

Livonia PTSA Council
MPTSA Convention Report
May 5, 2010

The Michigan PTSA Convention was held April 23-25 at the Troy Marriott in Troy, MI. The convention offered a number of relevant workshops and interesting speakers as well as conducted business of the organization. The presenters of each workshop were knowledgeable and shared their vast experience with the attendees. The six workshops I attended:

Presidents: Got PTA? – led by Mary DeYoung Smith (MPTSA President) and Shaton Berry (MPTSA President-Elect)
“Out of conflict comes greatness”

“Diversity – count everyone; Inclusion – making everyone count”

“As PTA leader, you represent PTA no matter where you are!”

Stop the Meanness: Spread the Kindness – led by Kimber Bishop-Yanke (President of Girls and Boys Empowered)

From Issues to Action-Making a Difference Through Advocacy – led by Andrea Schroeder (Clarkston PTA Council)

Advocacy Hot Topic Panel – led by Kevin McLogan (MPTSA VP for Children’s Advocacy) and Debbie Squires (MPTSA Immediate Past President)

Save Our Students, Schools and State – led by Tom White

Transforming A School’s Climate and Culture – led by Larry Scott (Rachel’s Challenge)

Chit Chat for Councils, presented by Mary DeYoung Smith and Shaton Berry, gathered PTA Council officers from across the state and provided an opportunity to share successes and suggestions to maintain strength of units. Presently, there are 18 active PTA Councils in Michigan; 3 became inactive this past year.

The business of the organization was conducted in four 3-hour General Meeting Sessions. Two bylaw amendments were brought forward and passed. Bylaw Amendment #1 changed the date for unit good standing requirements from February 28 to December 1 which will align due dates for all required documentation. Bylaw Amendment #2 expanded the eligible pool of candidates for MPTSA officers. Two of the three resolutions were approved as submitted: #1)180 Days of School and #2)Efficiently Reporting Education Metrics. The third resolution on Mandatory Expulsion Policies was adopted with an amendment.

Awards were presented to a number of schools across Michigan for membership and other outstanding accomplishments. In addition to individual unit awards, Livonia PTSA Council received an award for Council Newsletter of the Year (publisher Liz Jarvis) and Website of the Year (webmaster Heather Broos). Outstanding Student Membership Award was presented to Frost PTSA. Business Membership award went to Hoover PTA with 11 memberships. LPS schools that were privileged to receive awards for meeting staff and membership goals include Webster (MI Honor Roll = 80%), Cooper and Webster (25+ Goal), Cooper, Frost, Hayes, Hoover, Holmes, Grant (100% Staff).

Attendees were treated to a Town Hall Meeting that featured NPTA CEO Byron Garrett. Byron shared the strategy of National PTA and the vision that drives NPTA. Dr. Liepa was in attendance for that presentation. Dr. Liepa met with LPS PTA members for discussion and to answer questions following the Town Hall Meeting.

Key Note speakers included **Bryan Davis**, Director of All Pro Dads. Bryan stresses the importance of fathers being involved in their children’s lives. **Larry Scott** is the uncle of Rachel Scott, the first student killed at Columbine. His message contained five powerful challenges taken from Rachel’s life that are making schools a safer and more enjoyable place to be. **Barb Flis**, founder of Parent Action for Healthy Kids, closed out the Convention. Barb, in partnership with MEA, developed parent programs on HIV and sexuality education.

Entertainment was provided by Magic Carpet Theater prior to 2nd General Meeting and the W.K.Kellogg Mpatapo Drummers & Dancers prior to 3rd General Meeting. A silent auction was held for the fourth year, with proceeds designated toward MPTSA programs and training. Livonia PTSA Council donated a basket going with the theme “Grow Your PTA”. Thank you, Liz!

279 people were in attendance at the 2010 MPTSA convention, which is slightly lower than the 2009 convention. This included 20 members from LPS. The first Student Rally in two years, led by David Squires, saw 10 students attend. The 93rd MPTSA Convention will be held April 8-10, 2011 at the Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing.

Respectfully submitted by,
Heidy Nance