

CONTACT



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

The Lucky Issue!
Be prepared, work hard, and hope for a little luck. Recognize that the harder you work and the better prepared you are, the more luck you might have.
Ed Bradley

Lucky Time in Your Life



Kim Weber

Missouri PTA President | kimw@mopta.org

According to Webster's, luck is defined as
a : a force that brings good fortune or adversity
b : the events or circumstances that operate for or against an individual

As the election of officers are taking place across the state for our units and councils, I want each of you to embrace the belief that your being elected could be one of the luckiest events that happen to you.

It began in 2003 when a newly elected President of a local PTA unit wasn't able to attend a Missouri PTA Leadership Conference that her unit had paid for so instead, as luck would have it, a newly elected vice president attended by herself. She was scared, nervous and completely unaware of the good fortune and luck that was about to come her way as she walked into the registration area to register. For it was in that room that she met Tina Zubeck, who possessed the brightest light and aura one can possess and taught that new vice president that she could "Be the One" to change a life each and every day.

Several years later while returning from a unit meeting when she was serving as a Regional Director for Missouri PTA she would become scared from a flash flood experience and call the President-Elect of Missouri PTA at the time to have someone to talk to while she drove for hours. That President-Elect was named Kathy Nevans who taught her about being strong in adversity and being the force that makes one's own luck and good fortune and that she would make it home safely and she did.

In 2013 while attending the National PTA Legislative Conference she would be lucky enough to share an unforgettable experience

with the state president at the time, Donna Petiford. When she couldn't make the long walk around the Capital grounds, Donna stayed behind with her to keep her company showing such compassion to her that led to them both getting a behind the scenes tour of the nation's Capital.

As the years rolled in her years of service to PTA, she would experience many other moments of good luck and fortune. She would survive a tornado warning by stopping at a small rural gas station outside of Joplin by sitting in their walk in cooler with an 84-year-old man that thought she was the bravest woman for traveling on a stormy night to advocate for children and PTA. On another route she often took, luck would allow her to befriend a seven-year-old girl who was deaf and had a hard time speaking but would tell the silliest jokes that reminded her to stop and laugh each day. She would be reminded of how much fun car rides can be with others along for the ride when she was lucky enough to have her daughters join her to keep her company. It was during those long car rides where she was fortunate to hear of the daughter's dreams and goals for their lives or to share a wonderful PTA event and meet awesome PTA members. Those are the biggest highlights but truly every day serving as a leader for Missouri PTA she was lucky enough to meet so many great people and experience that good fortune.

So you see for this PTA servant in the story, the lucky part was that she joined PTA and her life was forever changed and made better for it by the good fortune she was shown and given. Her wish for each of you that are being nominated or asked to serve as an officer in your unit and or council, say YES! It might be the force that brings luck and good fortune into your life that will create the events and or circumstances that change your life. To me that is better odds than buying the winning Powerball ticket.

Missouri PTA Board of Managers



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I read a story about a Kingfisher that was trying to catch a fish and couldn't get it. The author started the story after watching this bird try 26 times and fail. The first few times the bird was trying for the fish seemed normal, but as the author sat watching the bird he became more concerned and a little worried for the Kingfisher. After time 17, 18, 19 – the author was intrigued. What was driving this bird to keep going after so much failure?

This story has stayed with me for more than 20 years because it reminds me that it's not always easy, but it can be worth it. After watching the bird for some time, we realize that this bird must keep trying to survive and will do what it takes to make that happen. And then – just like that – try 27 becomes the lucky one and the Kingfisher gets his fish.

I always wonder at what point I'm ready to give up. Did I try one time? 10 times? One year? Have I been working on this for 10 years? What if it takes me 27 tries to make it successful? The lesson of the Kingfisher reminds me it's worth it; success could be just around the corner.

The decisions and involvement you are making right now will help prepare you for your lucky days in the future. Some days are tough, some days are good, and some days are great. Each day matters and what you do really matters. I encourage you this month, to focus on the end result - even if it takes you 27 tries to get it just right.

Excerpt adapted from www.andreabcreative.com - "Never, Never, Never Give Up."

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.

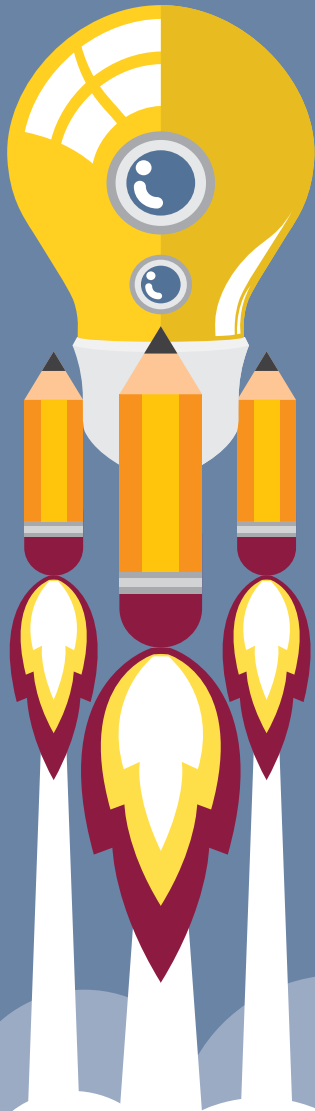
The **Purpose of PTA** is to promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship; to raise the standards of home life; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; to bring into close relation the home and the school, that parents 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.

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Be Part of PTA's Reflections® Program



2015-2016 Theme:
Let Your Imagination Fly

Missouri PTA Reflections Showcase

Saturday, April 9, 2016
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Blue Springs High School
Performing Arts Center
2000 North West Ashton Drive
Blue Springs, MO 64015

**Dance Choreography • Film Production • Literature
Music Composition • Photography • Visual Arts**

The Lucky Issue!

Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity.
Lucius Annaeus Seneca



Lori Prussman

Missouri PTA Treasurer | lorip@pta.org

Budget time is fast approaching and you need to be prepared. The students and staff of your school depend upon the PTA for financial support along with advocating for them on many fronts. Building a budget is not "recreating the wheel" every year. Building upon a foundation of your unit history will serve you well.

First, check your bylaws and standing rules for any instructions that your unit may already have in place regarding committee assignments and other details. Second, you will need to do your research and find financials from at least the past three years. This will give you a good idea of what your unit has done in the past; the good, the bad and the ugly. Having this information you will be able to gage those projects that worked and didn't work for your unit. There is no need to continue with a program that is not producing any longer or is not relevant. Don't be afraid to step outside the "we have always done that" box. Build a new box if needed or if your unit is on track don't shake things up if you don't need to just because you can. I guess what I'm trying to say is, know your community and know what is working for your school and PTA. If you are going to make changes, make changes that are meaningful and purposeful not just because you can!

Once your committee is appointed or elected (check those bylaws) you will need to meet. As chair, you should gather the pertinent information and get it to the committee in plenty of time for them to review. They need to come to the meeting prepared. This will keep your meeting running smoothly and be respectful of everyone's time.

Once your committee has established a proposed

budget you will present it to the executive committee (board) before presenting to the general assembly. Once this has been done you will bring it to the general assembly. The budget will be presented and approved at the same general assembly meeting unless your bylaws and standing rules note otherwise. There is no State or National PTA "rule" on having them "sit out" for a month.

Also, keep in mind that once you set your budget, it is not set in stone. Budgets can be amended by your general assembly if needed.

So when should we pass our budget? Best practice is for your unit to present and approve your unit's budget at your last general assembly meeting of the year. The rationale is that it is approved and the next group can seamlessly go to work, no need to wait until the first meeting of the new fiscal year. Generally, that first meeting doesn't happen until September and your unit cannot do business until a budget is in place. As a past unit president I know that there was a lot of business done over the summer in preparation for the back to school night and other purchases that need to be made prior to the first meeting. This helps everyone know how to proceed and be prepared to meet the needs of your unit.

Being prepared is key! Your committee should be made up of current and incoming officers and should be an odd number.

For more details check out National PTA's Back to School Kit online; www.pta.org.

If you have any questions call or email; Lori Prussman, 816-262-2664 or lorip@mopta.org.



Every Student Succeeds Act – Now What

This past December Congress passed the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and President Obama signed it into law. Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) has been the focus of PTA advocates since the most recent reauthorization, No Child Left Behind in 2002, was up for reauthorization in 2007. It was PTA's opinion that many sections of No Child Left Behind needed to be addressed. Only by completing the reauthorization process can an Act/Bill be changed or updated.

Now that a new law has been enacted it is up to the Department of Education (DOE) to develop policies and procedures. During January, the DOE sent out a Request for Information (RFI) to education agencies and organizations. PTA did respond to this RFI and sent out an action alert for other members to also weigh in with their thoughts.

The last week of February, the Department of Education, released "A Transitioning to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)." This frequently asked questions guide is intended to assist with the transition from No Child Left Behind to ESSA. Topics included are funding, grant formula allocations, accountability requirements, required reporting, ESEA flexibility requests/waivers, Title I funds, state and local report card reporting, and highly qualified teachers.

National PTA is currently building a webpage that will host ESSA summaries, an overview of what ESSA means for children and families, and insight into the family engagement provisions within ESSA. This webpage will be available mid March and should be a valuable tool for not just PTA members but all parents across the country.

ESEA – Brief Facts

1965 – President Lyndon Johnson signed the very first Elementary and Secondary Act into law. This was the very first major education bill and came about in response to the growing need for the federal government to improve the quality of education for lower income students across the U.S.

ESEA is the primary federal law that governs how states (SEA) and local (LEA) education agencies spend federal tax dollars and conduct the education of public school students from pre-k to 12th grade.

9 is the number of times ESEA has now been reauthorized since 1965.

2002 – President George W. Bush signed No Child Left Behind into law. This overhaul of ESEA was up for reauthorization in 2007.

December 2015 – the House passes a reauthorization of ESEA titled Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) by a vote of 359-64. The Senate passes the bill by a vote of 85-12.

December 10, 2015 – President Obama signs ESSA into law.

ESSA – PTA Legislative Priorities

PTA advocates have volunteered countless hours lobbying for specific legislative priorities in the reauthorization of ESEA. Here is an outline of those priorities and how they were addressed in the new bill.

A thoughtful, comprehensive, bipartisan reauthorization of the law to address needed changes in K-12 public education.

- A comprehensive bipartisan bill has been signed into law

Provide access to a well-rounded curriculum for all students and guarantee that all students receive quality instruction from well-prepared teachers and specialized instructional support personnel.

- The term "well-rounded" is now a statutory term used throughout ESSA meaning subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject determined by an SEA or LEA with the purpose of providing all students access to an enriched curriculum and educational experience.
- More Funding was authorized for teacher and school leader preparation

Embed improvements in family engagement capacity-building throughout

- Significant provisions were added to Title I regarding family engagement and Title IV with the inclusion of the Statewide Family Engagement Centers competitive grant program. Parents and families as stakeholders and family engagement provisions are also included throughout the rest of the bill.

Retain and improve Title I, Section 118, to create incentives at the state, district and school levels to meaningfully engage families in their children's education using research-based strategies.

- Under Title I, school districts must reserve a minimum of 1% of federal funds for family engagement activities. The new bill now requires the establishment of a written family engagement plans and utilization of evidence-based family engagement strategies. Five family engagement activities proposed by PTA in the Family Engagement in Education Act were included in this bill. All LEAs' must do at least one of these strategies with their federal dollars.

Safeguard and improve state-based infrastructure for capacity-building and technical assistance in family engagement programming.

- Statewide Family Engagement Centers competitive grant program was included in the final bill. PTA brought forth the language for this program under the Family Engagement in Education Act. Although over 50 federal education programs were consolidated, this was one of a few programs to be enacted.

Develop ambitious, yet appropriate, state-driven accountability systems with growth and performance goals to replace Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

- ESSA eliminated AYP mandates that were previously set in place by No Child Left Behind. Those mandates required that all students make "adequate" annual progress towards proficiency in math and reading at the risk of federal sanctions.
- The new law does keep annual testing in place. Students in grades 3-8 are tested annually in math and reading or language arts. Students in high school are tested once. The area of science is tested once in grades 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12.

Reject any proposal to divert public funding from public schools.

- No school voucher or portability provisions to divert public funding to private schools were included in the final bill.

**MoPTA
Convention**
is the best time to
train your unit &
council with
MoPTA officers,
resources & ideas.
Join us in April!



Bringing it Home

**Missouri PTA Convention
is almost here - Join us in April!**

Friday, April 22 to Sunday, April 24

Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center
2601 S. Providence Rd., | Columbia, MO 65203

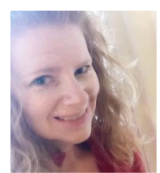
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I am PTA



Dorothy Gardner

Missouri PTA President-Elect | dorothyg@mopta.org

This May both my kids will graduate, one from Liberty High School (go Pony Express Region!) and the other from Mizzou. I tell you this not because I want you to shed a tear with me. However the graduations are on the exact same weekend so any tips on how to successfully be in two places simultaneously might be very helpful. Instead, this span of time, Kindergarten through college graduation, should give you a clear view to not only how long I've been involved in PTA, but the very different perspectives as a parent I've experienced.

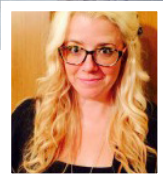
When I reflect back now I realize every one of those experiences, from volunteering for the Book Fair when my oldest, Nick, was in Kindergarten, to my daughter Meagan's very last high school marching band performance, has prepared me for the new PTA role. I've been the new parent and the seasoned parent first in elementary, then middle, junior high, high school and finally college. I've seen first hand how PTA both directly and indirectly supports all our kids. And, I've seen first hand how PTA can network parents together and give them the support needed to make it through all those milestones with our kids.

However, PTA was not in my blood. Growing up in Saint Louis, my siblings and I attended private schools. Yes I've worn enough plaid skirts to last a lifetime. Neither my elementary nor my high school had a PTA. Other than room mothers and carnivals during my elementary years, there was no form of parent engagement in my schools. My high school didn't even host parent-teacher conferences. The concept of parents working in collaboration with the school to support my education was, to me, an alien notion. What I did know was that I always had wanted it to be my mom who was the room mother.

So when Nick started school I was determined to make sure I found a way to be involved. Book Fair was how it started. Simple, easy, and enjoyable (I could even take Meagan with me - just a toddler at the time), I was not only afforded with a path to interact with my child in his school setting but become connected with the school staff and other parents.

So how did I get from Book Fair volunteer to PTA president - I was asked. My very first elected position as VP of Alexander Doniphan PTA - a teacher passed my name along to a PTA unit leader who then approached and asked me. I confessed to her I had no PTA background whatsoever. She replied that the PTA believed I had the skills needed and there would be training opportunities to learn the details. Every step of the way along my PTA journey I've been asked. I believe for volunteers the 'ask' is crucial. You can have all the passion in the world but if you don't feel your skills or effort is needed or appreciated you typically shy away or move to another venture.

So umpteen years ago a PTA mom believed in me and got me more deeply involved than I ever imagined. The experiences at the local, council and state PTA levels have touched my heart, making my life richer. PTA is the only organization of its kind. We are volunteers working together to enhance kids lives. ALL kids lives - the ones we interact with in our schools and the ones all across the nation we'll never see. There is no ulterior motivation - no products to sell, no customer base to build, no political mindset to advance, no careers to promote. PTA is about joining together to create a collective voice that speaks for kids. I am PTA - we are all PTA.



Kristina Wilmoth

Missouri PTA PR Chair
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Meet Your MoPTA Board of Managers Members

Your PTA Region - Ozarks

#Years involved in PTA and BOM -

This is my first year on BOM. I've been involved with PTA for 6 years.

Kids names, ages - Jamison 13, Allana 11, Ashlynn 10, Aubree 7, Jasper 2

Why you believe PTA is important?

PTA gives voice. We give voice to parents and teachers, but also a voice to those that struggle finding their voice and knowing what to say - our children! It's empowering, as a parent, to watch your children find themselves, their platform, and their voice.

Why you got involved in Missouri PTA Board of Managers? Being a part of the Board of Managers was an easy decision for me. I desire to be a part of something bigger than myself that makes a real, tangible difference in my life and the lives of my family and my community. BOM is a group of dedicated individuals working together to make changes and implement improvements that really matter. I see needs and gaps in the world around me on a daily basis and I want to be part of the solution.

What do you do on the board? I serve as Public Relations Chair.

Something interesting you've done this year - My family adopted 3 children this year from foster care.

Even in the foster world, that's a big deal. We were always a big family stuck at small numbers and 2015 changed that.

Advice you'd give to others - Always search for perspective. It's easy to feel you are drowning in a puddle if you never take a moment to stand and look at the dry ground around you.

Favorite book, movie, band, TV show - I think we'd all be happier if we watch I Love Lucy on a regular basis.

Favorite food - Homemade sweets from my friend's and family's kitchens taste so much sweeter than those I make.

Something that makes you stand out - It's not that I have 5 kids (+/- a few foster kiddos), it's that I have so many kids and I drive a yellow VW Bug.

Healthy Living Tip - Make your food. Don't be scared, don't get overwhelmed, just try making it. It will be healthier for your body and budget.

Describe yourself in 3-5 words - Determined communicator with smarts

What are you learning this year? How to write and promote written newsletters, eblasts, and other communication for non-profits.



Amanda Weber

Missouri PTA Administrative Assistant | office@mopta.org

One of my favorite meals to make when the weather starts to get colder is my Grandma's famous Chicken and Noodle soup. Nothing warms me up faster than sitting down with a bowl full of homemade chicken and noodle soup.

Grandma Weber's Famous Chicken Noodle Soup

Chicken:

In a small soup pot 2/3 full of water add two chicken thighs- cook in the water (my grandma always thought thighs have more flavor)

It's done when you can easily take off skin. Set the chicken aside and save the broth.

Noodles:

3 cups of flour
Pinch of baking 'powder'
Pinch of salt
3 eggs
1/4 cup of chicken broth (store bought)

To Prepare the Noodles:

Mix up good and tear off a hand full at a time, Knead and add more flour as needed, Combine and roll out thin on a floured surface, Sprinkling flour as needed, Cut noodles with a pizza cutter.

Broth:

In large pot, add 2 cups of chicken broth with cooked thigh broth, bring to a boil. Stir in a couple of noodles at a time. Simmer 15 minutes with lid tilted stirring occasionally. Clean meat off bones and add as well.

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Promote Your PTA
Red Ribbon Week
Reflections
Stickers / Labels
Tablecloths

Convention Service Project



Missouri PTA is working in conjunction with Columbia Public Schools PTSA to **collect new or gently used books** to donate to the following organizations:



Rainbow House is an emergency shelter, regional children's advocacy center, and homeless youth program that strives to keep children safe and serve families in times of crisis. Annually, Rainbow House serves more than 200 children, who range in age from birth to 18 years.

University of Missouri Women and Children's Hospital is Missouri's largest and most comprehensive health care facility dedicated to caring for children. The professionals at MU Children's Hospital offer children the highest quality of medical care available in a kid-friendly environment. As the new home of Children's Hospital, Women's and Children's Hospital offers more than 30 pediatric specialties to take the best care of our Missouri kids.



Title 1 Preschools Columbia Public Schools offers a developmentally-appropriate education through which young children actively build their individual potential in a positive, nurturing, culturally diverse environment. Title I Preschool provides services to children with developmental needs, ages 3 to 5 (non-kindergarten) years of age. The Columbia Public Schools Title I Preschool program serves more than 620 children, with 26 classrooms located in elementary and high schools throughout the Columbia Public School District.



What you can do: **Collect new or gently used children's books** to distribute to these worthy organizations!

Missouri PTA Units from across the state may bring the books they collect to the annual Missouri PTA Convention, April 23 & 24 in Columbia. There will be collection bins located near the registration tables.