suite F-1
Des Moines, IA 50325-1168
(800) 475-4782
(515) 225-4197
Fax (515) 225-6363

ia_office@pta.org

www.iowapta.org

