



LOUISIANA PTA

# THE MONITOR

CONVENTION 2015

ISSUE ONE

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

### February

1-28 Black History Month  
American Heart Month

### March

8 Daylight Savings Time Begins  
17 St. Patrick's Day  
20 Spring begins  
25 Convention Deadline  
Early Registration  
25 T-shirt order Deadline  
31 Deadline to Purchase Membership Cards to Qualify for LAPTA Membership Awards Convention

### April

1-30 Every Child Focus  
Military Child  
3 Good Friday  
5 Easter  
17 PTA Day at Capitol  
17-18 Louisiana PTA Convention, Baton Rouge  
22 Earth Day

### May

10 Mother's Day  
25 Memorial Day

### June

21 Father's Day  
25-28 National PTA Convention,



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the state board and I enter into the final stages of Convention planning, I am reflecting on the past 2 years. As state president this is my favorite time of year – Reflections is in full swing, Convention is coming up and the legislative duties of my office are gearing up.

I love getting the opportunity to congratulate the children of Louisiana on their artistic endeavors. I'm always amazed by the talent and quality they possess and are able to convey. The looks and smiles on their faces when we hand out trophies and celebrate their accomplishments are my payment.



The state Convention is a time of learning, fellowship and celebration. Awards have been earned and accolades are given, but there is much more. The workshops and general sessions are informative but the chance meetings in the hall and the round table discussions are the paramount moments. There is always a new perspective to consider or a new opportunity to learn about! I hope to see you all at my last convention as your state president.

My legislative duties are the real "meat" of the state president position. I have represented Louisiana PTA while meeting with National leaders in Washington, D.C., sharing our concerns and offering our assistance. Here in Louisiana I've been involved in several committees and forums on children and education and met with State leaders in the Legislature and the Department of Education. I know the politicians don't always vote the way we'd like, but they are listening. The next state president will continue the fight.

I only have four months left in my term and I plan on savoring the experience. It has been rewarding, exasperating and enlightening. I have loved working with your state board, bonding with other state presidents around the country and meeting members and leaders throughout the state. I hope you all continue on the path of making every child's potential a reality.

Giselle M. Allen, *Louisiana State PTA President*

## LOUISIANA STATE PTAs MISSION

The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

**Every child, one voice!**

## WHY DON'T THE OTHER PARENTS HELP US OUT?

That's the \$64,000 question and the answer escapes many. However, as Diversity Chair, perhaps I can provide some insight into this ongoing problem. Some of the most important stakeholders in our children's education, besides teachers and administrators, are the caregivers and parents. A good question to help your unit attract more members might be, "How can we (I) engage fellow parents and caregivers in a more meaningful way?" Now that, I can help you answer. The help that the unit is looking for includes but is not limited to - a larger population of potential members who can strengthen your local unit. Members who bring resources to the school that it needs, due to dwindling resources in terms of money and able bodies. Most importantly, I think a vibrant enthusiastic unit that is representative of the school population who advocate for their own children at school!

How does Diversity tie into this "angle"? Well, if you take the online NPTA Diversity training course, you will get a better understanding of what your PTA should look like. Tools to grow in such a way that your unit will be stronger. You can find this training course at PTA.org; click PTA Leaders - E-learning - Cultural Competency. **For example, a picture speaks a thousand words. The photo on the right of the PTSA at Youree Drive Middle School in Caddo Parish includes a lot of students, some parents, a counselor and the principal.** Yes, even the principal attends the meeting, as a member! The students have a voice in the adult deliberations in what is best for them.

Diversity in your organization means inclusion of those who may not agree with your opinion, but you show that

their opinion matters. Try this, the next chance you get - reach out to a person who you have nothing in common with, except for the fact that your child attends the same school. Reach out to an older caregiver, a single parent (male or female), a person who appears to be of a different nationality and ask them, "Do you know, we would appreciate you coming to our next PTA meeting?" Share the meeting details. Make them feel welcome. Follow up with them closer to the meeting date. Whatever it takes! You just may get the answer to the \$64,000 question.

I am willing to come to your PTA meeting and discuss these and other diversity strategies. I will share what other schools are experiencing - strategies that work and others not working as well. Please feel free to contact me.

Reginald Coles  
Caddo and Louisiana State PTA Diversity Chair  
Rcolz1@gmail.com



## PROTECT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSMAN OR REPRESENTATIVE

As the nation's largest volunteer child advocacy association, the National PTA has significantly impacted improvements to the education and well-being of America's children for more than 118 years, currently with millions of members and 22,000 local units in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Europe. National PTA continues to be a powerful voice for all children by advocating for federal policies to improve educational equity and opportunity for all children and their families.

PTA members have long advocated for a comprehensive reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act - No Child Left Behind (ESEA-NCLB). We strongly believe that the reauthorization of ESEA-NCLB presents the opportunity for thoughtful, bipartisan action to address needed changes to the law governing the federal role in general K-12 public education.

**Sonny Savoie, Louisiana State PTA Legislation Chair -**  
Please consider reaching out to your respective Congressman or Senator.  
Visit <http://cqrcengage.com/npta2/home> and click TAKE ACTION!

PTA's top priorities for ESEA-NCLB include:

- Safeguarding all family engagement provisions, modeled - in part - from the Family Engagement in Education Act.
- Adequate authorization levels to support critically important programs.
- Safeguarding and improving equity protections and dedicated funding streams for disadvantaged populations.
- The exclusion of any provision that would create or lead to a private school voucher, including Title 1 portability funding.

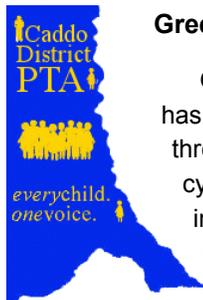
The House Committee on Education and the Workforce will vote this week on the Student Success Act (H.R.5), sponsored by Committee Chairman John Kline (R-MN) and Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Chairman Todd Rokita (R-IN). This bill seeks to reauthorize the ESEA-

NCLB. **THE TIME IS NOW**  
**FOR CONGRESS TO**  
**HEAR YOUR VOICE - TODAY!**

NATIONAL PTA



## DISTRICT PTA NEWS



### Greetings from Caddo District PTA!

Our goal for the 2014-2015 school year has been to get back to the PTA basics through training and increasing our advocacy role. We have also been working to increase our membership numbers and to reinstate former units. As of this printing, we have exceeded our goal of 10,000 members. We are also working with the support of the school district to establish strong, active PTAs in our 10 "Transformation Zone" schools, who were once at risk of state takeover. Thanks to our new superintendent, Dr. Lamar Goree, Transformation and Innovation Officer, Billy Snow and many other key staff members, many exciting changes are taking place within our schools in Caddo. We are thankful to have the support of a superintendent who believes in the mission and purpose of PTA as we continue to revitalize our district.

In October we welcomed principals and their PTA boards at our annual Caddo District PTA Principals' Luncheon. We ate, enjoyed entertainment courtesy of the talented students from Alexander Learning Center and the Caddo Magnet High Jazz Band. We also recognized the leadership of our school administrators. In February, we spent time together remembering our PTA Founders and honoring outstanding volunteers at our annual Founders' Day Luncheon. We are looking forward to recognizing the accomplishments of the many talented students who participated in the Reflections and Safety Poster Program in Caddo Parish at the April Awards Program.

We encourage all of our units in Caddo to join us at the Day at the Capitol and the Louisiana PTA Convention in Baton Rouge. It is a great opportunity for advocacy in action, additional training, networking and building new friendships from across the state. The Caddo District PTA Outreach Program will offer convention registration assistance to 4 reinstated PTAs or based on need. Our goal is to see many new "first timers" at the convention and be sure that they come back to Caddo inspired to continue working on behalf of all children. See you in Baton Rouge!

Amy Failla, *Caddo District PTA President*  
 president@caddodistrictpta.org  
 www.caddodistrictpta.org

### St. Tammany District PTA

Time sure is flying! It's hard to believe that it is almost time for another Louisiana State PTA Convention. In addition to convention, St. Tammany District PTA has several things going on in the months ahead that will benefit all local units:

- ⇒ May Training for new officers - Date TBA
- ⇒ July Mini Training - Date TBA
- ⇒ August Leadership Training Lakeshore High-Date TBA

I would like to encourage all of our local units to attend the Louisiana State PTA Convention in Baton Rouge. I also encourage you to share this information with others in your unit. This is a great way for incoming officers to network, get prepared for next school year and for experienced officers to learn even more. I hope to see all of you in Baton Rouge in April. It will be here before you know it.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the children of St. Tammany. Sometimes being a board member is a thankless job, please know that you are very much appreciated! If you need guidance or have any questions, please contact me. The St. Tammany District Board is here to help you.

Michelle Roy, *St Tammany District PTA President*  
 sttammanypta@gmail.com  
 www.sttammanypta.org

## REFLECTIONS THEME 2015-2016

Let Your Imagination Fly



## TREASURER TIPS - HOW LONG DO YOU KEEP THIS?

- ◆ Accounts payable records - 7 year
- ◆ Annual audits - permanently
- ◆ Articles of incorporation - 1 year
- ◆ Bank reconciliations - 1 year
- ◆ Bylaws (and amendments) - permanently
- ◆ Cash receipt records - 7 years
- ◆ Checks (cancelled) - 7 years
- ◆ Checks for taxes, special contracts, etc. (file w/paperwork) - permanent
- ◆ Contracts and leases (expired) - 7 years
- ◆ Contracts and leases (active) - permanent
- ◆ Corporation reports and SOS - permanent
- ◆ Correspondence with customers and vendors - 1 year
- ◆ Correspondence - general - 3 years
- ◆ Correspondence - legal - permanently
- ◆ Duplicate deposit slips - 1 year
- ◆ Employee records (post termination) - 3 years
- ◆ Employee applications - 3 years
- ◆ Equipment owned by PTA - permanently
- ◆ Financial statements (year end and budgets) - 10 years
- ◆ Grant award letters of agreement - 10 years



- ◆ Insurance records, accident reports, claims, policies, certificates - permanent
- ◆ Inventories (products) - 7 years
- ◆ Invoices - 7 years
- ◆ Journals - permanent
- ◆ Minute book of directors and committees - permanent
- ◆ PTA charter - permanent
- ◆ Petty cash vouchers - 3 years
- ◆ Purchase orders - 7 years
- ◆ Record retention policy - permanent
- ◆ Sales records - 7 years
- ◆ Standing rules (current) - permanent
- ◆ Tax-exempt status documents - permanent
- ◆ Trademark registrations - permanent
- ◆ Vouchers to payments to vendors, officers, etc. - 7 years



Amanda Frere  
Louisiana State PTA Treasurer  
treasurer@louisianapta.org

National PTA  
Back-to-School Kit

## 2015 CONVENTION



**LOUISIANA PTA CONVENTION**  
**Cook Conference Center**  
**Baton Rouge**  
**April 17 - 18, 2015**

**JOIN US IN BATON ROUGE!**  
**Celebrate your PTAs accomplishments!**  
**Recharge your PTA with New Ideas**  
**and meet New Vendors!**

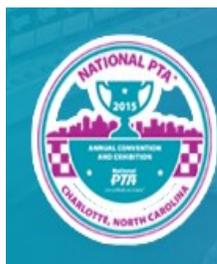
## MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Baton Rouge	115
Caddo	10,702
Iberville	72
Northeast	2,025
St Charles	199
St Tammany	16,533
Tangipahoa	948
West Central	30



**Total as of January 2015**

**STATE MEMBERSHIP 30,769**



**The 2015 National PTA®**  
**Convention and Expo**  
Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Exhibits: June 25 - 28, 2015

**National PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.®