



Plano ISD Council of PTAs  
Officer & Chairman Training 2008  
Membership

# Introductions/Contact Info

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# How Many Members Does PTA Have?

- In Plano – 36,000+

**2008-09 GOAL: 37,000 MEMBERS!!**

- In Texas – 620,000

*We truly make a difference*

- In USA – 6,000,000+

*We are involved in helping children across the nation at every level.*

*Our lobbyists work hard to improve legislation to benefit ALL children.*

# Why Join PTA?

- Family Involvement
- Texas & National Programs  
(reflections, environmental contest, take your family to school week, start the art, founders day and more!)
- Resources (training, programming ideas, tax questions, recognition, scholarships for teachers, grants for programs and more!)
- Networking Opportunities
- Leadership Development
- Legislative Influence

# But Why DO People Join?

- Because **SOMEBODY** asked them!
- Because they have been convinced it will help **THEIR** child.
- Because they know the **DIFFERENCE IT WILL MAKE** in their local school.

# Why DON'T People Join?

- Because they think it is a big volunteer commitment.

-separate out volunteering & membership

-explain that their membership dollars bring important programs to the school & students

-point out a program that you think they would want to continue at your school and let them know PTA can do the program because of their membership support.

# Why DON'T People Join?

- Because they think it is an exclusive club.
- assure them that PTA is for everyone and you want them to be a part of it with you.
- enlist help of a committee that is inclusive of your demographics.
- help them find a way to participate and do something meaningful.

# Membership Ideas

- Develop a business partner program and encourage businesses to join.
- Challenges between board members for business partner awards.
- Organize an alumni committee with those dues going to scholarship fund.
- Give the student directory free with a PTA membership.
- Give a subscription to Our Children to local pediatricians and OBGYNs.
- Give bumper stickers or school spirit stickers to every member.

# Membership Ideas, cont...

- Have a PTA membership table at back to school registration, every school event & PTA meeting.
- Have a prize drawing for teachers to help reach 100% faculty.
- Ask principal to make a pitch for joining PTA at faculty meeting.
- Have a tear off portion in the newsletter for joining PTA.
- Keep a membership packet in your school office for new families moving to the area – ask school secretary to give out with enrollment forms.
- Send personalized letter to teachers reminding them to join if you haven't received their form/check by certain date.
- Send personalized note to parents who have not yet joined and encourage them to join.

# Inclusiveness

Is your PTA membership representative of  
your  
school population?



# Inclusiveness-

## 5 Ideas to Promote Diversity

- Personally ask people of different races and ethnicities to be part of your committee that encourages people to join and volunteer.
- If you have a significant population that speaks a different language, translate documents, signs, newsletters and have an interpreter at PTA meetings and events.
- Many people are reluctant to volunteer because they have language differences or nobody at the school “looks like” them – take the extra step to make people feel welcome.
- Help parents meet others who have similar interests – children of the same grade, in the same neighborhood, kids in same extra-curricular activity, etc...
- Don't forget STUDENTS (9-12<sup>th</sup> grade), DADS, GRANDPARENTS and EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS!

# Resources

[www.planopta.org](http://www.planopta.org)

*Click on membership*

logos for passport to achievement, dues invoice, membership chairman guide, Plano Life  
Member list coming 10/07

[www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org) (1-800-talk-pta)

*Click on membership*

frequently asked questions, forms for awards, forms for dues reports, membership card  
policy, membership activity kit, several sample letters, clip art for logo

*Click under forms*

membership card template, menu of membership forms

*Click under Resources, then click under Literature & Handbook Resources*

(membership chairman guide)

*Click under Awards/Scholarships*

(award info and forms)

[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

Membership kit information

**NOTE: Your local president has PTA Handbook with a section on membership information!**

# Membership Lists

- Membership list – can use report in the chairman guide and write it out or use spreadsheet or database.
- Please list Life Members first, then alphabetize the rest of the list.
- Give a copy to your secretary, treasurer, president. Keep a copy for your procedure book.
- Send membership list to Texas PTA with your dues check.

# Membership Dues

Council Dues – every local unit pays \$75 to Plano ISD Council of PTAs. Invoice will be given to Council Delegate/President at first PTA Council Regular meeting and invoices not picked up at that meeting will be sent interoffice to your school. Due by 10/1

Texas PTA/National PTA Dues – send your membership list and a check for your appropriate dues by 9/30 for early bird award. PTA accepts members year-round! Final report for fall membership drive due by 10/15. These numbers used for state convention voting. Final reporting for Spring membership drive is 3/15.

- Dues are \$1.25 for Texas PTA per member.
- Dues for National PTA are \$1.75 per member.
- Texas PTA Life Members are exempt from the Texas PTA dues at one school, but must still pay local and national dues.
- National Life Members still pay National portion of dues.
- Texas and National PTA dues should be combined into one check payable to Texas PTA and mailed to:

Texas PTA  
408 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

# Things to Know...

- Don't count money alone. After it has been counted, give it to the treasurer and get a receipt.
- Mail membership lists and dues to Texas PTA once a week. Don't let it pile up.
- Know your local PTA number and put it on your dues report. If you don't know it, ask your president. If you can't get an answer, contact me.
- Mail your membership report and dues to Texas PTA certified mail, return receipt requested, especially if checks are for a large amount.
- Membership cards – there is a template on Texas PTA website so you don't have to set up the format if using a printer.
- Benefit cards with discounts in addition to the membership card. Great way to promote PTA membership!
- Send out the membership cards with a thank you letter and/or directory.
- Have a current membership list at each meeting.

# Automatic & Need-To-Apply Awards

Some awards will be given to you automatically based on your membership report. Other awards you must apply for to receive.

All Awards are on [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org) website

**They are being revised...**

I'll be emailing you when the  
2008-09 award categories are announced.

# Life Member Banquet

The highest honor bestowed  
on a PTA member in Texas  
is an honorary  
Texas PTA Life Membership.

Plano ISD Council of PTAs sponsors the banquet.

Date:	Feb 17
Location:	Plano Centre
Time:	6:30 p.m.
Cost:	\$25/per person

# Life Member Banquet, cont...

You are the local coordinator of the event!

You are responsible for 7 things:

1. Get your local PTA moving EARLY – earlier than you ever have before... to select your honorees. You'll need to know who your honorees are by December 31.
2. Submitting the names to Texas PTA for a life membership certificate and pin. Please do this at least 1 month in advance! If you do not receive the certificate and pin within 2 weeks, please follow up with Texas PTA. Usually given to honoree at banquet.
3. Make sure you have included pins, certificates and dinner in your local PTA budget. Pin/charm - \$15, certificate - \$35, dinner \$25 per person. Most schools purchase a table of 10 and allow the honoree to bring a spouse/significant other, along with principal and PTA president.

# Life Member Banquet, cont...

4. Your local PTA may choose to bestow a National PTA life member & Extended Service life member honor on someone. You will apply for the National award on the [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) website and the extended service award on the [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org) site. These honorees will also be recognized at the Life Member banquet.
5. I will send invitations to your local campus for YOU to give to your honorees and guests.
6. You will send back an RSVP to me with the names of each person attending from your school and a check for their meals. **WE HAVE TO GIVE A FIRM HEADCOUNT BY THE DEADLINE, SO PLEASE RSVP ON TIME SO WE CAN INCLUDE YOUR SCHOOL IN THIS MEANINGFUL CELEBRATION!**
7. I will be asking for you to submit specific information and a photo of the honoree by email to include in a program book. The deadline will be in early January. I'll be contacting you with the specifics of this as we get closer. **IF YOU MISS THE DEADLINE, YOUR HONOREES WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM BOOK.**

# Life Member Banquet, cont...

## EVENT – *I'd love your help!*

- Interested in helping with this event? I'd love to have you on the committee! Help is needed with centerpieces, set up on the day of the event, greeters at the event and clean up. Great chance to meet other Council board members.

## NOTES –

1. I'll have a list of the Texas Life Members from Plano posted on the [www.planopta.org](http://www.planopta.org) website by October 1. It is unofficial compilation of names. If you think someone has received the award that is not listed, please call Texas PTA and double check.
2. Read your bylaws to determine how life members are selected. Usually selections are made in November/December, but this year, please ask your president to put together a committee in October or November at the latest.
3. **Get reservations and write-ups in on time!**

# How Council Supports Your Efforts

- Visibility in the district, community and media
- Coordinates Programs at Council Level (Reflections, Environmental Contest)
- Provides Member Programs (Parent Education)
- Provides Job Specific Training to Local PTAs
- Provides a hospitality function to the Administration and Non-Campus PISD facilities
- Serves as parent liaison on district committees
- Keeps members up to date on Legislative issues
- Promotes Youth Protection, Diversity, Volunteerism & School to Life
- Monthly Newsletter