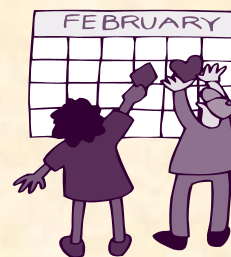


# February, 2010 Newsletter



Our Reflections Gallery is open Monday-thru Friday from 10AM to 4PM for all to come see the wonderful art work by our CT Students who participated in the Reflections program. Call 203-281-6617



**CT PTA is on Facebook. Sign up for Facebook to connect with CT PTA. Go to [www.ctpta.org](http://www.ctpta.org) and sign up today!**

CT PTA

February, 2010

## Reflections 2010

The State of Ct received 397 entries this year for our Reflections program. We would like to thank and commend all of our Reflection Chairs who took on this task for their PTA/PTSA. The children all did such a fantastic job! We at the state office have a great time hanging and preparing the Visual Arts and Photography for Judging. The Literature entries were sent to a newspaper journalist for judging, the Dance Entries to the owner of a Dance Studio which has been in operation for over 30 years and the Film/ and Music to a Local High School to their Film Expert and head of their Musical Dept. We feel our students deserve the best we can offer them. For all the PTA Units that participated, we thank you for making CT a part of this wonderful National PTA program. On Thursday, May 6th we will be hosting an awards ceremony for all of our

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place winners and their families. Information will be mailed to all winners and Reflection chairs. The office looks like an art Gallery. Please stop by the state office while the art work is displayed and take a look at what the students of CT produced as their interpretation of what "Beauty Is" to them.

For any PTA Units that did not participate this year but would like to next year, please send us an email. We can gather some information for you early on so you can familiarize yourself with this wonderful Arts program. You will not be sorry. This is a FREE program for all children and for those who like the arts.....They will appreciate and love the Reflections Program.



2010-2011

**REFLECTIONS  
THEME :**

***"TOGETHER  
WE CAN"***

***Plan early so your  
school is ready  
for next years  
reflections!***

## HOT TOPICS

**March 10th 7:00PM**

**Grant Writing**

Does your PTA know how to apply for a Grant? How to Write a Grant? Come to our FREE training on Thursday evening , March 10th . This is for all executive Board members of all of our PTA's. Training being held in your state office, 60 Connolly Parkway, Hamden, 06514. register online by going to our website at [ct.pta.org](http://ct.pta.org) or call the office at 203-281-6617.



## Members Only Website Area

In order to better serve our membership, a special section on the website has been created just for you. This "PTA Members Only" section contains resources not available on the public website. So how do you access this information?

Upon accessing our website, [www.ctpta.org](http://www.ctpta.org), you will find under Membership a Members Only section. Simply enter the username and password located on the back of your PTA membership card.

Remember.....  
Membership is Ongoing! Make February a winter membership drive and attract some new members!! Let your school know about your PTA.

## CT PTA ANNUAL CONVENTION



**Time –  
Do You  
Have  
Enough?  
Yes, You  
do!!**

Connecticut PTA Leaders,

The answer to the title should be – "Are you serious? Of course not!!!" So, like every PTA leader, you must make time for what matters. Between sports practices, play dates, enrichment activities and academic pursuits, our kids keep us busy. Add in being a worker (paid or not), keeping a home, managing finances, leading a PTA, - I think we all know, I could go on and on... Life is about making the time to participate in our own enriching activities.

Well, it is time you and your fellow PTA leaders carve the time for you to be an even better leader. Make the commitment to increase your knowledge, skills and network with your peers at the Connecticut PTA Convention. This is your time to become a better leader and expand your personal horizons. This is time for yourself and your PTA!!

**Connecticut PTA Convention  
April 8 & 9, 2010  
Trumbull Marriott**

Your time to make your PTA better!!!

Take care,

Don Romoser  
Vice-President - Convention  
Connecticut State PTA

# 2010 CT PTA Legislative Platform

**CT PTA encourages the legislature to adopt statewide legislation allowing for municipalities to create nonpartisan Boards of Education.**

**Rationale:** Connecticut is one of the few states in the nation that still has partisan boards of education. The focus of the members of the Board of Education must be on improving educational quality and facilities for all children. Partisan members may not act in the best interest of education for all children in their decision-making processes. Party affiliated Boards of Education members have and could continue to make their decisions based in a political party caucus. We believe that they must be able to think first of the child and not the political party philosophy. Additionally, the listing of candidates for Board of Education members by party on the ballot can and sometimes does result in a candidate being elected because of their party affiliation rather than their qualifications.

**Supporting PTA Object:** To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education

**The ECS formula that governs current state education spending needs to be reevaluated and recreated to meet the needs of a 21st century Connecticut.**

**Rationale:** All children in Connecticut deserve an opportunity for a quality education regardless of where they live. The current education cost sharing formula in Connecticut fails to provide the resources that would procure that quality education.

**Supporting PTA Object:** To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

## **Parent Involvement Professional Development**

**Connecticut PTA urges the State Department of Education to support strong parent involvement professional development for all teachers and other certified personnel and further urges;**

**The State Legislature to require the Higher Education Commission to include parent involvement course(s) in their education certification programs for teachers, administrators and superintendents.**

**Rationale:** Thirty years of research clearly shows that parent involvement at all levels of decision making in schools improves student achievement. To reach their full potential, students need parents to take an active role in their education. Schools are working hard to provide a high-quality education for every child. But they cannot do it alone. Parent involvement is critical to creating great schools.

Connecticut PTA feels that for this to be accomplished there must be some training. Teachers, administrators and superintendents historically have not been given the necessary training on how to involve parents in a meaningful way.

**Supporting PTA Object:** To bring into closer relation the home and the school, so that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth,  
**CT PTA supports legislation that would require the State Department of Education to make available financial information regarding school funding and allocation of state resources in a more transparent and timely manner.**

**Rationale:** By restructuring how the State Department of Education collects financial information greater public transparency could be ensured and a more equitable funding system that truly supports student achievement for all could be developed.

**Supporting PTA Object:** To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.



Hartford, CT

*Join us for  
"Day on the Hill"  
Connect with  
Legislators as we talk  
about the education,  
health and welfare of  
our children!  
Wednesday, March  
3rd is Day on the Hill.  
Call your state office  
to register  
203-281-6617.*

## Middle and High School Student PTSA Membership ideas....

Have students serve as assistants to PTA/PTSA officers. This will provide students with valuable leadership skills and with opportunities to offer their perspectives on issues. This works particularly well at the middle school level.

Ask student members to study a legislative bill and present their research to your PTA's executive board. Students' can also prepare and present testimony for a school board, state legislature, or Congress.

Ask students to assist in writing and designing your PTA's/PTSA's newsletter or web page. Have them create a facebook page or write a column for your schools newspaper.

Ask for student opinions regarding their school programs and social events.

Plan a career night or college night for students and their parents.

Work together with other student groups to plan an orientation for incoming freshman and their families. Hand out PTA/PTSA membership forms for the high school.

Encourage students to organize art fairs, talent shows, school financial aid workshops, resume writing workshops and health fairs.

Appoint students to your PTA/PTSA board (high school) Students under the age of 18 cannot sit on the Executive Board as a President or Treasurer.

Three high school students have been appointed to the CTPTA Board of Directors. Our students will host a workshop for students at our CTPTA Convention. They will hold a round table discussion....

### **“What can PTA do for You and What can You do for PTA”**

They have already created a facebook page and are looking to spread the word to get student's to attend.

## Proposed Changes to the 2010 Connecticut PTA Convention Rules

### Changes to Convention Rules

- All motions will come from Microphone #1 which will be in the front center
- Additional microphone monitors will be at this microphone to help the traffic flow and assist delegates with motions.
- One microphone for those speaking in favor and one microphone for those speaking against.
- All main motions or an amendment must be presented in writing on a motion form.
- No motion forms will be needed for extending/stopping debate, referring to committee.
- Motions to amend a proposed bylaw or a resolution must be submitted prior to the beginning of General Meeting on Friday morning.
- Amendments can only be made to the resolves of the resolutions. The Resolution committee will amend the “Whereas” as applicable.
- Subsequent motions to an amendment may be made on the floor of convention.
- Motion Submitted in Advance
- Submitted Thursday evening between 6:00 and 9:00 pm and Friday morning before 10:30 am to the Resolution/Bylaw Chair or their designee.
- Submission will be done at the Parliamentary Help Desk.
- Resolution and Bylaws Committee will conduct briefings and workshops to help delegates understand the resolution and the bylaws and draft the amendment.

## Nutmeg Statewide PTA Scholarship Awards

Nutmeg Statewide PTA (NSPTA) presents **scholarship awards** annually to graduating seniors from PTA/PTSA high schools, or NSPTA members, at the Connecticut PTA Convention.

- ∞ Scholarship Award in the amount of **\$2,000**
- ∞ Book Stipend in the amount of **\$1000** in memory of **Joseph G. Pearson**
- ∞ Grant in the amount of **\$250** in memory of **Janet E. Petkus**

The funding source for the awards is NSPTA membership fees (\$15.25 of the \$20 annual fee is a contribution to the scholarship endowment fund) and any gifts to the organization. Since 2000, NSPTA has awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships and grants.

### NSPTA Scholarship Award & Joseph Pearson Stipend

#### ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP AND STIPEND

Mr. Pearson, a long-time PTA member and advocate for children, was a Boston native, graduate of Boston University and Columbia University, a World War II veteran having served in the U.S. Navy and the former chairman of the Stamford (CT) Public Schools Speech and Hearing Department. Joe was an NSPTA President and Treasurer. He died in 1998.

#### REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be planning to attend a **four-year** college to pursue a career in service to children. Applicants are asked to write a one-page essay answering the question "How do you expect to be serving children ten years after college graduation?"

**NOTE:** This scholarship and book stipend is only available to students attending a school with a PTA unit that is in good standing with CT PTA. If your school is not a member of the Connecticut PTA, and you are interested in learning more about the PTA, please contact our office. Our Connecticut PTA representatives would be happy to educate the parents, teachers, and students of your school on this, and many of the other benefits of PTA membership.