



contact

a publication of
Missouri Parent Teacher Association

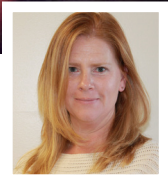
Volume 95 | Issue 9
November 2014



Picture courtesy of Sonja Shipman, Boyd Elementary PTA Vice President of Fundraising, Ozarks Region. If you'd like your picture featured in CONTACT, simply email contact@mopta.org for consideration.

Fall is in the air!

With the changing seasons, take time to enjoy the beauty around you. Take a walk, take a hike, play in the park. Even 15 minutes can do you, and your family good. #PTAhealthy



Dorothy Gardner
MoPTA President-Elect

We just wrapped up another convention – Whew! Convention is the one time a year we have the opportunity to come together as a whole. This is important because we are a membership organization – not a leadership organization. **It is our members who define our collective voice.** PTA is truly a grass roots advocacy organization, and advocacy was the focus of this convention.

It is our members who define our collective voice

PTA advocacy is simple – it's just caring for kids, and we do this in a variety of ways. First we need to make sure we recognize and welcome every family in our schools. This requires acknowledging the unique diversity that makes up those families. With that in mind we kicked off our convention with an All-Conference workshop on diversity. Our speaker challenged us to really open our eyes to see what sort of diversity exists within our schools. Delegates had the opportunity to experience PTA programs, such as the School of Excellence and the Family Reading Experience, designed to reach out and engage all parents. When parents are engaged, children simply do better overall. Legislatively, we had the opportunity to get an inside view on how things really work in Jefferson City – enabling us to be more successful in our legislative advocacy efforts.

We celebrated a big advocacy win, early childhood education, by honoring Senator Keaveny, a key player in the bill's success, with the 'Better Missouri for Children' award.

Finally we honored the memory of past State President and National PTA Secretary-Treasurer, Tina Zubeck, by awarding the inaugural 'Tina Zubeck Be the One' award. Tina truly modeled PTA advocacy. Tina chose to 'be the one' by stepping up and dedicating her voice, time and efforts to ensure all children everywhere had the opportunity to reach their full potential.

PTA began because two women, a teacher and a mother, believed children should be in school instead of working in factories. They were the first to 'be the one' and now it's our turn to continue this very important work. All our kids are counting on us.

This article is part of a series from the vice presidents of Missouri PTA.

Missouri Parent Teacher Association

2101 Burlington Street | Columbia, MO 65202 | 800-328-7330 | office@mopta.org | www.mopta.org



Missouri PTA news and updates



Top 10 ways to create, encourage happy and engaged volunteers

1. **Make it count and show our PTA advocacy.**
2. Cultivate new leaders and provide training for transitions. Include training expenses in your PTA budget; it is vital to a unit's success.
3. **Allow people to be creative and engaged.**
4. Say thank you as often as possible in various ways such as emails, hand written notes, small mementos/tokens.
5. **Make sure the volunteers have what they need to do the job at hand. If people are frustrated volunteering for you, they won't come back.**
6. Actively solicit feedback so you can make adjustments.
7. **Create a welcoming environment/camaraderie and avoid the cliques.**
8. Talk about benefits that occur for families who do volunteer – such as carpools, discounts, homework help, friendship, etc.
9. **Have fun! Even if the volunteer's job is not fun, be sure to offer something fun before or afterward.**
10. Last but not least, the golden rule – treat people how you want to be treated. But I suggest that you treat others how THEY want to be treated.



PTA Launches Smart Snacks Webpage

National PTA has officially launched the Smart Snacks webpage at www.pta.org/smartsnacks for state and local leaders and PTA members! The webpage contains information regarding the Smart Snacks federal nutrition standards and resources from partner organizations that will assist in implementing the standards.



Evans Receives Phoebe Apperson Hearst Memorial Award

Each fall, the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Memorial Award (PAH Award) is bestowed upon a Missouri PTA Scholarship senior with a record of exceptional academics, outstanding character, community service, and a commitment to teaching. Income from the PAH Fund is used to finance this award.

Michelle Evans, a 2011 graduate of William Chrisman High School in the Independence School District who is currently attending Westminster College in Fulton, MO, is the 2014 PAH Award recipient. Michelle is currently an Elementary Education major with a minor in Early Childhood Education who maintains a 3.97 GPA and has been recognized on the "Dean's List" at Westminster for 6 consecutive semesters. She received an award certificate and \$200 at the 2014 Missouri PTA Convention in St Louis (Chesterfield).

In addition, Missouri PTA provided scholarships to 18 students who applied for or renewed their annual scholarships totaling \$8,200.00 of scholarship awards this fall.

Missouri Parent Teacher Association

2101 Burlington Street | Columbia, MO 65202 | 800-328-7330 | office@mopta.org | www.mopta.org





Missouri PTA Board of Managers tips and resources

Missouri Board of Managers Members having fun as a team at MoPTA Convention. #PTAawesome



November Legislative Report E-Cigarettes and Youth Resolution

Nicotine is a highly addictive drug that has an immediate bio-chemical effect on the brain at any dose. The developing adolescent brain is particularly at risk for negative impact and nicotine can be extremely toxic in high doses.

These are just some of the reasons that delegates adopted the E-Cigarettes and Youth Resolution at convention on October 19th. This resolution, authored by the Liberty PTA Council, addresses the dangers surrounding e-cigarettes. While the Missouri General Assembly did pass a law this past session prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes to those under the age of 18, the FDA has yet to issue a ruling on these products. Because of this, e-cigarettes are currently unregulated. The amount of targeted advertising directed toward youth is on the rise, and there exists no oversight on the contents or packaging of these products. Refill bottles or cartridges fail to employ child resistant packing to prevent a child's access or accidental ingestion of toxic amounts of nicotine. This resolution will now give Missouri PTA a voice on this issue. The resolution can viewed in the resolution section under Health/safety at <http://mopta.org/category/legislation/resolutions/health-safety/>

PTA Supports Increase in E-rate Funding

National PTA has been working with a wide range of associations in hopes to push the FCC to make a permanent increase to E-rate funding. In a letter addressed to the FCC, the National PTA—along with more than 30 organizations—requested a permanent increase in funding for the E-rate program to allow schools and public libraries to keep pace with rapidly increasing connectivity demands. The letter also cites three major reasons for increasing funding to the E-rate program:

- Access to 21st century education and learning
 - Moving from basic connectivity to capacity
 - Equity (focusing on disadvantaged communities)
- To learn more about PTA's participation in this coalition, or if you would like a copy of the letter, please contact Matthew L. Evans.

Missouri General Assembly 2015 Session

The Missouri Legislative session begins on January 7th. However, legislators will start pre-filling bills during the month of December. As bills emerge that either support or oppose PTA resolutions and positions they will be added to a 'Bill Watch' list. This list will be available starting late December under the Capitol Chatter page of the Legislation section of the MOPTA website. The list is continually updated throughout the duration of the Missouri Legislative session.

Cohesive Teams Make A Difference

By Donna Petiford, Immediate Past President - MoPTA

Effective teams share a common purpose and show commitment and competence. When we work together in PTA, it is easy to see our common purpose, goals and beliefs because we all want what is best for the children we serve. Commitment and competence in a PTA team should resemble that of a winning sports team where players are expected to show up, practice and have the skills necessary to "win".

Some actions and attitudes break down teamwork and have to be kept in check or eliminated. Having a bad attitude, being unwilling to cooperate, and disruptive behaviors can have a negative effect on the team and impede progress. While all teams have conflict and healthy conflict helps teams chose the most effective and efficient actions, conflict that is not resolved or allowed to continue unchecked can derail the effort and lower morale, making all members of the team miserable.

Just like a great sports team has a coach, a pitcher, a catcher, an infield and an outfield, a PTA needs a full roster of strong players-anything less causes the effectiveness of the team to suffer. Teams that succeed recognize the advantages of working as a team versus working as individual star players. Great teams also take the time to learn the rules and celebrate "wins".

Teambuilding is an investment of time, but in the end, a cohesive team is able to be more creative, complete work more effectively and efficiently, and makes work more satisfying and enjoyable.

Missouri Parent Teacher Association

2101 Burlington Street | Columbia, MO 65202 | 800-328-7330 | office@mopta.org | www.mopta.org





Missouri PTA convention!



PTA officers work the registration desk.



Student Leadership Sessions are awesome - great work team!



MoPTA Past Presidents



Convention is awesome!
Hooray MoPTA!

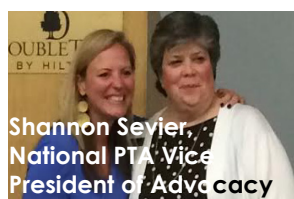


Senator Keaveny accepting his
"Better Missouri for Children" award.



Dr. Carter Ward accepting his
"Tina Zubeck Be The One" Award.

Even the hall signs were motivating!



Shannon Seyler,
National PTA Vice
President of Advocacy



Our students are awesome. Thanks for attending to MoPTA Convention! We appreciate your input and ideas.

Missouri Parent Teacher Association

2101 Burlington Street | Columbia, MO 65202 | 800-328-7330 | office@mopta.org | www.mopta.org



/MissouriPTA



MissouriPTA



@MissouriPTA