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## “Presidents Message August 2008”

*Marcia Hellevang, NDPTA President*

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National website [www.npta.org](http://www.npta.org) redesign coming this month.

**+** **PLUS great pullouts...** National PTA “Our Children” Newsletter for parents, NDPTA Officers list, National Member Benefits Providers list and much more!



As we enjoy the rest of the summer, it is also time to look ahead to the upcoming school year. Fall brings new beginnings to the children, staff and parents at our various schools. Now is the time for each PTA board to gather together to begin planning to insure that those new beginnings turn into great opportunities. The possibilities are endless and the PTA mission and purposes can help guide your choices. Please remember that ND State PTA is here to help in any way possible. Don't hesitate to call the State office or one of the board members. An updated board roster is included in this issue of the *Update*. On the roster you will see that Mary Gangl was elected to the position of VP-Membership, by the ND PTA Board at their June meeting. Thank you to JJ Evenson who had served in that position. We welcome Mary to the Board.

The Back-to-School Kits from National PTA should have recently been delivered to the Unit Presidents. The kits are filled with valuable resources. The materials address three categories: membership recruitment, unit management, and specialty items. The overview booklet gives instructions on how to use the kit including a back-to-school membership drive checklist. The four quick reference guides for presidents, membership, treasurers (Money Matters) and programs can also be accessed by PTA members online under the “leadership resources” tab at the National PTA website.

National Convention in San Diego was filled with great instruction, inspiring speakers and it resulted in some new bylaw changes and a resolution on children left unattended in or around vehicles. Convention attendees had the opportunity to meet the new CEO of National PTA, Byron Garrett. Portions of his inspiring speech which encouraged PTA members to continue to be bridge builders can be heard on PTA “YouTube”. More information from the Convention can be found on the National PTA website at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org). A new and improved National website will be revealed in August. North Dakota PTA has also updated their website at [www.ndpta.org](http://www.ndpta.org). Both websites invite your suggestions, ideas and input.

And speaking of Convention, make plans now to attend the ND PTA Convention on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Fargo. You will find a detailed convention schedule included in this *Update*.

Sometimes the beginning of the school year can seem a bit overwhelming but a speaker at National Convention helped put things in perspective by sharing the following quote:

*“It’s true that I am only one, but I am one. And the fact that I can’t do everything will not prevent me from doing what I can!”*

May this year find each of us as PTA members doing what we can to help each child reach their greatest potential.

Marcia Hellevang

**Microsoft and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** have teamed up to

encourage families to make a **PACT** — to decide on what types of media are appropriate for each child and where, when, and how your child may use them. You can access this valuable tool at:

[www.PTA.org/documents/MS\\_PTA\\_pact.pdf](http://www.PTA.org/documents/MS_PTA_pact.pdf)

With a **PACT**

**The 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.**