

Missouri Parent Teacher Association

# CONTACT

Volume 95 Issue 2  
November 2013



# MO PTA would like to THANK the following PTA Units and Councils for their generous donations

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# Thank You Donna!!!!

Two years ago when you began your term as our state president you told us that “*anybody can be somebody*”. For the past twenty-four months, you were “*our somebody*” who led us into our one hundredth anniversary year and celebration, showing all of us how vital and important our advocacy work still is in today’s PTA. You were “*our somebody*” who helped pass resolutions that support and advocate for the children of this state. You were “*our somebody*” who supported the membership campaigns all across the state, the legislative priorities by traveling to Jefferson City monthly and to Washington, D.C. yearly. You were the “*somebody*” who knew the value of education and finishing what one starts by earning your MBA at Drury College, even traveling to China in your “*spare time*” from being “*our somebody*”. A special THANKS to David and Sarah, for loaning us their special “*somebody*” who truly made a difference in all of us and in this great PTA organization.



David and Donna

Donna in China



Sarah and Donna



## Cover photo:

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CONTACT is the official publication of Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers. We are a branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. CONTACT is published digitally bi-monthly, six times a year. Subscriptions are \$7 per year.

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Please notify the Publication Office in case of change of address or to purchase a subscription. It is important that we have accurate addresses so that we may provide the support and information to each local unit.

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Information from this magazine may be excerpted for other PTA publications as long as credit is given to Missouri PTA and any byline that may appear with the item must be included.

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## Meet Kim Weber, Our New State President



*"You will either look back in life and say, I wish I had, or, I'm glad I did." Zig Ziglar*

I used to say that I came into PTA by the back door. I wasn't that involved in my daughter's school from the very beginning and it took a couple of years for me to become so. Since I worked full time nights at a local hospital, my day time availability wasn't that great to volunteer at the school. I was the parent that walked by the PTA table, not making eye contact with "those ladies" who always seemed like a clique to me and I didn't fit in. I felt like I didn't have anything to contribute so I would send the baked goods to school with my daughters, and support the PTA by buying books at the book fair all while not truly getting involved with the school or a member of the PTA, but just coming in the back door when invited but not truly being involved.

One day the PTA president stopped me after a parent teacher conference and asked me to be on a committee for the PTA. She had been seeing my name on the sign-up sheets but never saw me actually volunteering at the school or on the PTA board. Of course I said no, not enough time, nothing to contribute, thinking I wouldn't fit in but that unit president saw something in me that I didn't see at the time, and she kept calling, kept asking and seeking me out whenever she saw me at the school. One day she stated that she had the perfect committee for me to chair and I couldn't say no to this one. It was starting the school Box Tops Program and it allowed me to do the 'counting' when I had the time, it gave me an example of how small of a task could make a difference in the resources and materials that my daughters, their classmates and their school would benefit from. The rest they say is history, I started attending the PTA unit meetings, talking with those ladies, becoming actively involved with the Columbia Council of PTA and traveling to my first Missouri PTA State convention two years later after I became unit president. I began to realize that I wished I had started earlier but was definitely glad I had now.

When I attended that first convention, I learned that parents just like me faced daily challenges on how to be involved and active at their school's PTAs and with their children. I wasn't just the only one that didn't think I had enough time to be involved with PTA, or enough understanding on how to do that. PTA showed

me that I did have something to contribute, PTA educated me how to make a change in the life and education of my daughters and their classmates. PTA taught me how to advocate for all children and how important a parent voice is. You are never too busy, too committed, or too involved to make a difference in the life of a child. As I take the top leadership role of this state organization, Missouri PTA, I will be asking all of you and even more of your friends, family and neighbors to be involved, to join PTA, to contribute something of yourself back to your PTA; to help make a difference in the life of a child. To be glad you did and not wish you had.

A little personal information about myself, I reside in Columbia with my husband of twenty-six years and work full time at Boone Hospital Center as the Surgery Pharmacy Coordinator. We are the parents of five children, Andrew, Matt, Leah, Stephanie, Amanda and grandparents of four granddaughters and three grandsons. Our older three children are married and live in the Kansas City, Kansas area. Stephanie and Amanda are both attending colleges in Missouri inspiring to become teachers and are involved PTA members themselves.

### Who We Are

PTA Vision  
Making every child's potential a reality

PTA Mission ~ PTA is:

- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and wellbeing of every child.

PTA Purposes

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship
- To raise the standards of home life
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teacher may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth
- To develop between educators and general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education



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## Great Education Needs Great Standards....and Data

*By Otha Thornton, National PTA President*

As the nation's largest volunteer child advocacy association with more than four million members

who are parents, students, and teachers, National PTA is uniquely positioned to be an influential and credible voice in advancing the Common Core State Standards. We have held discussions across the country, and have even developed an online toolkit to provide information to those who wish to advocate for Common Core.

But even as a staunch supporter of Common Core, we understand that there are still questions surrounding the standards, including a great deal of misinformation. Some of that misinformation is focused on the data collection aspects of Common Core.

I think that it is important to make it clear that the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, No Child Left Behind legislation, amending the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Education Reform Sciences Act of 2002, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act all prohibit the creation of a federal database with a student's personally identifiable information (i.e., name, place and date of birth, SSN, or any other information that could be used to distinguish an individual's identity). Federal law prohibits the reporting of aggregate data that could allow individuals to be identified. Common Core doesn't change that. It doesn't require any data collection beyond what is already being collected in No Child Left Behind.

The standards are a set of grade-level expectations for what students should know and be able to do. Data plays no part in Common Core. However, National PTA does recognize the benefits of data use, which is why we are working with the Data Quality Campaign (DQC) to produce a "[What Every Parent Should Be Asking about Education Data and Privacy](#)." The goal of this parent's guide is to empower mothers, fathers and caregivers with questions that they can ask about education data and student privacy. The front side of the guide provides questions, examples, and tips to help parents demand value from the data their state and district collect. The back side of the resource has questions parents can ask to be confident that their child's data are being protected.

As a parent, I understand the desire to have the best education for our children. An important part of building a great education system is using data to help form best practices that are effective and results driven. Data-driven decision making for teachers is the practice of using information—including test scores, behavior, attendance, past performance, and multiple other student-level indicators—to inform professional judgment to tailor instruction and improve student learning. States have always collected data, and will continue collect data, and independently decide where that data goes and how it will be protected. The fact is that, without good data, our educators are operating in the dark.

Accurate data makes intensive improvements and turnaround strategies in schools possible. So as you advocate for Common Core, also become an advocate for data. We are all education stakeholders. Becoming literate on the positive uses of data collection will ensure that we all understand how valuable it can be in improving outcomes for students. And in the end, isn't that what we all are looking to achieve?

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# MISSOURI WELL REPRESENTED AT NATIONAL PTA!!!!

By Kim Weber, Missouri PTA President

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Missouri PTA is proud to congratulate our very own former state presidents, Tina Zubeck and Kathy Nevans and a former student representative Bill Potts-Datema on their elections at the recent 2013 National PTA Convention.

Tina, Missouri PTA President from 2003-2005 was elected as the National PTA Secretary-Treasurer for the 2013-2015 term. Kathy, Missouri PTA President from 2005-2007 was elected for her second term as a member representative for the National PTA Board of Directors. Bill, a Student Representative for Missouri PTA many years ago was elected as a member of the National PTA Nominating and Leadership Development Committee.

Tina, Kathy and Bill, we are very proud of your accomplishments and service not only to Missouri PTA but to all of our PTA Congresses and children everywhere!

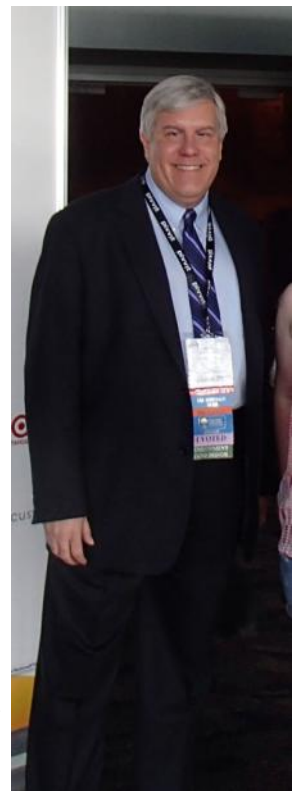
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## Missouri PTA 2012-2013 Honor Roll\*

PTA units are placed on the "Honor Roll" if memberships postmarked by March 1, are equal to or greater than last year's membership.

Alice Pittman PTA	Holland Elementary PTA	Pleasant View Middle School PTSA
Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary PTA	Horace Mann Elementary PTA (Sedalia)	Randall Elementary PTA
Armstrong Elementary PTA	Horace Mann PTA (Springfield)	Raymore Elementary PTA
Barry Middle School PTSA	James A. Jeffries Elementary PTA	Raytown Central Middle School PTSA
Bell Prairie PTA	James Lewis Elementary PTA	Raytown South High School PTSA
Benton High School PTSA	Jarrett Middle School PTSA	Raytown South Middle School PTSA
Bingham Elementary PTA	Jefferson Jr. High School PTA	Red Bridge Elementary PTA
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA	John J. Pershing Middle School PTSA	Reed Academy School PTSA
Border Star Montessori PTA	Keeven Elementary PTA	Ridgeview Elementary PTA
Bridle Ridge Intermediate PTA	Kentucky Trail Elementary PTA	Ridgeway Elementary PTA
Butcher-Greene Elementary School PTA	Kickapoo PTSA	Robberson PTA
Cambridge Elementary PTA	Lafayette High School PTSA	Rock Bridge Elementary PTA
Campbell Elementary PTA	Lakeview Elementary PTA	Rock Bridge High School PTSA
Cedar Ridge Elementary PTA	Lakewood Elementary PTA	Rountree PTA
Center of Differentiated Education PTSA	Lange Middle School PTSA	Ruskin High School PTA
Center Senior High School PTA	Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA	Russell Blvd. Elementary PTA
Central High School PTSA (Springfield)	Liberty Middle School PTA	Ruth Oliver Walker Elementary PTA
Chapel Lakes PTA	Lillian Schumacher Elementary PTA	Santa Fe Accelerated Elem School PTA
Christian Ott Elementary PTA	Little Blue PTA (Raytown)	Sequiota Elementary PTA
Clardy/Gashland PTA	Logan-Rogersville PTA	Sherwood Elementary PTA
Coleman Elementary PTA	Lone Jack PTA	Show Me State PTA
Daniel Young Elementary PTA	Manor Hill Elementary PTA	Smith Hale Middle School PTA
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Maplewood Elementary PTA	Smith-Cotton Junior High School PTSA
Diamond R-4 PTSA	Marion C. Early G & H Schools PTA	Sni A Bar Elementary PTA
East Middle School PTSA	Mark Twain Elementary PTA (Springfield)	South Valley Jr. High PTSA
Eastgate Middle School PTSA	Mason Elementary PTA	South Valley Middle School PTSA
Elm Grove Elementary PTA	McBride Elementary PTA	Spring Branch PTA
Espy PTA	McNair Elementary PTA	Spring Valley Elementary PTA
Eugene Field Elementary PTA	Meadowbrook Elementary PTA	Staley HS Falcon Booster Club PTSA
F. L. Skaith Elementary PTA	Mill Creek Elementary PTA (Columbia)	Ste. Genevieve Elementary PTA
Fremont Elementary PTA	Mount Vernon PTA	Stonegate Elementary PTA
Garrett PTA	Nixa SCORE High School PTSA	Summit Intermediate School PTA
George S. Bryant PTA	North Platte PTA	Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA
Gladden Elementary PTA	Northview Elementary PTA	Thomas Hart Benton PTA
Gracemor PTA	Noyes Elementary PTA	Thomas PTA
Graden Elementary PTA	Oak Park HS PTSA/ Booster Club	Thomas Ultican Elementary PTA
Grain Valley South Middle School PTSA	Osceola Grade & High School PTA	Townsend Elementary PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA	Ozark East Elementary PTA	Trailridge Elementary PTA
Guy A. Cowden Elementary PTA	Ozark High School PTA	Truman Elementary PTA (Springfield)
Halfway Grade & High School PTA	Ozark West Elementary PTA	Twillman Elementary PTA
Harry S Truman Elementary PTA	Park Hill Plaza Middle School PTA	Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA
Hawthorn Elementary PTA	Park Hill Prairie Point Elementary PTA	Walt Disney PTA
Hazelwood Central High PTSA	Park Hill South High PTA	Warford Elementary PTA
Hazelwood Central Middle School PTSA	Parkade Elementary PTA	Watkins PTA
Hazelwood East Senior High PTSA	Parkview Elementary PTA	West Elementary PTA
Hazelwood North Middle School PTSA	Parkway PTA	Williams (Ed.V) Elementary PTA
Hazelwood Southeast MS PTSA	Paxton Keeley Elementary PTA	Woodland Elementary PTA
Heritage Elementary PTA	Peculiar Elementary PTA	
Hickman Mills Jr. High School PTSA	Pickett Elementary School PTA	
Hickory Hills Middle School PTSA	Platte County R-III High School PTSA	
Hillcrest Elementary PTA	Pleasant Lea Middle School PTA	
Hillcrest High School PTSA	Pleasant View Elementary PTA	

\*This list should have been published in the May 2013 CONTACT magazine. The Editor apologizes to these school for failing to publish this Honor Roll in a timely manner.

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## PTA's New National Resolutions – Our Voice

*By the Department of Legislation and Advocacy*

In addition to being the largest child advocacy organization, PTA is also a democracy made up of a vast variety of individuals from different backgrounds and points of view. This democracy decides what issues we address and how we address them. In essence, our collective voice comes from our mission & values, resolutions and position statements that were defined by the majority of the membership. As a group we only speak to issues that have been addressed by this voice. When a member or members seek to add to that voice it is done through the submission of a resolution for adoption. This can happen at the local, state, or national level depending upon the reach of the issue. During the 2013 National PTA convention three new resolutions were adopted. These resolutions on Automated External Defibrillators, Meningococcal Disease Vaccine and School Recess when through several amendments and clarifications during the convention before the membership agreed to a vote. Why? This sometimes tedious process is set in place to give members time to mull the issue over, understand the action the resolution is asking PTA to take, and allow the opportunity to amend and debate. The end product should truly reflect the will of the majority. Missouri PTA delegates played a key role in this process by bringing forth amendments that were adopted in two of the resolutions.

### **Automated External Defibrillators – Does your school have an AED?**

Sudden cardiac arrest is the main cause of death among young athletes. Fortunately it is often avoidable if treated within the first five minutes by utilizing CPR and an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Every state has Good Samaritan laws or acts in place to protect individuals who come to the aid of a cardiac victim. However, AEDs are currently not accessible in all schools, and this type of training is not always included in the school's emergency plan. This resolution gives PTA the voice to: support the development and practice of plans to summon help, perform CPR and use AEDs; promote and educate about the importance of purchasing and maintaining AEDs; and, advocate for legislation that independently funds placement of AEDs in every school.

### **Meningococcal Disease Vaccine – Are you kids protected from meningitis?**

Meningococcal Disease, commonly known as meningitis, is a serious and often fatal infection. In past years this disease was thought to most commonly strike college age young adults. However, over recent years the medical community has come to understand this disease can strike young adults at a much early age. Meningitis is highly contagious and is often misdiagnosed as the flu. Among those who survive the disease 15-20% suffer long-term debilitating consequences. It is important families, communities and legislators are aware of the danger this disease with regard to younger children. This resolution gives PTA the voice to both educate its membership and advocate for the implementation of the Center for Disease Control's recommendations for initial and booster doses of the meningococcal disease vaccination.

### **School Recess – Does your school still have recess?**

Schools across the country struggle to meet requirements of rigorous standardized testing sometimes at the expense of other aspects of education. When cuts in the day are needed to focus on test scores one of the first areas to hit the chopping block is physical activity and the easiest aspect to cut is recess. However, recess should be considered essential to the over all health and well-being of the child. Physical activity not only impacts the child's overall physical fitness but is associated with better academic achievement and cognitive functioning. Recess also serves as an important component of a child's social development. Instead of viewing recess as an obstacle taking important instruction time away, the focus should be on regarding recess as an important tool for academic achievement. This resolution gives PTA a voice on the subject of recess. A voice we did not have before its passage. By passing this resolution PTA supports at least one period of daily recess, adequate recess and physical education class, and the development and implementation of policies for outdoor and indoor unstructured play. In addition, PTA opposes the denial of recess as a disciplinary measure for academic or inappropriate classroom behavior.

Full text and rational for each of these resolutions can be found on PTA's website at [www.pta.org/about/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3433](http://www.pta.org/about/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3433)

Do you know of an issue that PTA needs to address? Contact the Legislation & Advocacy Department to find out if it is currently covered by a resolution or position statement, or for information on how to write a resolution. We are here to help.

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## The Legislature Back to Work

*By the Department of Legislation and Advocacy*

As prescribed by Missouri law, our legislators will head back to regular general session on Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2014. Session will conclude on May 30<sup>th</sup> but the last day to consider bills is Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2014 no later than 6pm. If a bill has not made it through the rounds it becomes dead and must be refiled during the next regular session. Even though our legislators will be back in Jefferson City come January 8<sup>th</sup> they have already considered bills they will be sponsoring long before session starts. December 1<sup>st</sup> marks the first day bills can be pre-filed in Missouri and numerous bills will be pre-filed between December 1<sup>st</sup> and January 8<sup>th</sup>.

So where does your unit or council fit in the legislative scheme. Issues pertaining to children's well-being and education can easily become lost, misrepresented and diluted in the world of lobbying. While legislators do represent everyone in their district, children aren't very effective advocating on their own behalf. A child advocate once jokingly said - They don't vote, fund campaigns and in general have poor lobbying skills. However, education is a fundamental aspect of our society's infrastructure. For us to compete as a state and a nation we must graduate students who are college and career ready. We cannot afford to allow other countries to scoop up industries and jobs because they can provide the skilled workers. Long past are the days when a students could count on a good paying job directly out of high school.

"We have to educate kids about the world they will live in, not the world we did live in" – Chris Nicastro Missouri Education Commissioner

It is up to us to advocate on their behalf. The best place to grow advocacy for children is by making it a cornerstone of your PTA. Here are a few simple ways your unit or council can make legislation and advocacy an ongoing feature.

- Appoint or select a legislative chair and send their contact information to the main office. Do they need legislative experience? No. All that is required is a willingness to serve. The Department of Legislation & Advocacy has developed tools to assist the chair with their job.
- Pass legislative and advocacy information on to your membership. Each month during the school year (September-May) the Department of Legislation & Advocacy publishes a 'suggested legislative report'. This publication contains happenings that are or soon will be happening at the local, state and national level. Be sure to include this report in your meetings and pass the information along through your communication network with your membership.
- Keep informed on current bills through the Bill Watch List on the Capitol Chatter link under the Legislation tab of the MOPTA.org website. Filed bills on which PTA has a resolution or position will be posted along with our rationale for support or opposition. Bill progress is updated on the list throughout the session.
- Encourage participation in Legislative Action Alerts. When critical votes or meetings are taking place at either the national or state level over issues on which PTA has a voice, alerts for members to take action are emailed out. Be sure to pass this request for action on to your membership – even if you don't personally agree with the position. Remember PTA's voice was created by the democratic action of the members. As a PTA leader it is your responsibility to reflect the will of the membership when serving in your official capacity. If there is a PTA position that you feel your local PTA members will strongly oppose supporting please contact the Department of Legislation & Advocacy. We can better explain why the PTA holds that position and how best to approach your local membership with the issue.
- Stay informed locally by creating a communication network between the unit or council and your school board and local city council(s). Invite representatives from the school board and city council to attend specific meetings as a guest. Add them to the agenda to report on local happenings that affect children or even the community in general.
- Make a personal connection with your state representatives. In this context think of personal as your unit or council connecting directly with the representative. Send them copies of your newsletters and inform them of special accomplishments. Do you perform an awards or recognition ceremony with your students? Ask your representative if they would be willing to take part in the ceremony. These gestures will help keep the needs of children in the minds of our legislators when they are navigating through complex bills and decisions.

It may sound cliché, but it is true that children really are our future. It is they that will grow up to be the doctors, scientists, businessmen, dreamers and inventors. The work and time we invest in advocating for them now will pay off.



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## Common Core – Yes...It Is Good For Education

*By Dorothy Gardner, Past VP and Director of Legislation & Advocacy*

There has been a lot of debate surrounding Common Core Standards but not a lot of good information as to how they came about and what they actually entail. The super short answer as to what is Common Core is pretty simple. They are a set of internationally benchmarked K-12 education standards designed to ensure every student's college and career readiness in English language arts and mathematics. The brainchild born out of a collaboration of 48 states, the District of Columbia and two U.S.

territories, the Common Core were developed out of a need to create a standard in education goals that could be implemented in all states. No, they are not the result of federal government overreach. In fact, the federal government had no part in the creation of the Standards. Instead it was unintended consequences stemming from Congress's creation of No Child Left Behind that help prompt the states to take action. The U.S. Constitution establishes state control over public education.

Consequently, current standards in education varies depending upon which state you reside. This problem was exasperated by the 100% proficient mandate created when No Child Left Behind was signed into law in 2002. Some states took the high road and developed standards with ambitious goals of achievement in mind. Others opted instead to set the bar low in order to allow students to easily pass the proficient mandate. This created an inequity with regard to what students were taught from state to state. In Missouri students must take the MAP test in order to determine proficiently. Both teachers and parents have come to the conclusion this is not the most proficient way to determine whether or not our children are really learning what they should at each grade level. Many say the

mandate has created an environment of "teaching to the test" rather than engaging students. Instead the focus should be on making sure all students have the means to be college and career ready upon graduation.

The success of your child once they become an adult does depend on the success of all children with regard to education. We, as a nation, are stronger and more vital when we have a work force adept to meet the challenges of a global economy. In 1995 the U.S. was tied for first in the world when it came to young adults with a college education. By 2004 we had dropped to 14<sup>th</sup>. Out of 30 industrialized countries, the U.S. ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in math and 17<sup>th</sup> in science and 14<sup>th</sup> in reading in 2009. When we talk about jobs and unemployment we really should be talking about education. The New York Times and Wall Street Journal have run stories about companies, both large and small, having difficulty finding qualified applicants to fill open positions. And we aren't talking about a few jobs here and there. Tens of thousands of jobs currently sit unfilled. Colleges and Universities complain about the high rate of freshman requiring remedial classes upon entering college. Clearly something is wrong with the current system.

Common Core Standards (often referred to as CCSSI – Common Core State Standards Initiative) is based on the notion that math and reading skills for each grade level should be the same regardless of your zip code. The standards provide a clear definition of what is expected - one that students, parents and teachers can easily understand. The skills needed to be college and career ready are clearly laid out. Students moving from one district to another, regardless the state, should experience a smoother transition. Parents will be able to interact with teachers in a much more engaged manner. Teachers can focus on developing curriculum that promotes a deep understanding of the subject matter rather than 'trying to fit it all in'. The standards combine the best

and highest standards already being utilized in the states that originally set those ambitious goals. Missouri, especially with the adoption of MSIP5, which incorporates Common Core, is one of the states with high standards already set in place. Even though the standards are copyrighted – a measure put in place to protect the intellectual property created and provide proof the U.S. Government was not involved (the government by law cannot copyright material or intellectual property) - upon adoption, states have the option to adjust the standards to their state. Many states have added to the standards making their own states standards even more rigorous. Some states have opted to pick and choose which standards they wish to utilize. Two organizations representing the states, the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, are facilitating the initiative. Other supporting partners include National PTA, the National Association of State Boards of Education, the Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Association of School Administrators, The James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute, the Business Roundtable, Achieve, ACT and the College Board.

PTA is dedicated to advance these standards by providing training, information and developing resources and tools. These tools range from frequently asked questions to grade-by-grade parent guides explaining what you should expect your child to be learning and how you can best facilitate your role as a parent in assisting your child. You can find these resources along with more in depth information on the Common Core Standards at <http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content2.cfm?ItemNumber=3008&navItemNumber=557>.

### **Stay informed:**

The JC/DC Network is an email notification system utilized to alert subscribers when a legislative action alert has been issued. [By clicking here to sign up](#), you are joining fellow PTA advocates and can be proactive for the welfare of Missouri's children.

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## The Secret to Getting Busy Parents Involved in Four Easy Steps

By June Hurdle, Past MOPTA Parent Education & Involvement Chair

“I just don’t have time to join PTA,” is a common reply received when working parents are asked to get involved. It’s no wonder - between demanding work schedules, family responsibilities, and running children from one event to another - it seems impossible for many parents to find time to participate. But even the busiest parent can get involved. **The secret is providing small scale ideas that have big impact.**

1. Look for ways to **raise awareness** about the power of family engagement. Share with parents how important their involvement is to their student’s success. Research shows that students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades, have better attendance, stronger social skills, and go on to postsecondary education. When families, schools, and communities work together, student achievement improves, teacher morale rises, communication increases, and all parts of the community benefit. Let families know how very important they are to the equation. Repeat this message on a regular basis.
2. Share your goal of greater family engagement with your PTA leaders, school administrators, and teachers and ask them to help you **create a list** of opportunities for parents and grandparents to become involved throughout the school year. Check out the PTA “Three for Me” program under the Programs tab at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for ideas of how to implement or increase parent engagement at your school. Getting as many parents as possible to volunteer just three hours over the course of a school year can make a significant impact. Some small scale ideas that can have big impact include creating a “High 5” Dad’s squad that gives kids a “high 5” and a word of encouragement as they get off the bus or arrive

at school, arranging for parents to be class readers, tutors, help with class parties, chaperone field trips or school events, assist with a class, a club, or extracurricular activity as a guest speaker or an extra set of helping hands, volunteer in the media center or office as needed or to allow staff to go to lunch, donate food to teacher appreciation event, participate in Grandparents Day, Donuts with Dad, or Take Your Family to School Event, make thank you gifts for teachers and staff, serve as a crossing guard, help line kids up for busses, work a concession stand, assist on the sidelines for a sporting event, to name a few. Include as many small tasks – ones that only require 30 – 60 minutes – on your list and don’t discount ones because they aren’t considered necessary. You don’t really need a parent to hand out programs at an event but it is one more opportunity to connect parents with their child’s school.

3. **Communicate opportunities** to families on a regular basis. Have PTA Volunteer Coordinators notify parents and use Google Docs, Volunteer Spot, Survey Monkey, or Sign Up Genius to allow volunteers easy ways to sign up online. Develop ways for people to sign up if they do not have regular access to a computer. Ask your PTA families to lead the way and make it a practice to invite other parents to join them when they volunteer to increase the pool of parents comfortable with volunteering. Access your success in increasing family involvement and discuss how you can reach groups not yet participating.
4. Don’t forget to **celebrate success** as your school sees increased involvement and its impact. Recognize all of your volunteers for their gift of time – regardless of the amount. Cheer on your students, teachers and staff on a regular basis. Remind everyone how important each of them are to student success – even in small ways.  
**Providing many small opportunities for families to become involved in your school will produce big results.**

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## CALLING ALL DADS *By Richard Davis, Past Male Involvement Chair*

**I challenge all dads to find ways to balance work, family and spend more time hanging out with your kids. Maybe teach them things such as the responsibility of working and keeping a job, teach them a trade if you have a trade like construction, balance a check book, make a budget, or maybe a sport or two.**

We need to get our kids active doing things, other than wanting to sit around the house playing on the internet, watching TV or playing video games. As our children grow older, we will have less impact on them and they will find other avenues to learn life’s lessons.

So we need to spend more time during their early years developing life skills and activities that will help them survive in the world we live in. Try volunteering at least once a year during the elementary and middle school years. Release the inner father in you or check websites like [Fathers.com](http://Fathers.com) to get some ideas.

Enjoy each and every moment with your child no matter how long or short – as the end result they will someday be parents and what you do now they in turn will do with their own children.

## National PTA Youth Summit

By Meagan Gardner, Youth Representatives

From June 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> National PTA hosted their 2013 National Convention, and this year they did something different. For National PTA's 2013 convention, they hosted a Youth Summit and invited fifty students from all over the US to attend, and I was honored to be one of those fifty. The summit had the basic theme of "Bullying".

On Thursday night all of the students and their parents came together for a town hall. Now, you have to keep in mind, we were 50 different people from different places all over the US being thrown into a room together, so yes at first things were pretty awkward between all of us, but that was only until Friday.

On Friday, we got into table groups, introduced ourselves and got down to business. You know there's something funny about how us teenagers work. You can bring us together as complete strangers that know nothing about one another, but as soon as we find a commonality between

all of us, we instantly bond. In this case, our commonality was bullying. So, we took that one commonality, branched out from it, learned more and more about each other, and became closer and closer as the day wore on. We also focused on how to detect bullying, confront bullying, and eventually solve bullying. At the end of the day when all of the workshops were through, the students went to get food and hung out together at a local pizza diner. It was loads of fun!!

By the time Saturday rolled around, we had a pretty good idea about how to deal with the issue of bullying, and we were also becoming really close, not just our table group, but every one in the Youth Summit. Saturday, we were all given two and a half hours to work with our table groups and put together presentations on how we would confront and fix bullying in our schools. Now keep in mind, two and a half hours is not a lot of time to put together entire presentations. Oh, did I mention we had to find time to eat in that time frame as well; but regardless every group got their presentations done while having tons of fun. Then each group presented their presentations to the other

groups and the adults picked a winner. Every presentation was AMAZING!!

As you can guess, we were all pretty exhausted by the end of the day Saturday, but NOT too exhausted to go to King's Island Amusement park. That's right!! National PTA took all of the students and their parents to King's Island Amusement park. Let me tell you, I don't think I've ever had so much fun in my entire life. So off we went with our new friends and rode some crazy rides. We laughed together, screamed together, told stories of our lives back at home, and shared an amazing night. One that none of us will ever forget.

Then Sunday came and we were all exhausted beyond words, but we got up, went to breakfast with the National PTA Board, shared a couple more dances, and said some tearful goodbyes. National PTA did an amazing thing in those four days. They took 50 teenagers that were complete strangers and turned them into best friends that even today still keep in touch. I met so many amazing friends at National PTA's Youth Summit that have changed my life and I will never forget.

## NPTA Member Benefits

Check out the National PTA, [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) website for further information on how your members access these benefits. Make sure the details on benefit access are provided only to your PTA members.

### AARP – New PTA Benefit Coming Soon!



Starting soon, age-qualifying PTA Members not currently AARP members will qualify for a one-year gift AARP membership who activate their member card online at [pta.org/activate](http://pta.org/activate)! With substantial discounts through AARP on a wide variety of everyday and essential services, this collaboration between PTA and AARP further encourages grandparents and seniors to actively support our nation's children and save big in the process. Plus, PTA Members who have an existing

AARP membership soon will be able to access special discounts on AARP membership renewal—for all terms—plus a special lifetime membership offer!

### T-Mobile

The National PTA has teamed with T-Mobile® to bring members special wireless deals offering: 14% Discount every month on EVERY Line

No Annual Service Contract(s)

All Plans include Unlimited TALK+TEXT+WEB (Less than \$100/month for Unlimited service for a Family of 5)

Waived Activation Fees and Free Shipping



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# NPTA Member Benefits

e-Trak's **Alert** allows a child who is lost, hurt, or eTrak, the world's smallest location tracking device, is **FREE** to PTA parents. Plus, each subscription order earns a local unit \$6 and \$2 each for state and National PTA. It is the child safety solution parents have been looking for!



## eTrak is affordable!

The device is free to PTA parents (regularly \$129). An activation charge of \$39 and nominal monthly fee of \$15, guaranteed for twenty-four months, is a reasonable price to help keep children safe and give parents peace of mind. Please visit [etrak.com/pta](http://etrak.com/pta) or call (800) 279-1261 to obtain a free device, subscribe to the tracking service, and earn PTA donations.



## Hertz #1 Club Gold®

Enroll and receive expedited service, free rental days and special deals. This service is free to PTA members—(A \$60 savings!). **JOIN NOW!**

We're at the Airport and in your Neighborhood. The world's largest airport general use car rental brand, operating from approximately 8,500 locations in 146 countries worldwide is proud to offer PTA members up to 20% off using discount **CDP# 1929580** every time you reserve.

## Hertz Benefits

Save up to 20% using discount CDP# 1929580  
Special promotions in addition to your discount

## More Savings

**Hertz Special Offers**—Check out the latest deals to use in addition to your discount. Just reserve with your discount **CDP# 1929580** and a Special Offer **PC#** and Save!

Reserve online or call (800) 654-2210.



To become part of the Staples PTA Discount Program just join a local PTA and activate your 2013-2014 PTA Member Card at [www.pta.org/activate](http://www.pta.org/activate)

The world's largest office products company proudly supports individual PTA members and PTA units with an exclusive year-round in-store discount, including:

- 10% off supplies and furniture
- 25% off copy & print
- 5% back in rewards on everything else you buy at Staples (except postage, phone/gift cards and savings passes)
- Free shipping on Staples.com

## **What does it mean to be a member of PTA?**

*By Angela McCormick, Missouri PTA Membership Outreach Chair*

When you are asked to join PTA are you apprehensive to put your name on a form? Are you worried that you are signing up to become a volunteer at every event in your child's school? When you join PTA, you become a part of a strong support group for your school, state and national PTA organizations. Through membership dues, the PTA provides a variety of student-centered opportunities as well as a strong advocacy group for state and national issues pertaining to education and children. Although you are encouraged to get involved in PTA sponsored activities, you are not obligated to volunteer your time when you join PTA. As the saying goes, 'there is strength in numbers'. Your support and your contribution goes a long way in supporting this child advocacy organization.

Your involvement in PTA is completely up to you. You can be a member where you pay a nominal fee to your local PTA unit, which in turn supports your [Missouri PTA](#) as well as [National PTA](#). You can be an informed member where you regularly scope out the Missouri and National PTA websites for upcoming events and most importantly, upcoming [legislative actions](#) within Missouri and on the

National platform. By simply using your email address, you can [sign up](#) for legislative alerts and keep apprised of what is happening within the state of Missouri regarding children and education. You may decide to [contact](#) your state representative based on an alert you received. Finally, you can be an involved member. This includes volunteering for PTA sponsored events within your child's school, helping with a book fair, fundraising or the school musical. Or you can take the plunge like I did and become a [member](#) of the Missouri PTA Board of Managers. Volunteering and involvement in PTA come in varying levels and degrees. You are in control of your level of involvement and your continued support is always appreciated.

Last, but not least, there are perks to joining PTA. National PTA has partnered with several businesses in an effort to provide members with discounts. Businesses include: [AARP](#), [eTrak](#), [Hertz](#), [iFocus](#), [MetLife](#), [Sharp](#), [Staples](#) and [T-Mobile](#). In order to receive these perks, simply activate your card on the [National PTA website](#).

Joining PTA has its lasting benefits and rewards. You are supporting an organization that stands for the education and advocacy of children. With your support we can be "Every Child, One Voice."

### ***What PTA Means to Me...***

PTA means Support, Collaboration, Community and Partnership. The teachers and parents that serve on the PTA are committed to providing assistance to our school in a variety of different ways. The PTA helps coordinate school-wide events and activities, sponsors fundraisers to financially support student activities and field-trips. The PTA provides lunches, dinners and treats for teachers and staff on special occasions and works closely with the building principal to offer assistance whenever needed. The entire staff is grateful to have community members, teachers and parents who willingly volunteer their time to help our students and our school.

LaTanya C. Franklin, Principal  
Conn-West Elementary School

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## TREASURER FAQ'S *By Shelly Throckmorton, Past MOPTA Treasurer*

With the onset of PTA events and activities, questions start to arise regarding treasurer responsibilities, money handling and budgets. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions and answers based on National PTA recommendations.

### **Is a budget required?**

Yes. The budget is an outline of estimated annual income and expenses. It is part of the treasurer's duties to chair the budget committee and prepare a proposed budget. After the budget has been drafted, it should be presented by the treasurer to the PTA board/executive committee for consideration and then to the PTA association for approval. The treasurer presents the proposed budget to the association in writing and explains that budget amounts are estimated. The president asks if there are any questions concerning any item in the budget. If there are none, or after questions have been answered, a member moves to adopt the budget as presented or amended.

### **Can any member of the association ask for a budget to be changed or can it only be changed at a budget meeting?**

Since the budget is only an estimate of the planned expenditures for the year, it may be necessary to amend it. The treasurer should review the budget monthly, compare it to expenditures, and bring a motion mid-year to amend if necessary. The budget may also need to be amended if new programs or projects are approved. Any voting member of the association may make a motion to amend the budget.

### **Are Membership Dues Tax Deductible?**

Dues collected by PTA units are generally tax deductible. The services that a PTA provides to members are intangible and do not provide any direct benefit to specific members or groups of members. Such intangible services include leadership and legislation. These services are generally a benefit to the entire community, regardless of whether all members of the community become members of the PTA.

Please keep in mind: PTA does not dispense tax advice. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to report his income and deductions appropriately. Members or PTAs should consult directly with a tax professional if they believe their circumstances are unusual.

### **Explain "deposit promptly."**

"Promptly." "Immediately." "As soon as possible." The treasurer should not keep cash in her car or home. The deposit should be made the day of the event or collection of money, if at all possible. Two people should bank large deposits after the money has been counted and verified by two people. If a large amount of money is to be collected at a time when the banks are not open, arrangements should be made ahead of time to make a night deposit. Depending upon the community, a police or sheriff escort may be provided on request.

If money cannot be deposited in the bank immediately, establish advance arrangements with the principal to use the school safe. It is recommended the PTA purchase a small safe or lock box to place inside the school safe. Prior to placing money in the school safe, it must be counted by two PTA board members (preferably executive board members). Document the amount and have the documentation signed by the PTA board members. The principal may require that a school representative verify the documentation.

### **What should a PTA do about a NSF (non-sufficient funds) check?**

If your unit has NSF checks occur regularly, the easiest solution is to contact your bank and find out if they provide a NSF Recovery Service. Depending on the bank, this service may be provided free of charge to bank customers or they may be able to recommend a service for your unit.

If your unit chooses to handle the NSF internally, call or write the owner of the check, explain that the check was returned and provide the reason given by the bank. Remember to state that the writer is now liable for whatever fee the bank has charged for the transaction, in addition to the original check amount.

### **If the school has an activity not sponsored by the PTA, can the PTA collect the funds and write checks for the activity on behalf of the school?**

NO. This is called commingling of funds and is illegal. The PTA can help facilitate the activity but all funds must be deposited into the school account. Only monies belonging to the PTA should be deposited and paid from their account.

### **Can the treasurer write an authorized check to themselves?**

Yes, they can write the check to themselves, but it would be prudent that she not sign her own check. It is suggested that PTA's have at least three elected check signers, so this should not cause a problem.

### **If checks should not be made out to "Cash", how do we get cash box change for an event?**

Typically, you will have a chair or officer request change for an event. In accordance with your treasurer procedures, you should get a check request/voucher signed (with details noted) and the check would then be made out to the person requesting the change for the event. They in turn, cash the check to get the denominations needed.

*Con't on next page*

## Treasurer FAQ *Con't from page 9*

If the treasurer is the person assigned to get the change, the check should be made out in the treasurer's name and it's preferable to have the check signed by an alternate signers. Once again, the appropriate paperwork (vouchers, etc) should be filled out with all details noted.

### **Is money provided as change for an event considered an expense?**

No, change should not be considered part of the expense or income of an event. It is suggested that a separate budget line is created specifically for the cash box. This line would have a budgeted zero balance and be used only to issue change. Once the event is over, change should be deposited back into the PTA account in a separate transaction from the event money and debited back to this budget line.

### **Should a Treasurer's Report be given at every meeting?**

YES! It is part of the Treasurer's responsibilities to inform the membership of all financial activities that occur between meetings. The treasurer should make sure they are listed on the meeting agenda and present the financial report in person. If they are unable to be present at the meeting, they should provide the necessary documentation to the Assistant Treasurer or another officer to present. It is not the President's job to give financial reports.

The report should include the following: Date, "As of" Beginning Balance on Hand, Income, Disbursements and "As of" Ending Balance on Hand. Totals should be shown for month, fiscal year-to-date and approved budgeted amount. A report sample may be found in the Treasurer section of the 2013 Tool Kit.

## **Glossary of Financial Terms**

### **990/990EZ:**

IRS forms required annually by the IRS for organizations grossing more than \$50,000. These are informational only and are based on the annual total income of the organization.

### **990-N:**

A PTA that has a total income of \$50,000 or less in gross receipts (which includes all money deposited in your PTA account except the state

and national portions of dues), must file an electronic 990-N (e-postcard) each year with the Internal Revenue Service.

### **Form 1099:**

The IRS form to be used to report payments made to an unincorporated business or individual in the course of trade or business (i.e., performers, custodians, presenters, rents, payments of prizes).

### **Form W-9:**

IRS form used to request taxpayer information so that your PTA may properly report to the IRS payments for services provided to the PTA by independent contractors.

### **ASB:**

Associated Student Body—a structure within a school system that is self-governing. ASB has elected student officers, its own budget and works under the guidance and regulations of a school district.

### **Accounting/Bookkeeping:**

The process of identifying, measuring, recording and communicating the financial information of an organization.

### **PTA Board**

A PTA's board is made up of those individuals, elected or appointed, who are defined by the local unit's bylaws as members of the board.

### **Budget:**

A financial plan for an organization that expresses the goals and objectives (the programs and activities) in terms of income and expenses. The goals of the organization drive the budget.

### **Designated Funds:**

A fund established to set aside money for a specific purpose where there is a need to accumulate money over a period of time.

### **Discretionary Funds:**

Money remaining after an organization has paid its bills and provided needed/required expenses (encumbered funds).

### **Expenses:**

Those transactions where the organization spends money in order to buy or do something.

### **Fiscal Year End Report:**

A summary of all financial activities for the entire fiscal year for each budget line.

### **Financial Review:**

Observation of, inquiry about and/or testing of the financial data, accounting records and legal

documents to verify accuracy.

### **Fiscal Year:**

A 12-month period at the end of which all accounts are completed in order to finish an year-end report for the organization. This report may be used for tax purposes. The fiscal year does not necessarily correspond with a calendar year.

### **Income/Revenue:**

Any amount of money received over a period of time either as payment for work, goods, or services, or as profit on capital (savings account, or CDs).

### **Membership Service Fees:**

The portion of money per member that is collected by PTAs for Missouri PTA, National PTA, and, where applicable, council fees.

### **Net Income:**

The difference between all money received and expended during a given period of time. A net income may be positive or negative.

### **Receipt:**

A written or printed acknowledgement that things such as sums of money have been received by the organization. A duplicate receipt system should be used so both parties have a copy.

### **Restricted Funds:**

Funds that have been set aside because of limitations in their use placed upon them by individuals or agencies outside of the membership or board of the PTA. Legally, the funds must be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor or the advertised purpose of the special event that brought in the associated income.

### **Total Expenses:**

All expenses paid by the organization.

### **Total Income:**

All income from every source before any deductions for expenses. When determining which IRS tax return to file, deduct the membership service fees sent to a council and/or MOPTA from total income, and report total income in the same manner when completing the return.

### **Treasurer's Financial Report/Balance Sheet/Income Sheet:**

A financial statement prepared for a defined time interval (monthly & yearly). This statement summarizes the organization's income and expenses.

**Believe, Dream, Inspire!!!!** *By Michele Reed, Past VP and Director of Programs*



**PTA REFLECTIONS**  
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

What do these words mean to you? Each year children across the state of Missouri and the nations PTA units focus on the words of a given theme to create magical works of art in 6 different art areas, always inspiring us all with their talent.

Missouri PTA is encouraging our units to participate in this year’s Reflections Program. All information can be found on our website under the [Programs -> Reflections –Awards page](#), including the Missouri Local Leaders Guide. This year Missouri PTA will be accepting all digital entries if the units choose to submit in this fashion. Each unit must submit their State winning entries through National PTA’s website, just like they did last year. Units may continue to submit entries as they have in the past. Please be sure that the online submission paperwork is included and attached to the entry when submitting it to Missouri PTA.

All Reflections entries must be submitted to Missouri PTA either digitally or physically by January 16, 2014 at 4:30 PM.

**State PTA...More Time Consuming??**

*By Angie Carey,  
Gateway Regional Director*

If you are reading this article, you and I probably have many things in common. Here are some of the things we may share. I am a mom of two teenage boys who are very active in school, basketball and football (year-round AAU); full-time employment in a busy job with a demanding schedule that requires travel; married and active in my church as well as an integral part of my extended family, VERY active PTA member in the school district we live in. You may say where could I find the time to volunteer more or get involved with Missouri State PTA as a Regional Director? No, I’m not losing my mind, but I would say if you feel the need to help students and have enjoyed sharing your gifts (talents) by your involvement in PTA, the state role of Regional Director is an enjoyable, pragmatic and rewarding way to help your school community through PTA.

Ironically, it has not been more time-consuming. In fact, it has helped me train and bring in new leaders to fulfill the roles I had previously served in locally. Everyone at Missouri State PTA is just as busy as I am, and values “time” OR the “lack of extra time” that we have accomplishing the goals and needs for the children here in Missouri.

We meet quarterly in Columbia, MO and are able to utilize the telephone and/or email contact to accomplish other

important tasks. I became a Regional Director for Missouri PTA in March 2013. I have been provided with lots of online training and a great group of fellow Regional Directors and Missouri State PTA Officers to assist me with any questions I’ve had. The major part of my job is something I was already doing which is helping existing PTA units with organizing, planning and questions about PTA and its various programs. I’ve seen myself as that “cheerleader” of sorts to encourage PTA unit leaders and its’ members to keep doing the important work they are doing. It’s been great to see their successes and the things they have learned. Along the way, I have educating myself further and passing that new information on too.

I will be attending the Emerging Minority Leaders Conference in Washington DC and the Missouri State PTA Convention in Springfield, MO in October where I am excited to learn and share with others in the Gateway Region. Training other parents and community leaders is the best way to help advocate for our children. Volunteering makes a difference in the community; “It’s one of those things that leaves you with a good feeling.” Not only does it make a difference in the community, but it has changed my perspective on what is important in life. It has reminded me that the world is much bigger than me. I would encourage you to consider becoming a Regional Director for Missouri State PTA. If you are already passionate about activities within your local PTA, this role will be a perfect fit. It’s very easy and you would be surprised

at how much it helps the local activities flourish even more. It’s a simple task to me but it really seems to mean so much to the people that I serve by the words of gratitude and emails of thanks, it’s already been a “priceless” experience I will treasure forever. The knowledge and training I’ve learned to help our ever-challenged school system improve promoting parent-engagement not only energizes me but it is rewarding in seeing the improvements and impact PTA makes at a national, state and local level with ordinary people just like you and me.



**NPTA Member Benefits  
MetLife Auto & Home®**

- With MetLife Auto & Home You Can:
- Take advantage of group discounts
  - Receive a discount for bank account deduction
  - Save more with our Multi-Car Discount
  - Choose from a variety of insurance policies to meet your coverage needs

Learn more about the benefits of your group auto insurance program from [MetLife Auto &](#)

MetLife Auto & Home® has partnered with the National PTA to provide members with access to valuable features and benefits, including special group discounts on auto insurance.



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## PTA is Still Relevant

By Brigitte Lindstrom, VP and Director of Communications

From the one room school houses of the past, to the technologically advanced buildings of today, PTA has given a solid foundation for the support and advocacy of children throughout Missouri, and the nation. The work of each member of the PTA is still as important today as it was 100 years ago.

In 1837, Horace Mann introduced “the standardization of public school curricula...this ensured that children could expect the same high-quality education from any school, district-wide” with funding from taxes, according to Kerry Walsh (2013). The movement continues today through the Common Core State Standard Initiative. The goal, as stated by the [National PTA](#), is to set “internationally-benchmarked standards that ensure all students are held to consistent expectations that will prepare them for college and career.”

The first Missouri Congress executive committee meeting was held on April 11, 1912. But work across the state started at an earlier date, according to an excerpt from *Honor, Celebrate, and Imagine*, with the focus on “health and nutrition for children, working to reduce infant mortality, and improve conditions within the nation’s food industry.” Vaccinations and a milk program were an important part of the health and nutrition programs of the PTA. Continued recognition of the need for nutritious programs has brought about healthier lunch choices for students.

Across the nation the safety of children has also been an evolving concern. During World War I, PTA lobbied, and fire escapes and sprinkler systems were installed in schools. PTA is now advocating for the installation of cameras, automatic door locks and safe routes to school. PTA strives to keep students safe to receive the education they deserve. Programs also include [Bullying](#), [Internet Safety](#), [School Violence](#) and [Substance Abuse](#).

The goal of the PTA can be summed up in a statement from the National PTA on their role: “To help shine a spotlight on the important role that families can play in supporting their child’s education...When parents are involved, students have better test scores and higher grades...”

The involvement and duty as a parent, teacher or community member is still relevant today, as we pursue educational excellence across our city, state, and nation. The PTA is a national entity with strength and ideas. The small ripple made at the local level can start a tidal wave to carry an idea throughout the nation. No effort is too small.

For a more detailed account of the history of Missouri PTA, you can purchase the Centennial History of Missouri PTA through the Missouri PTA Shop.

Sources:

Swinger, Pat, *Honor, Celebrate and Imagine A Centennial History of Missouri PTA*. Virginia Beach: Walsworth Publishing Company, 2012.

[National PTA](#)

Walsh, Kerry. “American Public Education: An Origin Story.” *Education News*. April 16th, 2013. Education-news.org.

**Scholarships awarded by Missouri Congress of  
Parents & Teachers to Encourage  
Excellence in Teaching**

*By Pat Higginbotham, Past MO PTA Scholarship Chair*

**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:**

**Caroline B. Ullmann**—established in 1923 to honor Mrs. William Ullmann of Springfield, President of MOPTA at the time.

**Dillard A. Mallory**—established in 1962 by D.A. Mallory, former superintendent of Dallas County R-1 (Buffalo School District). This scholarship is awarded to a student preparing to teach social studies or the humanities.

**Irma G. Detjen**—established in 1967 by Mr. C. Wheeler Detjen in memory of Irma Detjen, President of MOPTA from 1952-1955.

**Helen B. Maupin**—established in 1992 by former trustee and chairman of the Scholarship Program, Helen B. Maupin, as a way to help deserving students become teachers.

Each scholarship provides a stipend of \$500 per year up to a maximum of \$2,000.

**To be eligible, for this award, applicants must:**

1. Be a graduate of or graduating from an accredited Missouri public high school in a school district with at least one PTA/PTSA unit in good standing.
2. Have a higher than average scholastic standing.
3. Have outstanding potential aptitude for teaching, good character, and personality.
4. Show financial need.
5. Enroll in a college or university in Missouri to obtain a Bachelors/ Masters Degree or a community college in Missouri to obtain an Associates of the Arts in Teaching Degree to begin their preparation for teaching.
6. For each two (2) years of assistance, recipient must teach for one year in a public elementary or secondary school (or work in some other capacity as a certified educator).

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**November**

*American Diabetes Month*

*National Homeless Youth Awareness Month*

- 1 Dues to State Office
- 3 Daylight Savings Time ENDS
- 11 Veterans Day
- 21 Thanksgiving
- 21 & 22 MOPTA State Office Closed
- 28 Hanukkah Begins

**December**

- 1 Dues to State Office
- World AIDS Day
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 23-Jan 1 MOPTA State Office Closed
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve

**January 2014**

*National Mentoring Month*

- 1 Dues to State Office
- New Year's Day
- 2 MOPTA State Office Reopens
- Martin Luther King Day
- 16 Reflections Submissions Due to State Office by 4:30pm

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

In December, of each year, an information packet and application form is sent to all Missouri public schools with at least one PTA/PTSA unit in the school district in good standing—ONLY one application is accepted from each school. The postmark deadline to apply is February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**NPTA Member Benefits**

**Focus Education, creator of ifocus**

*ifocus* is a multi-award winning attention training system for children ages 6-12. Using the Jungle Rangers computer game as its centerpiece, *ifocus* is the fun and scientific way to improve attention, focus, and memory, and is supported with behavioral, nutrition, and fitness components that encourage family engagement. Visit [www.JungleRangersChallenge.com](http://www.JungleRangersChallenge.com) to learn more about how school fundraising, family savings, and student achievement is possible with just one program—*ifocus*.



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## Missouri PTA Officers

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How  
We  
May  
Help  
You

**WE WANT TO SEE YOUR  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS....**

Who will accept  
the challenge?



***Foothills? Gateway? Heritage? Mark Twain Meramec? Ozark? Pony  
Express? Three Trails?***

Send your PTA stories and/or photos to the **CONTACT** magazine and  
show the other Missouri PTA units what **YOUR UNIT** is all about!!!!

#### **NPTA Member Benefits**

# **SHARP.**

Sharp supports National PTA members and their work to improve the lives of students and educators throughout the country by donating electronics to support their efforts. Sharp Electronics Corporation is the U.S. subsidiary of Japan's Sharp Corporation. Recently celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year, Sharp is a worldwide developer of one-of-a-kind home entertainment products, appliances, networked multifunctional office solutions, educational products, LED lighting and mobile communication and information tools. Leading brands include AQUOS<sup>®</sup> Quattron™ LCD televisions, AQUOS BOARD™ interactive display systems, SharpVision<sup>®</sup> projectors, Insight<sup>®</sup> Microwave Drawer<sup>®</sup> ovens, Notevision<sup>®</sup> multimedia projectors and Plasmacluster<sup>®</sup> air purifiers.

National PTA gratefully acknowledges Sharp's most recent contribution of a 60" flat screen LCD television to the 2013 National PTA Convention Passport Challenge Prize Pool.