



Houston ISD Council of PTAs

September 2009 Newsletter

Proof positive that PTA work can be a 'guy thing'

For the first time in PTA's 113-year-old history males in two top leadership positions

The beginnings of what would become the National Parent-Teacher Association occurred in 1897. The founders of this movement were women as were the top leaders of our association in all the years since -- until *this* year. This past summer Charles "Chuck" Saylor became the National PTA's first male president, and Byron V. Garrett became our association's first male chief executive officer

Of course, we all wish these two gentlemen the greatest success in their new positions; their success will be our success as well.

But even more, the ascent of these two men to top leadership positions in the PTA emphasizes all the more the rise of the New Male in child rearing and school activities -- and that's not just a good thing, it's a *very good* thing.

President Saylor remarked that times are different from 30 years ago: "Today, both parents work, and participation of all adults is needed now more than ever.

In fact, Saylor continued, research shows that when men join in the support activities realm that was once left primarily to women, students achieve all the more across a broad range of social and academic activities.

The level of involvement of men in the raising and educating their children has been on the upswing for decades. Now male leadership has reached the peak in the Parent-Teacher Association, and it would be the perfect time for male involvement throughout the ranks of the PTA to reach new peaks as well.

Say "**Happy Birthday**" to your Texas PTA, October 19, 2009

Your Texas PTA turns 100 on October 19, and it will be a day for us all to celebrate 100 years of past successes and our *next* 100 years of new and greater successes.

There will be a festive official birthday party in Dallas in October with all the appropriate hoopla and state and national PTA officials attending. If you'd like to attend, full information on the event can be found on the Texas PTA website, <http://www.txpta.org/>

But for those who may not be able to attend, there is ample reason to acknowledge and celebrate the Texas PTA's birthday and accomplishments locally and on our individual campuses.

Use every opportunity on your campus and in your community to share the pride in what you and your PTA are doing to support our kids and our schools. We're doing some very good things, and our story needs to be told.

Value of PTA activity, student support virtually beyond measure:

Parent and community support for our kids and their schools is both our message and the method for moving our kids and their schools to the level of success we want for them.

The school district has to function well, the campus professionals have to live up to their commitments and missions, the kids have to function as responsible and diligent students, but **parent and community support is a huge factor in moving everything to its peak.**

Your Houston ISD Council leadership is raising its game to a new and higher level this year -- pledge to yourself to redouble your own efforts. With smart and energetic efforts across the city, **great things will happen!**

Houston ISD Council of PTAs wants all schools to succeed -- if things are going well on your campus, share the news and details with us. If you've got troubles, let us know what we might do to help.