



YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S BEST THERAPIST AND ADVOCATE.

PTA Vision: Making Each Child's Potential A Reality

PTA Mission: PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for all families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

The Purpose of PTA is to

promote the welfare of the 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 close relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth; to

develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

Carla Wiese | Missouri PTA VP Legislation & Advocacy | carlaw@mopta.org

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Now that the 2016 election season is winding down it is tempting to sit back and focus our attention away from what is happening in Washington D.C. and Jefferson City. We have been watching one of the meanest campaigns most of us can remember. Sadly our children have seen this. I know I have had many conversations around the dinner table with my four children about the campaigns and the implications for our future. I am sure many of you have had like conversations with your children. Often the behavior and accusations have been things that as Americans we are not proud of. We have been divided and not "One Nation." I believe that we are better than what we have seen.

As we naturally shift our attention back to our home and families in preparations for the holiday season I want to encourage you all to stay motivated. SB 641 and SB 1025 were passed into law overriding the veto of Governor Nixon. These will cost education and other vital programs up to 58 million dollars in tax retributions. With the passage of these two bills the budget that has already been passed by the Missouri Legislature and approved by Governor Nixon is no longer balanced. The gaps in funding created by these are causing the funding for education in both elementary, secondary and college to be drastically cut. This comes at a time when many school districts across the state are struggling to fund education. As you know, Missouri ended the 2016 budget year on June 30th with general revenue collections well below the estimate. Decreased revenue then prompted the Governor to restrict state spending for critical services including for early education, k-12 schools transportation, and programs for Missourians with disabilities and more. At the National level the Department of Education has also seen dramatic cuts to the 2017 budget. The Statewide Family Engagement Centers PTA has been working for were not funded. Education is truly reaching a crisis point in the US.

So please, for our most valuable resource, stay motivated. Keep in contact with your legislators. We will be working with both parties to make sure the mission of PTA is not forgotten. I believe the things that unite us are so much more than what divides us. Let's work together to create a future for our children better than the one we have now. I know we can do it! Please stay involved and advocating for the children of MO and the US.



Today 🔨 🕨 Tuesday, November 1 🔻

Print Week Month Agenda

Tuesday, November 8

Election Day

Thursday, December 1

Unit Financial Paperwork Due to State

Saturday, December 17

Reflections Entries due to MOPTA

Friday, April 28, 2017

MOPTA Convention

Saturday, April 29, 2017

MOPTA Convention

Sunday, April 30, 2017

MOPTA Convention

Missouri PTA Calendar

Looking for ideas or topics for a PTA Event or meeting? Check out the Missouri PTA website calendar. We have added some National Awareness Weeks and some fun days, too! Visit <u>https://mopta.org/</u> <u>moptacalendar/</u> for the full list.

Unit in Good Standing fiscal year-end report, annual financial review, and copy of IRS filing due to state office December 1, 2016 Take Your Family to School Week February 13-17, 2017

Founder's Day February 17, 2017

National PTA Legislative Conference March 7-9, 2017

National Volunteer Week April 23-29, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week May 1-5, 2017



The Family Reading Experience In March, thousands of schools will transform their National Reading

In March, thousands of schools will transform their National Reading Month event into a <u>PTA Family Reading Experience</u> – an interactive event that engages the whole family in reading activities. The PTA Family Reading Experience helps families grow kids who love to read. Get started today.

Parents take part in the fun with their kids and leave the event with a deeper understanding of the simple ways they can support the core skills of literacy. Parents will learn how to support these core skills of literacy: Phonological Awareness, Fluency, Vocabulary, Phonics, Comprehension

- 1. Sign Up your event.
- 2. Tell us about your 2017 National Reading Month plans.

- Access the Family Reading Experience Toolkit. Plan your PTA Family Reading Experience for March 2017 using the National Reading Month event check-list, interactive learning stations, turnkey event promotion tools, take-home family tip sheets, videos to share and more.
- 4. Enhance your school's technology with the Kindle Giveaway. Learn how you can access free Kindle e-readers for your school.
- 5. Inspire families to have reading fun. Share ideas to inspire family reading experiences at home.
- 6. Spread the word using #FamiliesRead.
- 7. Share videos and social media messages to remind families that when they read together the love of reading grows.

Research shows that when families read together, learning happens and memories are made that last a lifetime.



Meetings, voting, and the age of the Internet

Dorothy Gardner | Missouri PTA President | dorothyg@mopta.org

Times they are a changing and when it comes to productivity and meetings that's a really great thing. Currently, the trend among both businesses and organizations is to meet online in virtual or electronic meetings to operate more efficiently. Meeting electronically affords the users greater flexibility with regard to both time and travel. Missouri PTA's Executive committee, whose members span the state, meets monthly via an online meeting format. By utilizing this format, we are all able to simultaneously hear and converse with each other, aspects that are required of an actual meeting and affords us the ability to raise motions and vote. The key provision in RONR (Robert's Rules of Order parliamentary procedure) for engaging in this type of meeting format, states that any electronic meeting must be done so that the MINIMUM standard is "simultaneous aural communication." In other words, everyone must be able to interact simultaneously. Using a live online meeting format allows us to meet this standard. Using a conference call would also allow for this type of "simultaneous aural communication". However, there are additional advantages of an online meeting such as the sharing and viewing of documents, live messaging boards, and video.

This works great for our executive committee because we are a small group of less than 10. Would I use this for the entire Board of Managers? No. Due to the size of the board, over 20, it would be impossible to ensure everyone was simultaneously able to hear and be heard. The Board of Managers meets only three times a year. During those face-to-face meetings all business that must be conducted and approved by the board is brought forth. Very similar to a unit PTA's general meeting. With large groups of people, in order to meet the minimum standard for voting, an electronic meeting does not afford the membership to take part and interact in the manner required to properly conduct business. Items PTAs must

bring before the general membership for a vote include: approval of the budget, bylaws revisions and/or amendments, election of the nominating committee, and election of the officers. While it might be tempting to use an online meeting or conference call structure to accomplish the business of the general membership, meeting the standards of what constitutes a meeting is far more important.

Both Missouri PTA and National PTA do have the ability for their boards to vote by email. This was made allowable due to amended wording approved by the membership in each organization's bylaws. The specifics and procedures for engaging in this type of voting is outlined in the standing rules and procedures. Could your PTA unit or council use this format to put forth motions and vote between executive committee and board meetings? Absolutely. However, you first need to check your bylaws to makes sure an amendment to the current wording isn't required. Your membership, which defines how the unit or council operates, must approve this type of board procedure. If your bylaws do not include language allowing voting of the board or executive committee by email you absolutely cannot utilize this procedure until the bylaws are amended.

How we function as a local, council and even state PTA benefits best when we embrace the new tools technology has made increasingly available. Don't be afraid to migrate to a more flexible technologically friendly way of accomplishing the business of PTA. No one should be tied to "this is how it's always been done" ideology. However, make sure your PTA moves forward with new ways of conducting business in the correct manner. For questions on wording for bylaws and procedures please reach out and let the state board be of assistance. We are here to share what we know and help make your work easier.



MODERN MEETING

👹 MAKE YOUR MEETING MATTER

Are YOU a 0.3 participant?

AN AVERAGE BUSINESS MEETING LASTS 45 MINUTES AND HAS 4.3 PARTICIPANTS.



HOW TO WORK BETTER.

2KNOW THE PROBLEM 3LEARN TO LISTEN

5 DISTINGUISH SENSE

FROM NONSENSE

AT A TIME

OUESTIONS

AS INEVITABLE

1 DO ONE THING

4LEARN TO ASK

B ACCEPT CHANGE

7 ADMIT MISTAKES

8 SAY IT SIMPLE

9 BE CALM

10 SMILE



National P7/A everychild.onevoice.*

YouTube Tips

YouTube is the social website that lets people upload online videos

and participate in free video sharing, commenting, liking, and reposting. YouTube allows registered users to upload videos and share video clips online and share with others.

Source: Mansfield, Heather (2011) A How to Guide for NonProfits: Social Media for Social Good.

Create Your Story

The main goal of YouTube is to tell a story with video, music & pictures. You can share this content with your PTA members, parents, teachers, school administrators and your community.

Make Your Videos Searchable

Be sure to tag your videos so they are searchable by PTA members, parents, teachers and anyone searching on YouTube.

Enable Comments

Social media is about engaging and creating a conversation, so be sure to enable comments on your videos.

Create Playlists

YouTube playlists are very effective tool that video content creators should take advantage of. This feature helps you organize videos in themed playlists and categories. Have a webisode series? News clips? Recorded webinars? You can create playlists for them all!

Always Have a Description

The description you give your channel should be short and simple. No one wants to read on YouTube—they want to see a story.



Including All Parents Makes A Difference

Communicating with the parents in your school is key. Notice we said parents, and not just members?

To get more members, you have to make sure you are communicating with ALL the parents in your school about the value you add to their child's education. You should absolutely have perks for your members, so they have a tangible incentive to join (discounts on event tickets, free food at events, etc), but a lot of your information should be sent to all parents to entice nonmembers to join your collective voice!

Newsletters are a great way to communicate with every parent in the school. Paper is great and sometimes necessary in elementary school, but in today's tech-driven society, emailing newsletters is so much better! People can read the content right on their phone and have instant access to all the information.

Work with your principal on this, they may be able to email your newsletter out to their database of all parents.



Missouri PTA Department of Legislation & Advocacy

Contact us! legislation@mopta.org

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Carla Wiese | Missouri PTA VP Legislation & Advocacy | carlaw@mopta.org

These legislative priorities are based on the issues that the Missouri PTA Legislative Department expects to target for the 2017 legislative session. As unexpected issues emerge, Missouri PTA will act in accordance with the resolution and position statements that have been approved by the membership. A complete list of resolutions and position statements are available on our website (www.mopta.org).

Missouri PTA supports:

Legislation that protects and calls for local control of schools.

Legislation that would protect children and youth from being discriminated against based on race, religion or sexual orientation.

Legislation that supports increased access to mental health services for children.

Opposition to tax credits or tax deductions for tuition paid by a parent or sponsors for non-public elementary or secondary school children.

Enforcement of legislation requiring school districts to have policies that promote increased parental engagement in their children's education.

Legislation that will maintain or generate local and state funding for public education.

Legislation that will safeguard the educational and personal records of students.

Legislation to strengthen laws designed to protect minors from abuse and increase funding for programs and services aimed at the prevention of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment.

Advocacy Alert

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Please contact your federal representatives and urge them to add funding for Statewide Family Engagement Centers into the 2017 Federal Budget. Currently this important resource is not a part of the budget.

PTA is asking congress to pass an FY 2017 omnibus appropriations bill that funds Statewide Family Engagement Centers and adequately invests in education programs in order for all students to reach their full potential.

You can add your voice by <u>sending a</u> <u>letter to your congressman</u>.

How to be an effective Advocate:

- Regularly attend PTA Meetings
 - Attend school board meetings
- Join JC/DC
- Register to vote and vote
- Hold a candidate forum
- Contact legislators when action
 alerts are published
- Meet candidates for office and ask questions

ESSA: Every Student Succeeds Act

National PTA has an <u>important</u> resource and an <u>informational</u> video to help parents understand ESSA.

As a PTA leader learn <u>what questions</u> you can ask to advocate for ESSA.





Adopt-a-Classroom

Adopt-a-Classroom allows publicschool teachers to register in hopes of matching them with businesses or other organizations that offer financial contributions.

Adoptees will receive \$500 from their benefactors to use on classroom supplies and materials.

For more information, visit Adopt-a-Classroom. There is no deadline.

School Safety **Technology** Last month the Missouri School Boards'

Association and CrisisGo teamed up to offer Missouri schools a free easy-touse mobile emergency communication technology program.

Through the use of an app, schools can alert staff, parents and community members quickly when an emergency arises. In addition to the group notification feature the app also includes a panic button.

Once activated the offer is free for the first three-year period.

To be eligible, school districts must register with CrisisGo at http://www.crisisgo.com/free-teacherpanic before December 15, 2016.

IN ORDER TO SUCCEED, WE MUS #MembershipMondays FIRST BELIEVE THAT Make a difference in the lives of others.

PTAKit.org/Membership

WE CAN.

Christine Kent Missouri PTA Vice President of Membership christinek@mopta.org

Now that your board has been working hard at getting members for your unit, what do you do with all of them? If you haven't already done so, guiding them towards the National PTA member benefits webpage would be a great start.

Matters

Membership

Along with those benefits, another huge benefit for members would be the opportunity to have their voices matter in your school. You can provide an avenue for them to do this by creating and allowing your members to actively participate in survey topics such as: "the quality or choices of school lunches", "what themes they would be interested in for parent education nights", "the content of class subjects or projects" or "how did they like that mixer and what would they want different", just to name a few.

Members could gain insight on PTA purposes by attending unit meetings and voting on unit subjects like the budget, amendments to the bylaws or yearly plans for programs and events.

Whenever you have something going on during or after school, make sure that you are thinking of your members to help participate in the excitement. They may not have something to do directly with that specific event but by having a signup list for them to engage in those events in other ways by volunteering to help will give them opportunities to give and connect to the school and those in it.

Committees would be another great way to build your community of diverse members. Every activity that you are planning for the rest of the year would benefit greatly from your new found members. Committee members can contribute new thoughts and ideas of creative ways to change the "same old things that we have always done" into a richer future experience for everyone. Also, from these committees you may just find a new board member or two to serve for this year or even possibly spark an interest in serving on the board next year.

Reaching out to your members in various ways will help them gain benefits for themselves and for others. United and growing our voices now for the strength of those who will lead us in the future PTA of tomorrow.

Missouri line Store







The annual Drive Smart Teen Digital Short Contest sponsored by CTIA Wireless Foundation recently launched. Students can enter a digital short educating others about the dangers of driving distracted for a chance to earn a \$10,000 scholarship.

Who: 13 to 18 year olds U.S. residents How: 30-60 second digital short Deadline: December 19, 2016 For more information and official rules visit Drive Smart.

Nominations for the 2017 PTA Advocacy Awards are Now Open

National PTA is now accepting nominations for the <u>2017</u> <u>Advocacy Awards</u>! The deadline to submit a nomination is Sunday, Dec. 18.

If you know of an outstanding youth or individual PTA advocate, or a local unit or state PTA that has done great advocacy work, nominate them to receive an award for their efforts from National PTA. You can also nominate yourself!

Award Categories:

- Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award
- Outstanding Youth Advocate of the Year Award
- Outstanding Local/District/Regional PTA Advocacy Award
- Outstanding State PTA Advocacy Award

Nominations must be for efforts made in the last year. Winners will be announced in January and will receive their awards at the 2017 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Questions? Contact Lindsay Kubatzky at <u>lkubatzky@pta.org</u>.

High School Graduation Rates Reach Record High

<u>President Obama announced</u> in Washington, D.C. last month that America's high school graduation rate has reached a record new high of 83.2%.

The 2014-2015 graduation rates released last month show progress for all reported groups of students, including students of color, low-income students, students with disabilities and English learners.

Black, Hispanic and Native American students continued to narrow the gap between their graduation rates and those of their white peers, even as all groups made progress. Nearly every state across the country has seen progress since 2010-2011.

Missouri DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

Thanks for the Feedback!

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has wrapped up a series of nine regional meetings to ask Missourians what's most important to them in education. More than 1,000 parents, teachers, students and community members attended and shared their opinions. DESE appreciates the good tumout, the positive atmosphere at each meeting, and the thoughtful approach the crowds took to each of four questions:

- What does student success look like to you?
- What do school communities need to do to prepare students for success after graduation?
- How will you know Missouri schools have been effective?
- What matters most in Missouri public education?

Some common themes came out of the discussions. Many people said that all students should have equal access to excellent education and that districts need adequate resources to provide that education. Educators want to be able to provide more individualized student learning to help kids follow their own interests, and they want to be able to innovate more in public education.

Many people commented on the need for more school and community connections, allowing students to explore career options in their regions, and creating strong support between schools and communities. They also said students should be prepared for success outside of school with soft skills such as communication, collaboration and problem-solving. When asked what matters most in education, educators said making connections with students is most important before you can teach them. Ensuring we have high quality teachers and leaders was another major theme. Many participants agreed that zip codes should not determine the quality of a child's teachers, access to advanced classes and technology, and support from counselors and other support services.

You can read all the comments made at the meetings at <u>https://dese.</u> <u>mo.gov/quality-schools/2016-regional-meetings</u>. If you missed the meetings and would like to provide feedback, there is a link to an online survey under the "Virtual Meeting" heading. DESE will use the feedback as it develops a vision for the future of Missouri public schools.







Avoiding theft, fraud and embezzlement

The leadership of each PTA is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal controls that safeguard the revenue of the organization. Proper accounting consists of following procedures in collecting, receipting, depositing, recording, disbursing and reporting of all funds. It is essential that complete and accurate records be maintained. Each unit's bylaws should contain internal controls within the Duties of the Officers - Treasurer. Missouri PTA provides recommended language for this section. The better the internal procedures the harder it is for theft, fraud and embezzlement to take place. Don't let your unit be a target of thieves.

The theft, fraud and embezzlement guideline section of the PTA Back to School kit outlines details on: Risk and prevention; internal controls; PTA specific warning signs; prosecuting fraud; and, suspected fraud actions step-by-step.

Haunted Classroom Mixer

Haunted Classroom and Pumpkin Decorating Contest were provided for a "Mixer" to 7th and 8th grade students at Bingham MS in Independence, Three Trails Region.

There were other activities that included a photo booth, basketball gym, dance/music gym, concessions and costume contest. The greatest thing about this event wasn't that everyone had a "treat" of a good time but it was coordinated and executed by a committee of students. They even utilized both adúlt and student member volunteers to help serve, decorate and perform in their Haunted Classroom.

Everyone did a great job team building and connecting the school's community. Please use this as a brain storming base for your next Student Involvement event.



Changes in 990-N notification

For as long as the 990-N or e-postcard has been in place the IRS would send an email confirmation. This process has changed. To check the status of your 990-N filing log in and go to the "Manage Form 990-N Submission" page. The status for your 990-N, either accepted or rejected, will appear here. Save that notification page as a pdf and email it to the Missouri PTA state office to complete the IRS good standing requirement.

Missouri Tax Exemption Letter

PTAs must get their Missouri Sales tax-exempt letter from the state of Missouri. Please note vendors are not required to accept a letter of exemption. In those cases, you must either pay the tax on the purchase or choose another vendor.

Non-profits were once able to have a non-expiring tax-exempt letter in Missouri then the Department of Revenue changed that procedure requiring non-profits to apply for renewal every few years. At the end of 2014 this procedure was reversed back to non-expiring tax-exempt letters. Many PTAs may have tax-exempt letters that still have expiration dates. The Missouri Department of Revenue sends out a renewal notice to the address listed on the current tax-exempt letter 90 days prior to expiration. If your exemption is not yet expired, you can still go ahead and apply for renewal.

If you have never applied for a sales tax-exempt letter, cannot find your unit's sales tax- exempt letter, or need to renew, the Missouri PTA's Treasurer's tool kit contains a step-by-step guide. Your unit will need a letter of determination from Missouri PTA. This letter can only be issued to units and councils that are in good standing.





The most meaningful experience I have had is adopting our daughter. My husband John and I are so lucky to have been chosen to be her parents.

Our daughter, MacKenzie, was born in Maryland. John and I were able to go the hospital to be with her and bring her home. The first ten days it was just the three of us.

We were able to spend lots of time bonding and getting to know each other. MacKenzie has changed our lives for ever. I never knew how much love I could have for another person until I became a mom!!

Paula's Favorites: Food - I love Mexican Food TV Show- Grey's Anatomy Movie - Shag Music/Band - Justin Timberlake Book - All books

Activities/Hobbies I love to read and spend time with my family Paula McKinney | Missouri PTA Event Planner | paulam@mopta.org

As the PTA Event Coordinator, I work with the executive board to plan and coordinate the annual Missouri PTA State Convention.

Unit/Council & Years Involved: I serve on a local unit board at Procter Elementary as their membership chair this year. I have previously served as the Fundraising Chair, Secretary, and President of this unit. I currently serve as President's Aide on the Independence Council PTA.

I have also served as recording secretary at the council level.

More about Paula What makes you stand out? My ability to multi task A LOT!! Describe yourself in 3-5 words Happy, Sparkle, Fun

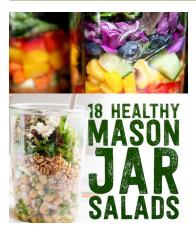
Healthy Living Tip Take time for yourself. Self care is so important

What are you learning this year I am learning to make a healthy lifestyle.

What is a goal you have this year? To maintain a healthy lifestyle and be healthy for my family.

What is a proud accomplishment? I graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Child and Family Studies.

Something interesting you've done this year: I was able to attend National PTA convention in Orlando Florida







"From the moment they placed you in my arms, you suggled right into my heart."