

# “Discover PTA”

## The 111<sup>th</sup> Annual PTA National Convention

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The 111th Annual PTA National Convention was held from June 28 - July 1, 2007, in St. Louis, Missouri. This year's convention theme, “Discover PTA”, is a continuation of the commitment National PTA has made to ensure that all local PTAs have the necessary training and resources to be successful both now and in the future.

Convention participants were able to expand their knowledge of PTA, strengthen their leadership skills, and gain a wealth of new information to share with their local PTA membership. In addition to participating in the business of the organization, attendees were provided a variety of opportunities for training and networking.

For the Baltimore County and Maryland State PTA delegation the convention's ultimate highlight was the **adoption of the “Classroom Auditory Learning Issues” resolution** as slightly amended by the convention delegates. A resolution on “Internet and Wireless Communications Safety” was also adopted as amended. National PTA Resolutions are official documents that express the resolve of the association as it addresses a specific issue or concern that affects children and youth across the nation. All current National PTA resolutions are accessible on [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

The following convention highlights recognized the past, present, and future of PTA

**National Standards for Family-School Partnerships:** Introduced the revision of the original National Six Standards of Family Involvement. A shift in focus to what parents, in partnership with schools and community, can do together to support student success.

**PTA Accomplishments:** Anne Weselak, National PTA President 2005-2007, reflected on PTA accomplishments during her two year term as President.

**PTA History in the Making:** installation of President Elect, Chuck Saylor, who will become the first male PTA National President at the 2009 Convention.

**PTA National Strategic Plan 2007-2010:** Jan Harp Domene, installed as President 2007-2009, presented the strategic plan that was developed to meet the **PTA vision of making every child's potential a reality**. Clearly defined goals, guidelines, and strategic initiatives are incorporated into this plan that focuses on the future growth of PTA.

**National Reflections:** Winners were introduced and their entries were presented.

**Phoebe Hearst Award:** Awarded to Van Bokkelen Elementary PTA, a Maryland PTA.

**The History of PTA:** A photo gallery reflecting upon each decade of PTA milestones.

All local PTAs are highly encouraged to participate in future Council and State PTA leadership training events as well as to plan ahead for the 2008 National PTA Convention in San Diego. PTAs are reminded that the IRS requires all non-profits to attend training and that leadership training is a valid PTA expense. The experience to celebrate PTA's purpose and mission, to participate in the business of PTA, and to have an opportunity to grow as a PTA advocate through networking and training are priceless.