

Should this cover the address?

CONTACT



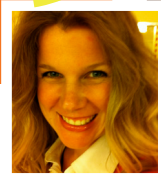
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Mistakes Happen

Remember to add front cover picture here



I think we've all been there. We start with the best intentions and then something goes wrong. Maybe it's a volunteer that doesn't show, maybe it's realizing our plans were too ambitious or maybe it's a mistake that no planning could have prevented. Whatever it is – things are going to go wrong at some point during the year – and you have a chance to do something about it.

Think about how you'll react when you're not in the moment. Sometimes I think about frustrating situations so I can plan out a helpful, resolutions-based answer before I'm stressed and things are falling apart. I learned this when I worked in retail and it's served me well to this day. When you know how to calmly and maturely react to a situation – in your school, in your PTA, in your life – you set the pace to empower others to do the same. They may not like it when they're riled up, but they'll respect your mature decisions (eventually) and it will be the best results for our kids.

Plan for success. I've tackled some pretty big projects in my day. See, I really like taking something dysfunctional and systematically working to make significant, positive progress. I lovingly call these projects my "hot mess." But I realize not everyone is like me. These situations stress other people out. Here is the advice I'd give to you and anyone that feels like they've got a big hot mess on their hands. Break it into small pieces. I had a friend show me how it's done this summer and I was impressed! We weren't sure that he would be able to raise \$13,000 in one summer for a new playground fence at our elementary school. He showed us that small pieces make a big difference. See, you can write letters to share with businesses. You can call your school planning board to get on their schedule. You can ask parents to support your cause. When you break your big, overwhelming task (like a new fence) into small, bite-sized pieces, you're already well on your way to having a more successful outcome. Yes, we got that new fence. And because of that, I know you can do it too, seriously, you can do this.

Remember why you started. Remember when you were super excited to join PTA and you were ready to change the world? Guess what? The world still needs you. We still need you. Our kids still need you. If you feel bogged down by the red tape, the bickering parents and the overwhelming failure, just remember why you started. Success isn't always an obvious path and it's certainly not easy. Working through mistakes takes work, effort and energy. But remember, you started because the world still needs you, we still need you and our kids still need you. What you are doing matters.

You will make mistakes, things will go wrong and you'll want to quit a thousand times before you succeed. We've all been there. And because we've all been there, we know that it takes a support system to make it through – like the thousands of parents in Missouri that support our children every day. Together we're stronger and we'll make it through. We'll all be better on the other side. Together.

Andrea Battaglia
Editor, MoPTA Contact Magazine

What To Do When Things Don't Go Right

Coffee Stains?!? What happened here?



Use the Power of Parents to fight underage drinking

Mothers Against Drunk Driving Missouri is pleased to announce a new community-based underage drinking prevention program available in our state. Based on scientifically proven results from research conducted by Dr. Robert Turrisi and his colleagues from Pennsylvania State University, MADD has created a parent handbook to provide guidance to parents of teenagers and middle schoolers for communicating with their kids about alcohol. Why parents? Research shows that 74% of kids say their parents are the leading influence on their decisions about drinking alcohol. And alcohol kills more teenagers than all other illegal drugs combined.

The handbook will be given to parents at 30-minute workshops located throughout the community by certified MADD staff and volunteer facilitators. There will be no charge to parents.

If you are interested in learning more about holding program presentations in your community, please contact Missouri Program Specialist Emily Schell at emily.schell@madd.org or 314-426-1595, ext. 2964.

MADD Missouri website:
<http://www.madd.org/local-offices/mo/>

Power of Parents website:
<http://www.madd.org/underage-drinking/the-power-of-parents/>

POWER of PARENTS

madd™

Are these active hyperlinks yet?

Please participate in the ACT Missouri Parent Survey!

Parents – if you have students in grades 6-12, please complete a survey to measure parents' attitudes, opinions, and concerns regarding substance use and other important issues affecting teens in your community.

The results of this survey will be used to influence public policy in regard to drug and alcohol use among Missouri's youth as well as to guide programs and inform interventions.

<http://surveys.missouri.edu/parents>

It is confidential and anonymous. Your answers will help prevention programming in Missouri. It's that easy to make a difference.

Move this picture up,
it seems too low



Honorary Presidents

by Dr. Leonard M. Young, MOPTA Parliamentarian

Recently the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) took action at its biennial convention to designate Mr. Henry M. Robert III as an honorary president of NAP. Mr. Robert is the grandson of General Henry M. Robert, the original author of Robert's Rules of Order in 1876. Henry M. Robert III has been the senior author of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) since 1970 and has presided over five editions of the noted manual on parliamentary procedure.


In order to do this, NAP had to amend their bylaws to provide a process for establishing honorary officers. The 11th Edition of RONR states the following on pages 463 and 464 about having honorary officers:

HONORARY OFFICERS (AND MEMBERS). An honorary office is in fact not an office but—like honorary membership—a complimentary title that may be bestowed on members or nonmembers. When it is desired to honor a nonmember, it is more usual to elect such a person to honorary membership. An honorary officer—for example, an honorary president or an honorary treasurer—is often elected at the time of retirement from the corresponding actual office, particularly when the person has filled it creditably for a long time. If there are to be honorary officers or honorary members, they must be authorized by the bylaws. Like an honorary degree conferred by a college or university, an honorary office or membership is perpetual—unless rescinded or unless its duration is limited by the bylaws. Rights carried with the honor include the right to attend meetings and to speak, but not to make motions or vote unless the person is also a regular member, or unless the bylaws provide full membership rights. Honorary presidents and vice-presidents should sit on the platform, but they do not preside. An honorary office entails no duties and in no way conflicts with a member's holding a regular office or being assigned any duty whatever.

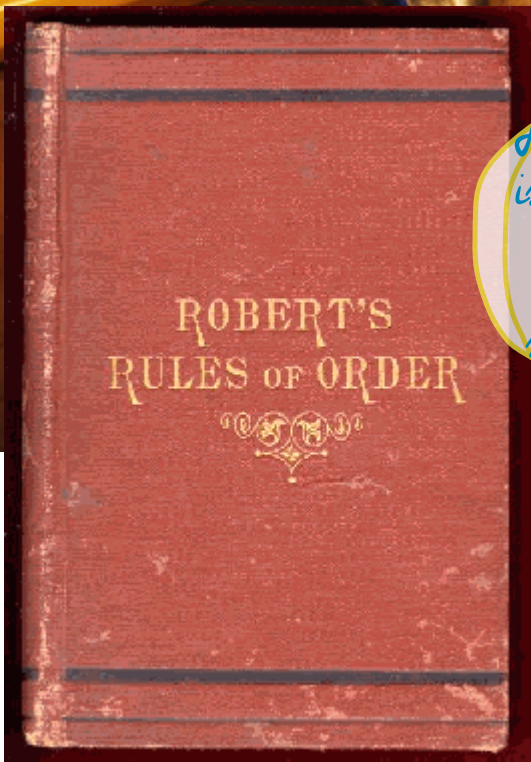
It is not improper to include in the published list of honorary officers the names of those who are deceased, if that fact is clearly indicated.

The NAP convention amended its bylaws to include a provision for honorary officers by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote on the recommendation of the Board of Directors. Following this amendment's adoption, the assembly unanimously adopted a resolution designating Mr. Robert an honorary president of NAP.

Honorary presidency has only been conferred previously once in NAP's history. In 1947 Dr. Silas W. Longon was designated an honorary president of NAP. Dr. Longon was one of the original founders of NAP in 1930 and the only one of them never to actually serve as president of NAP. This process of creating the office of honorary president and designating someone to hold that role should not be overused in ordinary societies like PTA. Such an honor might be conferred on someone who has given extraordinary service to the organization without ever having actually served as president. The action by NAP is an example of parliamentary procedure being used to honor an individual who has been a leader in the parliamentary profession.



This picture is great to show bylaws are a tool for organizations, should there be something that relates the picture more with the story?



Highlight that this is the First Edition from 1876 (Note the diamond shape on the cover.)

Don't make a rookie mistake! Why you need bylaws

By Carla Wiese
State Resources & Bylaws Chair

Why is it a good idea to update or even have bylaws? Bylaws that are up to date protect the long-term integrity of your PTA Unit from unforeseen problems in the future. It is the how and why of your PTA. Bylaws are impersonal; they take emotions out of the operations of the unit by setting important rules down in writing. When confronted with a dilemma, your PTA members can refer to their bylaws so decisions are made in the best interest of your Unit, not influenced by personal issues. The bylaws transcend individual members, so there is consistency from year to year.

Did you know your Unit's bylaws must be reviewed and updated with Missouri PTA every three years? To start, appoint a bylaw review committee that would then be in charge of reviewing and making suggestions for changes (or no changes) to your PTA Unit. These changes would then be voted on by the general assembly of your PTA and a copy electronically submitted to Missouri PTA for review and approval. Often times Units are not able or unsure of their most current bylaws. Missouri PTA will have your most recent bylaws on file and will be able to send them to your review committee. Missouri PTA also offers a template so you can be certain your Unit has all the latest necessary bylaw items from National and Missouri PTA.

Why would we need bylaw revisions? Bylaws should change to meet the changing needs of your unit. Regular review of your Bylaws insures they are working in the best interest of your Unit. Consider whether they really reflect how your PTA does business. Identify potential amendments (whether additions or removals) that can be addressed and bring the changes before your General Assembly for a vote. Once the revisions have been approved you will need to again submit you bylaws to Missouri PTA for approval. Just remember the revision will not take the place nor change the date of your three-year review.

Remember, PTA bylaws are fairly standard and don't need to be terribly complex. They should be written in language anyone can understand. They should also be broad in scope as to not describe items with minute detail that is what your Standing Rules address. Standing Rules will be the topic of another article coming soon. If you have questions please contact Missouri PTA State Procedures and Bylaws Chair Carla Wiese, carlaw@mopta.org.

My Recent Failures & The Lessons I've Learned

By Andrea Battaglia, Editor of Contact Magazine, adapted from andreabcreative.com "My Recent Failures & Lessons"

I can count the major things I've given up on in my life on one hand. Yes, that's right. I have a problem—I don't know when to call it quits. But I did something yesterday that really surprised me. In a ridiculous situation I said to myself, "Enough is Enough!" and quit.

Here's what I've learned through the years about giving up. Use my life lessons to save yourself from the same mistakes I've made.

Learn to say No. It's hard, if not impossible, for me to say no to anything. I love to be in the mix of action! And because I regularly need help with this life lesson, I have this quote taped to my work computer, so I see it every day:

Can we bold this quote more?

"We should cultivate the ability to say no to activities for which we have no time, no talent, and which we have no interest or real concern. If we learn to say no to many things, then we will be able to say yes to the things that matter most."

—Roy Blauss

I've learned when I say no, it gets easier. The more I say no, or don't volunteer, for things I'm not really interested in, I have much more time to devote to things I want to do.

Enlist the help of others. I need to make some difficult decisions this season. I can't do everything for everyone and I have to prioritize what is the best use of my time. I've asked a co-worker to help me make a few of these important decisions. I know I need someone to call me out when I'm being ridiculous and help me stay on track. It's going to be tough now, but it will make my life easier later.

I've learned that it's often easier to assess what others need to do. So if you let the right people help you, you'll probably make more progress than trying to make changes on your own.

Notice how you're feeling. A few years ago, I forgot my running jacket. No big deal, it was supposed to be pretty warm outside. But when I started running, it wasn't. I got halfway through my run and it started to rain. Freezing cold, big drops of rain. And I gave up. I debated for half a lap and confirmed—I was done. It may not seem like much, but it is the first time in two years that I haven't finished a run. I've run my route more than 400 times (2000 miles) and never given up, until that day. And guess what, I felt ok about it. I was cold, I don't like running in the pouring rain and I was done.

I've learned it's fine to give yourself a break. But you can't use this as a regular excuse. My give-up record is now 1/400.

Don't sacrifice your health or happiness. When I was in college, I was a poor college student and earning money seemed like a good idea. One summer, I was promoted at my summer pool job to full-time. And I still had my college retail job. And I joined the local gym. So I'd work 8 hours a day, five days a week at the pool. I'd work 8 hours a day, two

days a week at my college retail job and I'd workout for an hour five days a week. I did this for 100 days straight (the whole summer). And you guessed it, I was the sickest I've ever been for three weeks—I couldn't move, I barely ate and I was dizzy the whole time. In the end, the money wasn't worth it. Take care of yourself (and learn from my mistakes).

I've learned not to ignore my body and have begun to schedule breaks into my professional life. I know I need them. And you do too. Make sure you have time to recover, you'll be better for it.

Realize your limitations. When I was in college, I quit a student organization that I didn't have time for. I was burned out and I'd debated on quitting everything for months, but settled for the one that was the most stressful and time-consuming. I blundered the resignation, but it was a defining, haunting moment for me. I still think about this group regularly and am simultaneously disappointed and relieved about my decision. Realize what you can do and what you can't. You can't do everything, but you can do some things.

I learned that it isn't easy to make decisions like this, but you have to do what is best for you. And now, when a someone comes to me and is upset because they've realized their limitations, I'm able to help them through the situation: "Yes, I'll still like you if you quit. Yes, it seems like you're learning what is best for you. Yes, this will be hard, but it will be better for you in the end."

Protect your personal time. Your "off" time is just as important as your on time. You need a break and you need to make it a priority. I know, I've been living a non-stop life for too long. I've been spending my days running from one meeting to the next, double-scheduling appointments, eating lunch on the go and coming in early/staying late just to have some alone time. And it's not working, I'm frustrated and I'm not at my best.

I've learned that down time, especially alone time, is not just important, it's essential. If you have to, schedule in rest so you make it a priority.

You can't win them all. Ever met a toxic person? I've met some real losers in my life and I've let some of them ruin my day, my experience and my life for too long. When I was younger, I was afraid to confront the problem—I thought it was impolite. And now, after years of experience, I've realized that I can't change them—but I can address the situation and I am allowed to share my opinion or stop theirs.

I've learned you can't change others. They have to change themselves. Sometimes you can help them and sometimes you have to walk away.

You'll have good days and bad days and you'll realize, if you haven't already, that there are times to keep going and there are times to let it go. We've all been there or are headed that way. Learn from your mistakes so that you can help others shine on their good days and survive their bad. We're all in this together.

My Spookiest Situation

By Christine Kent
MoPTA Healty/Safety Chair
Three Trails Region

I would have to say that the spookiest or scariest situation that I have encountered recently was the Back to School Teacher Breakfast that we were having catered in by a food chain. The principal of the school was working with one of the stores already and had placed the order for our PTSA unit to furnish. Everything was working out smoothly until two days before the event to take place, I went up to the local food chain to pay in advance for the event.

Then it happened.....I was told that they had no order. Dun, dun, dun! They had remembered seeing a breakfast order come in but couldn't find it now.

After several phone calls, and luckily I found the email that had all of the items and quantities listed on my phone, we were able to put the order back on the books and all was right with the world once again.



Aisha Faulkner
MoPTA Regional Director
Gateway Region



My Grandma's Famous Soup

Ingredients

- 9 chicken drum sticks (skinned)
- 4 medium potatoes (cut into quarters)
- 1 medium onion (chopped finely)
- 1 fresh tomato (chopped)
- 1 can whole kernel corn (drained)
- 1 can sliced carrots (drained)
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 3/4 tsp minced garlic
- 3/4 tsp minced
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- Salt to taste
- Jalapeno

Directions

Put all ingredients in crock pot, add 2 cups of water and 1 cup chicken broth, cook for 4 hours or until chicken and potatoes are tender. You can make this on stove top for a shorter time. You can use fresh veggies too. (If I have a fever, I normally add 1 tsp of lemon juice in my bowl).

Remember to add Aisha's comment to this recipe

This soup is great when you are sick, tired or run out of options. You can add noodles, serve over rice or eat as is.

How to be a State Legislative Chair

By Dorothy Gardner, President-Elect

When I first took on the position of local legislative chair I had no idea what I was really suppose to report during a meeting. Sure I read through the Legislative Handbook and could pass that information along to my unit members but when it came to current action I was at a loss. The Legislative Department, as part of our service to you, developed a 'how to be a legislate chair' guide. You can also get a short overview of Legislation and Advocacy with our Legislative Flyer. Additionally, we have provided you with monthly Suggested Legislative Reports (Sept – May) you are welcome to utilize for giving your own Legislative report. But always feel free to contact any of us in the Legislative Department if you need current information right away or have any questions.

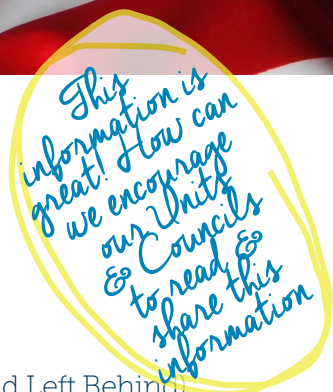
The report is divided into four sections.

- Local – The key here is information pertaining to legislative events/activities in your own local area. For instance school board elections, bond and levy ballot items, local Town Halls or meetings with legislators, a resolution your unit or council is authoring, mock elections for students, voter registration tables, local situations for which your unit or council is taking action on.
- State – These are legislative happenings at the state level, primarily action being taken in Jefferson City. This section encompasses current bills being watched by MOPTA that relate back to our Resolutions and positions. How bills are written and what we can speak to on a state level guides what bills we decided to take a position on, either for or against. A list of these bills can be found on the website under Legislation-Capital Chatter. If you ever have a question as to why a bill was or was not included in our watch list please let us know. Just because a proposed bill pertains to child welfare or education doesn't mean it falls under our mission, position or membership approved Resolutions.
- National – National PTA has a very active Legislative department working all year long to keep abreast of actions/events taking place at our country's capitol. National PTA develops an annual Legislative Public Policy agenda. This is used as a guide for advocacy actions throughout the year. In addition they closely watch congress's actions, using the PTA mission, positions and national resolutions as a guide for developing positions for or against.
- Advocate – Our goal here is to provide simple ways members can actively advocate. For many how to take action as an advocate is daunting. The aim here is to point out easy ways members can actively be advocates

Our goal is to provide you with the information and skills needed to empower others to become advocates for our children. Kids don't vote but are greatly impacted by laws and regulations. This is one way that makes us uniquely different from PTO. We focus on every child, all children, regardless of what school they attend or in what part of the country they live.

ESEA reauthorization & PTA Advocacy

By Dorothy Gardner, President-Elect



PTA has been working for years to make sure family engagement is included in ESEA (No Child Left Behind) reauthorization. Often when education is debated and discussed the topic of where families fit into that picture never makes it to the table. This is despite the well established fact that engaged parents have a significant positive impact on a child's education. PTA volunteers from across the country and PTA legislative staff in D.C. spent the last three years first laying the groundwork and then pushed hard to make sure the parent aspect was not left behind.

It all started with a PTA crafted bill entitled the Family Engagement in Education Act (FEE). Three years ago PTA approached members of congress to sponsor the bill knowing if adopted this bill could supply framework within reauthorization of the ESEA. Specific Senators were targeted as sponsors. One of those Senators was Senator Blunt. Being the VP of Legislation at that time it fell on my shoulders to learn this bill and then personally ask the Senator to sign on. Have you ever pitched a bill to a Senator? Let me tell you it's scary. I didn't get much sleep the night before our meeting in D.C.

I went into that meeting ready and well practiced. You don't know how many times the rest of our group listened to me rehearse my pitch. The meeting began but Senator Blunt was not present. While a bit disappointed, I'll also admit I was relieved to just be conversing with his Legislative Assistant. Then, halfway through the meeting the Senator walked through that door and told me he didn't have a lot of time but he wanted to make sure he heard what he could do for us. I jumped up and gave my well-rehearsed speech. The Senator listened and then asked me questions – specific questions. But I was ready – I had done my homework and PTA staff had well prepared me. Did the Senator sign on – no. He said he'd think about it and that was the last we heard. Sure this wasn't the result we wanted but what we didn't know then was we laid the groundwork for the future.

2014 we again met with Senator Blunt and once again I was charged with asking him to sponsor. He remembered me and again asked me specific detailed questions. Suddenly, Senator slapped his hand on the table and said "I'll sign". Our group had a hard time containing our excitement the rest of the day on the hill. This little group of parent volunteers had made a difference. However, congress became steeped in gridlock and nothing much more came of the bill.

Just this last March we again traveled to D.C. to raise our voices for family engagement. This year was different. Congress had changed and there was a feeling ESEA reauthorization would be tackled. Senator Blunt's role in the Senate had also changed. He now served on the powerful Appropriations committee. Congress can pass all the bills they want but if Appropriations doesn't earmark funding in most cases the bills become moot. Again it was my job to pitch the bill and I'll say before going into the meeting I felt pretty at ease. After all this was my third go around and the Senator, recognizing us in the hallway on his way into the office, even stopped to say hello and tell us he was looking forward to our meeting. But this meeting was not like the others. This time the Senator had not only his education Legislative Assistant with him but also several other members of this staff including his Chief Legislative Assistant for Appropriations. Due to the Senator's role on the Appropriations committee it would be a conflict for him to sponsor the bill but he wanted to see if he could support the measures we were asking. In particular we were asking for the inclusion of Statewide Family Engagement Centers. These centers would fund grant-based programs designed to meet the needs of specific communities. It would be up to the states to appoint the structure to select and oversee the programs awarded the grants. In short the federal government supplied the funding but local control took it from there.

The creation of Statewide Family Engagement Centers was not included in the original reauthorization act passed by the senate HELP committee. It was an amendment brought before and passed by the senate on the floor. There were many in experts in the education field who really doubted this amendment would succeed. But it did. It did because PTA put in the time, effort, and passion to make it happen. We reached out and met with our members of congress. And then those meetings were followed by calls and emails from PTA members all across the country. WE made a difference. No other parent organization group advocates for all children like we do. This is the PTA way. This is the PTA difference.



PTA Legislation & Advocacy Basics

By Dorothy Gardner, President-Elect

When volunteers sign up for roles in PTA the majority of individuals shy away from the legislative chair position. There is a misconception one needs a background in law or politics to understand this position. And while basic knowledge in the political process can help (just as a background in accounts helps if you're treasurer) it's not necessary. PTA's roots are cemented in advocacy. We've been grass roots advocates for over 100 years. **PTA has developed tools and resources to help you be the legislative voice for your unit.**

Legislative chair basics:

- Give legislative updates at meetings and in newsletters
- Pass along Action Alerts and encourage members to act
- Encourage members to register to vote and then vote during elections
- Organize town halls, candidate forums/informational questionnaires, and voter registrations

That pretty much sums up the local legislative chair roll. Sounds simple but just where does one find out what legislative updates to pass along and how the heck does one even go about organizing something like a town hall. This is where MOPTA and National PTA provide the tools and support structure.

Missouri PTA Legislative Department basics:

- Develop the state legislative platform for the upcoming legislative session
- Track Missouri bills, testify before legislative committees, and issue action alerts
- Develop Legislative Handbook, Resolution Handbook, and guides on organizing town halls and candidate forums/questionnaires
- Publish articles in CONTACT and a monthly (Sept-May) legislative report
- Networks with other state organization and coalitions
- Promotes state resolutions and positions

National PTA Legislative Department basics:

- Develops the PTA federal policy
- Tracks federal bills, appropriations, regulations, reauthorization process and issues action alerts
- Meets with members of congress and testifies before congressional committees
- Networks with other national organizations and coalitions
- Develops tools and guides on how to be a successful advocate

In PTA no one is an island instead we are a network designed to support the work that matters the most – speaking up for every child.



Marilyn Aikins
MoPTA Reflections
Chair, Three Trails
Region

Years involved in PTA and Board of Managers:

9 years with PTA (many years ago), 6 months on Board of Managers

Kids: Andrea 36, Ben, 34. Laurie, 31 and grandkids Brady 8, Beckett 6.

Why you believe PTA is important? As a liaison to advocate for the children with the schools. So much more can be accomplished when loving, caring parents and other adults work together for the well being and education of the children. It is so important for those of us who can to step in the gap for those children who might not have strong parental support.

Why you got involved in BOM? Daughter, Andrea, thought it would be good for the PTA as well as myself to bring my skill set to the table.

What do you do on the board? State reflections chair
Something interesting you've done this year. Assisted Susan Rupert with the state PTA convention reflections showcase 3 months into my tenure!

Advice you'd give to others: Seize the day, live your life while you are on the earth, not merely exist; make a difference. Help those around you do the same.

Favorite book, movie, band, TV show: I do not watch tv, a choice I have made to guard my heart. Love the classic movies of Jane Austin books, Sherlock Homes. Christian radio - Group, Casting Crowns for their insightful thought provoking songs.

Favorite food: Green grapes and watermelon

Something that makes you stand out: Caring nature; love children

Healthy Living Tip: Eat right and exercise enough so you feel well enough to seize the days!

Describe yourself in 3-5 words: smart, artistic, caring, teacher, thoughtful

What are you learning this year? How to love and help students of privilege to "right" their lives and have a bright future as future leaders in our world.

Anything else you want to share?

Join your PTA and get involved in helping to make your local schools thrive from the inside out; so many little trusting faces are depending on you to help them safely navigate their often not so nurturing world. Join even if you are the grandparent or aunt, friend or retired with no one who needs you. We need you!

Meet Your MoPTA Board of Managers Members

Darken this gold color, it's a little hard to read

#Years involved in PTA and BOM: It was 1992 that I actually join my first PTA. I became a Board of Manager Regional Director in 2008.

Kids names & ages: Darlene 50 yrs., David Jr. 44 yrs., and Crystal 29 yrs.old and Grandkids, Ashley 29 and Anya 10.

Why you believe PTA is important?: PTA is the only group who advocates for all children at National level in Washington. Collectively as members of PTA we give one strong voice for all children & youths.

Why did you get involved in Board of Managers? I've been involved with my local PTA for many years and as I attended PTA conventions each year I found myself wanting to help other PTA units, so I filled out a talent bank for a positions and was accepted to be a Regional Director for my region.

Something interesting you've done this year: I have volunteered at my local food pantry. To me it was like continuing on what I like to do and that's serve as a volunteer.

Advice you have given to others: Enjoy what you do with your life no matter what it is. Always treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Favorite books, movie, band, TV shows: Too many to mention. I like short stores. Any movies with a good story and happy endings. Love all kinds of music.

Favorite food: Fried Chicken

Describe yourself in three words: Honest, trustworthy, kind

What are you learning this year? The old saying you learn something new every day. Its true with me, there is not a day that goes by I have not learned something new.

I'd like to share just this: Thanks to PTA I feel I have become a better rounded person in life. With all the speakers, workshops and just the meeting of new people, PTA continues the make my life a rewarding one.



Pat Higginbotham
MoPTA Parent Engagement
& Involvement Chair,
Gateway Region

Keeping Families Together



By **Nathan R. Monell, CAE**, the executive director of National PTA and a proud father of two public school students.

One of National PTA's founding principles is to advocate for children and families who are most vulnerable. In the heated debate about immigration, we raise our voice for the estimated 4 million K-12 students in the United States who have at least one parent with the potential of being deported. (Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends)

If these parents and family members are suddenly uprooted from their children's lives and deported, it will have a significant negative impact on their children's education and opportunities. Their children will face not only the emotional loss of their primary support, but also the benefits of having families engaged in their education and other aspects of their lives, which result in a greater likelihood of graduating from high school, attending college and being employed.

It is not hard to put ourselves into the shoes of these families and to imagine the horrors that are being talked about so cavalierly. I know if I were to be snatched away by authorities, the trajectory of my 10 and 12 year-old would be forever changed. And if they lived under that threat every day, the emotional stress would adversely impact every aspect of their lives, including their potential for academic success. Yet, this is a reality for millions of children every day.

The threat to families is not just in the evolving rhetoric. In 2013, the federal government deported more than 72,000 mothers and fathers of children who are U.S. citizens, resulting in thousands of shattered families.

Actress Diane Guerrero of "Orange Is the New Black" was one such child and she wrote about how that deportation impacted her life. At 14, she came home from school to find that both of her parents had been deported. With few options, she was fortunate enough to be taken in by friends. However, her parents missed many of her academic and personal accomplishments during her childhood and were not there to provide valuable support. While Guerrero has succeeded despite this distressing experience, many children are less fortunate.

Deportation of parents can lead to greater expense as some children may need to enter the under-resourced foster care system. The trauma may cause some children to understandably lash out with negative behavior in school or possibly end up in the juvenile justice system without the support of their parents. These types of cruel deportations led one New Mexico judge to state, "For 10 years now, I've been presiding over a process that destroys families every day and several times each day."

If students are more likely to do better in school and life when they have involved families, and the documented benefits of our nation's immigrants far exceed the costs of their presence and participation, then policymakers should provide solutions that benefit our nation's diverse and talented youth and their families, not harm them.

At National PTA, our motto is "Every Child, One Voice." When you know our families as I do, you know that many of their children are on their way to be doctors, teachers, social workers, entrepreneurs and other valued members of our society. We raise our voice for the children of immigrants--let's give them the best opportunity to succeed by keeping their families together and providing them with the best education possible. Their future and our nation's future depend on it.

My Best PTA Memory by Lisa Patrick

The best memory I have of a PTA activity was, when I was in elementary school. The PTA would sponsor a carnival every year for our school. It was so much fun as a child and I could not wait for it to happen each year. The carnival consisted of a cake walk, musical chairs and over thirty plus carnival booth games. They had lots of food, snow cones and cotton candy.

My mom and dad would volunteer at one of the booths. They would purchase tickets for my sister and I to use at the carnival. We would win different prizes at each booth.

Then when my kids were old enough to go to school, I joined the PTA. The PTA decided to host a Fall Funfest which consisted of a carnival. It brought back so many fun memories of school. It was fun to build memories with my kids doing the same type of activity I did as a child.

I hope some day my kids will have fond memories like I do of the activities organized by the PTA.



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, November 5th

GENERAL MEETING

6pm-8pm

KICKAPOO HIGH SCHOOL

SPRINGFIELD COUNCIL OF PTAs

will host a Legislative Rally with State and Federal Representatives. Students of the PTSA will have a chance to ask questions along with our teachers and parents. Don't miss your chance to be heard!

Childcare and Food Provided

Congratulations to our Newest Units!

Abraham Mallinson Elementary PTA, Independence, MO, Three Trails Region

Newburg PTA, Newburg, MO, Meramec Region

Prarie Branch Elementary, Grain Valley, MO Three Trail Region



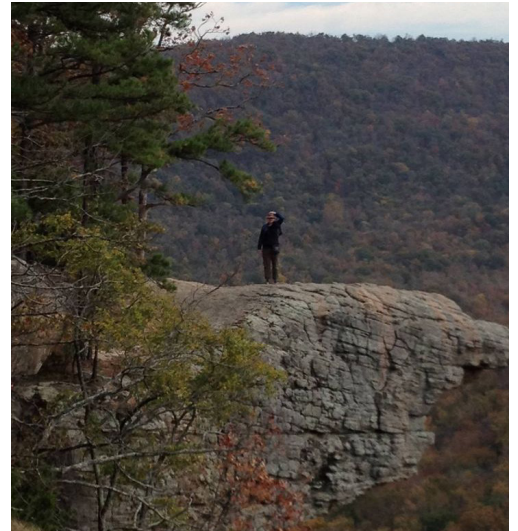
Donna Petiford · 1 year ago
 The first floor of the capitol houses the Missouri State Museum, with exhibits detailing the state's cultural and natural history. But that's not the only place to find interesting artifacts, including Thomas Hart Benton's murals of everyday Missouri life. (I've been to the capital a few times)!



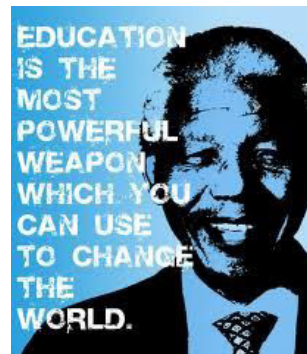
My favorite **pins** this month

Donna Petiford

PTA Immediate Past President,
 Scholarship Chair - Ozarks Region



Donna Petiford · 46 weeks ago
 Hawksbill Crag, near Boxley, AR. 3 miles r/t. What a view!





Apply for a MoPTA Board of Managers position today!



Missouri PTA Board of Managers Opportunities to join the state board now available

The Missouri PTA Board of Managers support Missouri PTA operations and initiatives and many **Board of Managers members work closely with our officers and membership to serve as a valuable resource for PTA units and councils in Missouri.** As opportunities arise, members throughout the state with interest in serving as a Missouri PTA Board of Managers member are encouraged to complete the Talent Bank Interest Form and submit it to Missouri PTA. Prospective members of the State of Board of Managers should support National and Missouri PTA positions and programs. It is helpful for applicants to have held an elected office in a council or local unit.

We'd love to consider you! Apply for a Missouri PTA Board of Managers position: Complete the MoPTA Talent Bank Interest Form found at <http://mopta.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2015-Talent-Bank-Fillable.pdf> and email it to office@mopta.org with any supplemental or supporting documents you'd like to include. The MoPTA Executive Board will review your application and contact you about the remaining steps in the process.

Lets share that open positions and the forms needed are listed on the website. www.mopta.org

