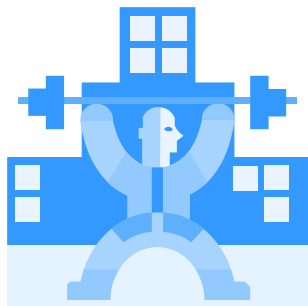




“Strengthening Family-School Partnerships”
 North Dakota State PTA Convention & Family Expo
September 24-25, 2010



Start Friday afternoon at a Citywide Meeting of the Fargo City Council PTA and meet a representative from National PTA. Friday evening, join us for the first ever *Reflections Celebration Dinner* at the Ramada Inn. Each year 100’s of students throughout North Dakota participate in the Reflections programs within their schools. Through the years North Dakota has produced several winners at the National PTA level. Join us to meet some of these talented students and be awed by their work. Tickets are available for \$15.00 for Friday’s event which begins with a Reflections Sampler (free event) at 5:30pm, followed by the dinner at 6:30pm.

Saturday’s events will be held at **Carl Ben Eielson Middle School** 1601 13th Avenue South, Fargo.



Start your day a healthy way with —
Get up and Move Family Walk

Participate and learn from sessions outlining **“Social Networking/Sexting—helping kids make good choices; School-Family Partnerships; Underage Drinking/Social Hosting; It’s a Guy Thing—dad’s find your place in PTA; PTA—what will it do for your school and our students and finally—Working Together for Health Kids—a panel discussion; Artspark Activities with Trollwood; Try out the Fire House with the Fargo Fire Department”**

A **tailgating picnic** will be held from 11:00am until 1:00pm! This will give everyone an opportunity to learn more about health activities they can take back to their schools & network with other PTA members.

Does your PTA unit have a budget to send members to the state convention?



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PTA Mission

*To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools 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; and

*To encourage parent and public involvement in the schools of this nation

“Strengthening Family-School Partnerships”

Registration Form

NDPTA State Conference & Family Health Expo
September 24 - 25, 2010

Student success is not just dependent on what your child learns in the classroom. Attend NDPTA Convention and Family Health Expo to learn what schools and parents can do together to strengthen student success!

Who should attend?

- Parents & kids who want to learn & have fun!
- Schools interested in becoming at PTA
- PTA Unit & Council leaders
- School faculty, administrators, nurses & counselors

New this Year!

- Family & Kids Sessions/Activities
- Reflections Arts Celebration
- Tailgating Picnic and Family Health Expo

CONFERENCE & EXPO SCHEDULE

Friday, September 24, 2010: @ Fargo Public Schools Office & Ramada Plaza

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Citywide Council Meeting @ FPS Building
 12:30 AM - 2:00 PM Lunch/Roundtable w/ National PTA Rep. @ FPS
 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM Conference Registration @ Ramada Plaza Suites
 Reflections Activities/Training
 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Reflections Social Hour @ Ramada Plaza Suites
 Silent Auction/Tour of Tables & Reflections Art
 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM **Reflections Arts Celebration & PTA Awards @ Ramada**

Saturday, September 25, 2010: @ Carl Ben Eielson Middle School

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM **Get Up and Move:** Family Walking Activity
 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Registration
 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM NDPTA Business Meeting
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Session I (Note Youth Session begins at 9 AM)
 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM **Tailgating/Family Health Expo**
 1:15 AM - 2:15 PM Session 2 & Student Session 2
 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Session 3 & Student Session 3
 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM PTA Leader Roundtables/Wrap-up/Door Prizes

Return Registration with payment to: NDPTA Office, 623 East Main, #106 A, West Fargo, ND, 58078 by September 20, 2010

School: _____ City: _____ Level: Elementary Middle High

First: _____ Last: _____ Email: _____

Affiliations: PTA PTO Teacher Administrator School Nurse Parent School Counselor Other: _____

Address: _____

#	Event/Activity	Description	Cost	Total		
Reflections						
	Reflections Sampler	Take a photo, paint a picture, or write a poem.	Free Event			
	Reflections Arts Celebration	Dinner, silent auction, and reflections presentation.	\$15/person			
Tailgating Picnic/Family Health Expo						
	Picnic/Health Expo - Adult	Enjoy a picnic lunch & fun family friendly activities.	\$5/person			
	Picnic/Health Expo – Student	Activities include: climbing wall & obstacle course.	\$2.50/person			
Convention						
	PTA Roundtable w/ National Rep	Lunch and open discussion with our Nat	\$10/person			
	Get Up and Move	A fun & family friendly walking activity	Free Event			
	Convention – PTA Member	Attend 3 learning and 2 general sessions.	\$25/family			
	Convention – Non-Member	Attend 3 learning and 2 general sessions.	\$50/family			
			Total			
Session Registration						
Session	#	Adult	#	Middle/High School Student	#	PreK-5 th Grade stu-
1		Underage Drinking/Social Hosting		Service Learning Activity with Students Today		Artspark Activities with Trollwood
		School-Family Partnerships		Leaders Forever		
2		Social Networking & Sexting: Helping kids make good choices		Steer Clear - Teen Driving Safety		First Aid & Safety with Fargo Fire Department – Try the Fire House!
		PTA—What will it do for our school and our students				
3		It's a Guy Thing!		Social Networking & Sexting: Helping kids make good choices		Food, Fitness & Fun! – NDSU Extension
		Working Together for Healthy				



Welcome back to school!

Presidents—have you registered for your Official Kit?

PTA Presidents, if you have not yet registered for your 2010–2011 Official PTA Kit—DO IT NOW—its free?

Please go to PTA.org/OfficialKit to tell us where and when you'd like your kit shipped.

The kit—available now!—includes:

- o The PTA President's, Money Matters, Membership, and Programs Quick-Reference Guides
- o Membership posters for PTAs and PTSAs
- o A PTA Store catalog
- o A poster of PTA's 100 Ways to Help Your Child and School Succeed
- o Posters for PTA Healthy Lifestyles, PTA Reflections, and Family-School Partnerships
- o Promising Practices for Family Engagement
- o Special offers and discounts for PTA members
- o And more!

All local, council, district, and region PTAs must register to receive these valuable resources.

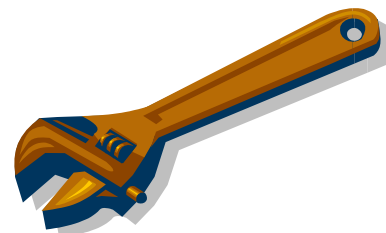
Register for your unit's kit today.

Go to PTA.org/OfficialKit.

The person registering for and receiving the kit must be an authorized PTA leader and agree to ensure that the kit gets to the 2010–2011 PTA board of directors. The kit is available exclusively to PTAs in good standing. You must have your unit ID number to register. One kit per unit. Kit registration closes September 17.

Other items:

- **Don't forget to submit your officer list to the State Office for the 2010-2011 School Year—ASAP!**
- **Insurance Premiums are due in the state office by October 15, 2010.**
- **Dues submissions should be made on a monthly basis beginning in October.**



Please contact the state PTA Office with any questions—ndptaoffic@702com.net or 701-297-9168



“Adults are always asking little kids what they want to be when they grow up because they are looking for ideas.”

Paula Poundstone

Prefer to receive your newsletter in hard copy?

Contact the ND PTA office to request hard copy newsletters for a subscription cost of \$5.00 a year.

ndptaoffic@702com.net

Or 701-297-9168

Insurance and PTA's

As much as we hope to avoid or prevent it, sometimes bad things happen in PTA. Someone falls at the school carnival. PTA merchandise or property is stolen. A trusted PTA officer embezzles from the unit's bank account. A parent decides to sue your PTA unit but also the officers personally. Are you prepared? Just like any business, a PTA is exposed to risks. No one can guarantee that things are going to run smoothly all the time, but there are ways to protect yourselves.

Does your unit or council have insurance? Many companies offer policies that cover against general liability (for example, if someone is injured at a PTA event), medical accident (i.e., injuries that may occur) > Companies also offer bonding insurance that covers anyone that your PTA trusts with money, whether it's an officer, board member, volunteer or even a courier. Property insurance is available which protects items such as raffle items or fund-

raising supplies, as well as PTA property, such as popcorn machines, school store supplies and more.

Also offered is Directors and Officers Liability insurance that protects officers for any decision-making they do. If someone sues the officers for mismanaging or misrepresenting your group, this policy would pay the legal bills and provide protection for such allegations.

Coverage amounts can vary, depending upon your unit/council's needs.

North Dakota PTA and its local units and councils are covered through A.I.M. Companies. Your school should have received a copy of the insurance application for this year. Please take a moment to review and complete the form per your unit's needs. Premium is due to the state office by October 16, 2010.

Audit vs. Annual Financial Check-up What is the difference?

As required by the bylaws, each PTA must complete an annual audit. Although many of us often refer to this requirement as an audit this is often incorrect. Rather the intention is to require an annual financial check-up. By using the word "audit" we imply that an external independent party is rendering an opinion as to the accuracy of our financial statements.

What is an audit?

A financial statement audit must be completed by an auditor who is familiar well versed in the standards and guidelines (i.e., Generally Accepted accounting Principles) that govern how transactions are to be accounted for and the accounting control procedures that should be in place. The auditor completes procedures to obtain independent verification that the information reported on the financial statement is accurate. The auditor determines the breadth and depth of

the procedures necessary to reach an opinion.

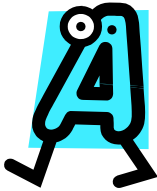
The PTA bylaws are not written with the intention that you engage and pay a Certified Public Accountant to attest to the accuracy of your financial statements. Rather the intentions of the bylaws are to require that on an annual basis you perform a check-up to ensure the following which includes but is not limited to:

- Information that is reported on your financial statements can be traced to and supported by original unaltered documents
- All appropriate supporting documentation is being retained
- All transactions are being recorded
- Unusual or infrequent items have a proper explanation
- Necessary filings such as

the IRS Form 990 are being completed in a timely manner

- Appropriate controls, such as separation of duties are in place.

The annual check-up is intended to have a "fresh" set of eyes review the PTA's financial statements, supporting documentation, and required filings. Volunteers can complete the annual check-up, an entire committee established, or at the discretion of the PTA a CPA can be engaged. The current Treasurer and any members on the bank signature card cannot participate in the check-up and must be forthcoming and willing to provide any information for which a request is made. Checklists and procedures to be completed are provided to those individual performing the annual check-up.



10 Ways to Increase Your PTA Membership

Start your membership campaign in the PTA Picture

1. *PLACE* an ad in your local newspaper promoting PTA and membership. Ask a local business to sponsor the ad.
2. *TELL* your unit's PTA story in terms of definite goals and achievements rather than in bland, general statements.
3. *ASK* to speak for five or ten minutes at a teacher's meeting. Highlight your year's activities and encourage their participation and membership.
4. *PROMOTION* is vital to your membership campaign. Make sure your budget includes money to cover your expenses.
5. *INVITE* business members who have joined to come for special recognition and an opportunity to see inside the school.
6. *COMPETITION* is a great way to fire up your membership drive. Use grade level or building contests to get everyone involved.... Even the principal.
7. *TRACK* your membership success for all to see. Use a giant thermometer in the hall, a large jar filled with jellybeans on the office counter or numbered happy faces in the windows, etc. Make it visible, don't give up and celebrate when you reach your goal.
8. *UTILIZE* your State and National resources like www.ndpta.org and www.pta.org.
9. *REMEMBER* to promote the national PTA benefit providers' exclusive discounts for members.
10. *ENCOURAGE* your officers to attend any available training, i.e. State Convention in September.

North

Dakota PIRC!



North Dakota's Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) Check out the wonderful resources and workshops NDPIRC has to offer individuals, schools & PTA's at <http://www.pathfinder.minot.com/index2.html>.



Dates to remember

September 17, 2010—Tool Kit Registration Closes

www.PTA.org/OfficialKit

September 20, 2010—Registration Deadline

for ND State Convention & Family Expo

September 24, 2010—Reflections Celebration!

September 25, 2010—ND State Convention &

Family Expo—See you there!

October 15, 2010—Insurance Due in State Office

November 15, 2010—990 Due to IRS/copy to State Office

February 9-11, 2011—Reflections State Deadline

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ **2010-2011 Reflections Program Theme: "Together We Can"** ★

★ What a difference the arts make. For math skill. Social Skills. Creative thinking. Self-esteem. ★

★ Encourage students' artistic exploration. ★


★ Host the PTA Reflections Program. ★

★ **4 grade divisions:** ★

- ★ • Primary(pre-school-grade 2)
- ★ • Intermediate (grades 3-5)
- ★ • Middle/Junior (grades 6-8)
- ★ • Senior (grades 9-12)

★ **6 art areas:** ★

- ★ • Dance
- ★ • Film Production
- ★ • Literature
- ★ • Musical Composition
- ★ • Photography
- ★ • Visual Arts



★ *2010 ND Reflections Visual Arts Winner "Friendship"* ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Dear North Dakota PTA Members:

As you know, the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed in February 2009, which resulted in Community Action Agencies in North Dakota receiving additional dollars through the Community Service Block grant (CSBG). These stimulus dollars have allowed agencies to provide additional services to clients. As part of the CSBG ARRA dollars, states received funding and were required to use 1% of the allocation to be focused on benefits enrollment coordinated activities. The intent of the benefit enrollment coordinated activities is to try and ensure that individuals and families of lower incomes are connected to services that they may be eligible for and need. The intent is to reach out to people that may have recently lost income due to the changes in the economy or recent employment layoff.

So far, Community Action has connected with many partners around the state. Partners include but are not limited to: 211, ND Bridge to Benefits, local social services, and many others. A flyer (see below) has been produced that shows people some of the resources throughout ND, information on what they offer and how to contact them. One school district has agreed to include these flyers in the award letters for the free and reduced lunch program; a wonderful way to connect with families who may be in need!

If you are interested in helping us distribute some of these materials to parents and families in the communities that you serve, please contact your local Community Action agency for a supply:

Contact Your Local Community Action Agency!	COUNTIES SERVED	Contact Your Local Community Action Agency!	COUNTIES SERVED
Community Action Partnership 120 Washing Avenue Williston ND 58801 Phone: 701-572-8191	Divide, Williams, McKenzie	Dakota Prairie Community Action 223 4th Street Devils Lake ND 58301 Phone: 701-662-6500	Rolette, Towner, Cavalier, Ramsey, Benson, Eddy
Community Action Partnership 202 East Villard Dickinson ND 58601 Phone: 701-227-0131	Dunn, Billings, Slope, Golden Valley, Stark, Hettinger, Adams, Bowman	Red River Valley Community Action 1013 North Fifth Street Grand Forks ND 58203 Phone: 701-746-5431	Pembina, Walsh, Nelson, Grand Forks
Community Action Partnership - Minot Region 2020 8th Avenue SE Minot ND 58701 Phone: 701-839-7221	Burke, Renville, Bottineau, Mountrail, Ward, McHenry, Pierce	Community Action Program 1311 12th Avenue NE PO Box 507 Jamestown ND 58402 Phone: 701-252-1821	Wells, Foster, Griggs, Barnes, Stutsman, Logan, Lamoure, Dickey, McIntosh
Community Action Program 2105 Lee Avenue Bismarck ND 58504 Phone: 701-258-2240	McLean, Burleigh, Kidder, Sheridan, Mercer, Oliver, Emmons, Sioux, Grant, Morton	Southeastern North Dakota Community Action Agency 3233 South University Drive Fargo ND 58104 Phone: 701-232-2452	Steele, Trail, Cass, Ransom, Sargent, Richland



Message from Carla Solem, ND PTA President

Strong Schools need strong parent involvement!

Schools that have parents who are involved in their students learning are stronger schools. Why? Because when parents show they value and prioritize education - student's success in school improves.

When parents talk to their children about school, expect them to do well, help them plan for the future, and make sure that out-of-school activities are constructive, their children do better. When parents are informed on issues affecting their child's education, they can better make decisions and voice opinions on matters that influence their child's success in school. When parents organize to hold schools accountable and make positive changes in policy, practice and resources their students benefit.

PTA is a great catalyst for strengthening your school through parent involvement! As you begin the new school year, keep in mind how your unit can help parents be more involved and engaged in helping their student's achieve their greatest potential. Do your budget, activities and programs focus on parent involvement? Are you welcoming and effectively communicating with all parents?

Schools that have parents who are involved in their students learning, both at school and at home, are stronger schools! Find ways to make your school stronger!

Ways for parents to be involved:

Support your student's ability to successfully complete homework:

- Ask about daily assignments and/or check student planners.
- Create quiet places for your student to study.
- Prioritize time for homework (daily or as needed).

Communicate with your student's teachers:

- Interact with your student's teachers at parent teacher conferences. Ask questions, advocate for your child, ask how your child interacts in class, and find out how you can work together to improve grades or challenge your student.
- Call, write or email a teacher or counselor if you have a concern or question.

Assure that your child gets adequate sleep:

- Set regular bedtimes and stick to them as much as possible.
- Discourage TV at least ½ hour before bedtime, .
- Help your child establish a bedtime routine.

Go to school:

- Participate in Parent Teacher Conferences.
- Attend Back -to-School night.
- Watch the newsletter for PTA sponsored events and activities.
- Volunteer or have lunch at school to be familiar with the teacher's

Talk with your child:

- Ask about your child's school day, teachers and assignments.
- Discuss with your child challenges he or she may be having at school or with peers.
- Sit down and eat meals together as much as possible – without TV, cell phones or computer interference.

Assure good nutrition for optimal alertness in school:

- Keep healthy snacks on hand.
- Start each day off with a nutritious breakfast.
- Encourage your child to drink enough water.

Discuss and enforce healthy media habits:

- Set times and rules for; TV viewing, video games, cell phone, and online activities.
- Be aware of how violence on the news, in movies and in games can affect your child negatively.



PTA Takes Action...

Congress Passes Legislation to Halt Teacher Layoffs

On August 11, President Barack Obama signed into law a [\\$26 billion plan](#) to save the jobs of thousands of teachers and other government workers. The legislation specifically provides \$10 billion to school districts to rehire laid-off teachers or to ensure that more teachers won't be let go before the new school year begins. The U.S. Department of Education estimates the funding could save more than 100,000 teacher jobs.

Senate Unanimously Approves Child Nutrition Bill

Stage set for House action, but the clock is ticking

On Thursday, August 5, the United States Senate unanimously passed [S. 3307](#), the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, a bill to reauthorize school meals and other child nutrition programs. Senate passage of this bill is the biggest step forward in updating our child nutrition programs to date. However, the House of Representatives will need to act quickly with programs set to expire on September 30.

For more information on legislation National PTA is monitoring, checkout www.pta.org.



North Dakota PTA

Office Hours

The office hours are flexible Monday—Friday following the Fargo Public School schedule. Please call ahead to make an appointment.

Thank you!

You can find us at...

623 E. Main Ave. #106A

West Fargo, ND 58078

701-297-9168 www.ndpta.org

ndptaoffice@702com.net

