

Dear PTA Presidents and Leaders,

For over 100 years, the PTA has been the organization that our nation's families rely on to represent public education and children. PTA is the bedrock of most school communities, providing a place for parents and teachers to belong to a greater organization designed to improve their schools and children's lives.

As PTA members, we belong to a group that promotes better choices for our children. A group that utilizes its' collective power to achieve the goals of improving the health and welfare of all children.

Over the past ten years, National PTA has wrestled with continuing to leverage our collective power while still providing the services that are needed at the local level. The past ten years have been marked by increasing costs and further demand on all of National PTAs resources. National PTA has instituted various cost cutting measures over the years to attempt to keep pace with these rising costs. With consideration of the rising costs, the expense reductions already implemented and increased demand for services, the National PTA Executive Board decided it should recommend the first fee increase in ten years.

At the National PTA Convention recently, delegates took these many struggles into account and vigorously discussed the issues facing our organization. It was after much debate that delegates voted to raise National PTA's portion of the member fees from \$1.75 to \$2.25. With this change, the member fee for the combined Louisiana PTA and National PTA will increase from \$2.75 to \$3.25 beginning July 1, 2011.

Although we all know that this is a difficult time to be implementing a fee increase, PTA remains an incredible value.

Thank you for your service to your PTA/PTSA, your community and, most importantly, our children. It takes leaders to make an organization great. Thank you for being a leader.

Sharon Pender

Louisiana State PTA President