



## Our Chance to Start Again



**Amy Blakemore** | MoPTA VP Communications | [amyb@mopta.org](mailto:amyb@mopta.org)

I always find it bittersweet to start a new year. I reflect on the wonderful memories of time spent with family and friends, new experiences, life changes, and beloved traditions. But there is also sadness for those no longer with us and the awareness of knowing my children are one year older and growing up way too fast.

Just as in our personal lives, it's always a good idea to reflect on your PTA year to determine what worked well, what bombed and what could be improved upon. A few questions to begin with: What did we accomplish? What would we do differently? What were our biggest challenges? And how are we different this year than last?

There are many websites that offer year end reflection questions. Print off a list of questions and take some time to sit down with your team to discuss the past year. Collaborate and communicate to put your best foot forward for the new year and new beginnings. Remember that every new year is a chance to start again.

### Missouri PTA

**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.



# Missouri PTA College Scholarship Opportunity

# Mark Your Calendar

Contact us! [contact@mopta.org](mailto:contact@mopta.org)

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## 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 <https://mopta.org/moptacalendar/> for the full list.

### Monday, February 13

Take Your Family To School Week

### Tuesday, February 14

Take Your Family To School Week

### Wednesday, February 15

Take Your Family To School Week

### Thursday, February 16

Take Your Family To School Week

### Friday, February 17

Take Your Family To School Week

### Tuesday, March 7

National PTA Legislative Conference

### Wednesday, March 8

National PTA Legislative Conference

### Thursday, March 9

National PTA Legislative Conference

### Sunday, April 23

National Volunteer Week

### Monday, April 24

National Volunteer Week

### Tuesday, April 25

National Volunteer Week

### Wednesday, April 26

National Volunteer Week

### Thursday, April 27

National Volunteer Week

### Friday, April 28

National Volunteer Week

MOPTA Convention

### Saturday, April 29

National Volunteer Week

MOPTA Convention

### Sunday, April 30

MOPTA Convention

### Monday, May 1, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

### Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

### Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

### Thursday, May 4, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

### Friday, May 5, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

## 2017 National PTA Legislative Conference

March 7-9, 2017

Join National PTA in Arlington, Virginia for the [2017 National PTA Legislative Conference](#).

Celebrate 120 Years of Changing Children's Lives! This year's LegCon attendees will celebrate incredible milestones and honor policy makers and PTA members whose efforts to make every child's potential a reality. Register now!

## More Dates!

March 2 - Read Across America

April 30 - Missouri PTA Reflections Showcase in Columbia, Mo

April - Distracted Driving Month  
Child Abuse Prevention Month

# Mark Your Calendar

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## Proposed Schedule

### Friday – April 28

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Registration Open

### Saturday – April 29

7:30 am – 9:00 am Registration

8:30 am – 9 am Volunteer training

9:00 am – 10:00 am Workshop Session #1

10:15 am – 11:15 am Workshop Session #2

11:30 am – 1:00 pm General Meeting / Lunch

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Workshop Session #3

2:30 pm – 5:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open/Dessert

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Workshop Session #4

6:15 pm – 7:15 pm Workshop Session #5

Networking & Dinner on your own

### Sunday – April 30

9:00 am – 10:30 am Roundtable networking

10:45 am – 11:45 am Workshop Session #6

11:45 am – 12:00 pm Pick up lunch

12:00 pm – 1 pm Workshop Session #7/Lunch

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Reflections Ceremony



ASPIRE  
to  
INSPIRE

Missouri PTA Convention 2017

## Over 30 workshops!

### President Leadership Session

Treasurer Training

Success as PTA Secretary

Membership

Bylaws

Legislation and Advocacy

Parliamentary Procedure

Effective Meetings

Watch D.O.G.S

Conflict Resolution

Navigating the

New Bullying Law

The Peaceful School Bus

Trends in Drug Use

PTA Reflections

Family Reading Experience

Social Media for Beginners

Social Media Advanced

Student Involvement

Emergency Operation Plans

Missouri PTA Awards

Tips and Tricks

through the PTA year

Insurance Needs for PTAs

Fundraising

Missouri State Budget

Diversity

Engaging at Risk Students

## Join us at Convention!

Friday, April 28 to  
Sunday, April 30, 2017

Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center  
2601 S Providence Rd. Columbia MO 65203

Adults \$165

Students \$165 & buy one get one free  
(students should be in 8th grade or above)

Visit [www.MoPTA.org](http://www.MoPTA.org)  
for more information

# From the Missouri PTA President

Contact me! [dorothyg@mopta.org](mailto:dorothyg@mopta.org)

[f MissouriPTA](#) [p MissouriPTA](#) [@MissouriPTA](#)

## Thank You Missouri PTA Donors

### Building Fund

Prairie View Elementary PTA  
Cameron PTSA  
Mason Elementary PTA  
Nixa Jr. High PTSA  
Mark Twain Elementary PTA - St. Joseph  
Summit Lakes Middle School PTA  
Meadow Lane Elementary PTA  
Blue Springs Early Childhood Presch. PTA  
Richardson Elementary PTA  
Oak Grove Elementary PTA  
St. Joseph Council PTA  
Longview Farm Elementary PTA  
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA  
Trailridge Elementary PTA  
Greenwood Elementary PTA  
Lee's Summit West High School PTSA  
Columbia Council PTA  
North Kansas City Council PTA  
Raytown Middle School PTSA

### Scholarship Fund

Prairie View Elementary PTA  
Cameron PTSA  
Hazelwood North Middle School PTSA  
Mason Elementary PTA  
Nixa Jr. High PTSA  
Springfield Council PTA  
Mark Twain Elementary PTA - St. Joseph  
Summit Lakes Middle School PTA  
Independence Council PTA  
Meadow Lane Elementary PTA  
Sherwood Elementary PTA  
Blue Springs Early Childhood Presch. PTA  
Richardson Elementary PTA  
Hazelwood Northwest Middle PTSA  
Truman Elementary PTA  
Oak Grove Elementary PTA  
St. Joseph Council PTA  
Longview Farm Elementary PTA  
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA  
Hazelwood Council PTA  
Trailridge Elementary PTA  
Matthews Elementary PTA  
Greenwood Elementary PTA  
Cedar Ridge Elementary PTA  
Glendale PTSA  
Lee's Summit West High School PTSA  
Raytown Middle School PTSA

### Founder's Gift

Prairie View Elementary PTA  
Cameron PTSA  
Cherokee Middle School PTSA  
Mason Elementary PTA  
Mark Twain Elementary PTA - St. Joseph  
Summit Lakes Middle School PTA  
Meadow Lane Elementary PTA  
Blue Springs Early Childhood Presch. PTA  
Richardson Elementary PTA  
Bolivar Primary School PTA  
Oak Grove Elementary PTA  
Longview Farm Elementary PTA  
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA  
Trailridge Elementary PTA  
Greenwood Elementary PTA  
Ozark Council PTA  
Lakewood Elementary PTA  
Lee's Summit West High School PTSA  
Columbia Council PTA  
Timber Creek Elementary PTA  
Raytown Middle School PTSA



## Co-presidents?

Dorothy Gardner | Missouri PTA President | [dorothyg@mopta.org](mailto:dorothyg@mopta.org)

I completely understand the appeal of the co-president. Sharing the work load. Always having someone to bounce off ideas. Leaning on each other when making decisions. I get it. Agreeing to be president can be a formidable commitment. Most PTA presidents step into their roles with no formal training or non-profit management skills. Having a 'partner in crime' gives a sense of security. We are not alone in this new endeavor. But, and I know you were anticipating the 'but', is the use of a co-president a best practice or even allowed?

Missouri PTA has a policy of not recognizing or encouraging the use of co-presidents. Please know this policy did not stem from some big brother desire to force units into conforming or acting a certain way. In fact, over the years I have sat in several executive committee and board of manager meetings when this issue was discussed in length. This discussion always weighed in factors pertaining to allowing units to function in a manner that best suited their PTA verses parliamentary procedure and more importantly state law.

Take a quick search through Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised. The only 'co' that is mentioned refers to 'co-chairman'. Roberts states "the anomalous title 'co-chairman' should be avoided, as it causes impossible dilemmas in attempts to share the functions of a single position". Next factor in the Missouri Revised Statute that

governs nonprofits. This statute outlines the required officers as being a president, secretary, and treasurer. The nonprofit may have other additional officers but must have at minimum those three. In the end, our discussions always came back to the fact that the use of co-presidents was neither allowed under parliamentary procedure or state law. There are some situations when we just can't be 'PTA flexible'.

So how to have your cake and eat it too. That is the real question and the answer resides in how the unit views and utilizes the 1st Vice President. When I was initially asked to be president of a local unit I had never held office or even acted as a committee chair. These were concerns I expressed to the nominating committee but agreed to serve as 1st Vice President under a PTA president who already possessed a wealth of PTA knowledge. Together we shared the work load, bounced off ideas, and formulated decisions. This experience afforded the president a 'partner in crime' and myself valuable time learning the PTA ropes. While becoming president the following year wasn't a given, after all elections still were required, even Robert's Rules of Order points out the 1st vice president as a logical nominee for president. Using this position wisely can create a flow in PTA leadership – a seamless transfer of knowledge and training resulting in a stronger more effective PTA unit.

# Communication Tips

Contact us! [communication@mopta.org](mailto:communication@mopta.org)

 MissouriPTA

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## Celebrate PTA Founders Day

National Founders Day has been observed by National PTA since 1910 and continues strongly today. Traditionally held on February 17, it is designed to raise awareness of PTA achievements. Many PTA Units and Councils hold yearly celebrations in observance of this day to honor all the outstanding accomplishments and milestones that PTA has reached. It is an opportunity to examine current concerns and set future goals. With everyone's help we will continue to go forth and make the lives of our nation's children better by working on legislation and advocacy to promote the health and welfare of our youth. You can [read more about PTA's history and timeline](#).

### Tips for planning a successful Founders day event

- Keep the purpose of the event in the forefront – increase the understanding of the purpose and mission of PTA
- Have a personal understanding of the history of PTA and its achievement
- Demonstrate how PTA enriches a school and community by highlighting your unit's goals, achievements, and activities
- Acknowledge and celebrate hard working volunteers and community partners for their service to children with the Missouri Distinguished Service Award
- Engage students in the planning and presenting of the program
- Include all stakeholders in the event – students, families, teachers, and community members
- Tie your unit's membership promotion into the event by encouraging attendees to join PTA

How you celebrate is up to you and only limited by your imagination. Be sure to share your celebration with MOPTA so we can celebrate you! Tag us on Twitter and Facebook or send us the details and/or picture to [contact@mopta.org](mailto:contact@mopta.org) for publication in Contact.

## New Year's Resolution Challenges for Missouri PTA Leaders

We all have made resolutions for a New Year. Some we manage to keep and others are ignored before the month of January is finished. The success of making a resolution is setting an attainable goal. As PTA members and leaders, there are many opportunities to learn and grow in order to improve ourselves and the lives of those around us. Challenge yourself to one of the following resolutions - find one that interests you and commit to completing it.

- Attend a Missouri PTA Convention – the sessions are informative and the networking is amazing
- Attend a School of Information – for condensed training tailored to PTA leaders
- Get recognition for your leadership training with the [Missouri PTA Leaders Project](#) or [Missouri PTA Advanced Leaders Project](#)
- Purchase a [Show Me PTA Membership](#) – It's only \$10 and it helps fund scholarships for future teachers
- Don't just be involved at the unit level... consider a Council, State, or even National PTA position.
- Join Missouri PTA on Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest. Better yet, engage with us. Make a comment, post an idea, or ask a question. We love to hear from you!
- Select one [National PTA program](#) to implement this or next school year.
- [Diversify your PTA](#) and build stronger relationships.

From National PTA:

We are pleased to present, "[One PTA](#)," our 2015-2016 National PTA annual report.

This year's report illustrates how powerful and steadfast we are when we stand collectively for one cause, to make every child's potential a reality.

The annual report reflects on the ways we were able to engage families, reach our members and more.

You can read it now at [PTA.org/AnnualReport](http://PTA.org/AnnualReport).

Please note that National PTA's 2016 Audited Financial Statements will be posted following their final approval at the January 15-17 Board of Directors Meeting.

Check back after the meeting to review the full audited reports with the annual report.



## Plan for a Successful Next Step



**Sarah Day** | Missouri PTA VP of Field Service | [sarahd@mopta.org](mailto:sarahd@mopta.org)

Where did the time go? We are halfway through the PTA year. As an officer or member of an executive committee, we should review our progress and determine if any adjustments need to be made to achieve a successful PTA year.

- Bylaws – As a unit, are we following our bylaws? Do we need to propose any amendments for us to operate more effectively?
- Budget – Was our fall fundraiser successful? Did we raise enough to cover our budgeted expenses for the year? Do we need to propose budget adjustments for approval of our membership?
- Good Standing – Have we submitted copies of our 2015-16 Financial Review, Year end Financial report and 990 to Missouri PTA?
- Membership – Have we met or exceeded our membership goals? Do we need to make a 2nd push to increase membership? Remember there is a membership incentive drawing for units that increase their membership this year.
- Mission – Are we focused on the PTA Mission? What can we do this Spring to promote our PTA unit and the positive impact we are having in our school community?
- Advocacy – How have we advocated for our children this year? What more could we do to advocate for our children's education, health and safety?
- Communication – Are we communicating effectively with our members, parents, principal, teachers? How might we do better?
- Programs - How can we improve the planning and execution of our programs?
- Family Engagement – What more can we do to strengthen the school/family/ community connection?
- Convention – Have we determined who from our unit will attend this year's Missouri PTA Convention in April?
- Nominating Committee – Is our Nominating Committee in place?

## How does a bill become a law?

We have been asked how a bill becomes a law. Here is an easy breakdown of the process:

1. Bills (or Resolutions\*) are sponsored (introduced) by Senators or House Representatives. The process begins once the bill is filed with the Secretary of State. All action on each bill takes place between the start of the session (January 4th) and the end (May 12th). These bills are often adaptations of State Statutes and do not require a vote of the public.
2. Bills once filed are read twice on the floor of the House or Senate.
3. Upon the second reading the bill is assigned to a committee. The bill will then have a public hearing that allows individuals to testify in favor or in opposition to the bill.
4. During committee the bill may be passed as it is written or amended (or ignored and the bill dies

in committee).

5. The bill, if passed by committee, is read for a third and final time on the floor. A roll call vote is then held.
6. If the bill is passed it heads to the other chamber for review in much the same way.
7. If the bill is passed in a different form the two houses will convene a committee to try and negotiate a final wording of the bill. If no compromise can be made the bill dies. However, if a compromise is made it is then voted on by both chambers.
8. If both chambers approved the bill then heads to the governor's desk for his signature of approval or veto.
9. If the bill is vetoed then a vote of 2/3 of both houses can over ride the veto.

\* Resolutions can also be introduced into the House or Senate or jointly. The resolutions become amendments to the Missouri Constitution and if adopted are voted on by Missouri voters.



Carla Wiese | Missouri PTA VP Legislation & Advocacy | [carlaw@mopta.org](mailto:carlaw@mopta.org)

## Would you like to join the Legislation and Advocacy Department?

We currently have two positions open in this department. If you are passionate about Advocacy we need you. We are currently looking for a Chairman of Advocacy. If you are interested in how laws move through the MO House and Senate consider joining us as our State Legislation Chair. Both positions are members of the MO PTA Board of Managers. To learn more please contact Carla Wiese at [carlaw@mopta.org](mailto:carlaw@mopta.org).

## Consider Hosting A Town Hall...

Have you ever considered hosting a Town Hall (Candidate Forum) for your community? This is a great way for your PTA members to meet and engage members of the MO Legislature or your local school board. It is much easier than you think too. First think smaller, perhaps invite the candidates running for election in your local school board to a PTA meeting. Not only are you introducing them to your members but also allowing them the opportunity to discuss why they would be a good addition to your board. If you are ready to go bigger invite your local and state elected officials to attend and have them discuss education in Missouri. Missouri PTA is here to help. If you would like more information and help with planning please contact Carla Wiese at [carlaw@mopta.org](mailto:carlaw@mopta.org) or visit the [MoPTA town hall webpage](#).

## Does your unit have a Legislative Chair?

A Legislative Chair is a very important member on your PTA team. Often people shy away from this position out of fear. I hear a lot of different reasons however the two most common are: difficulty or fear over lack of knowledge. With MO PTA and National PTA this position is not difficult. National PTA has created an [Advocacy Toolkit](#) as a step by step guide to help you along the way. MO PTA is also here to help. The first step is to register for [MO PTA JC/DC](#). This will allow you to receive our important Action Alerts. When you receive these alerts we will tell you what to do and whom to contact for each alert. We also provide verbiage to use when creating emails, letters or phone calls. We also provide our monthly Bill Watch List so you can keep you Unit or Council up to date on legislation in Missouri.

## 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



We all have the POTENTIAL to do better or more with a plan. When we take ACTION on our plan, we get RESULTS. Whether big results or small, results nonetheless. These RESULTS can reassure our BELIEFS that we have the POTENTIAL to do better or more.

And the cycle continues. Gaining momentum as you work towards bigger and greater things.

Taking these steps and applying them to what you have been doing could just spin you into the positive direction you have been seeking for your membership numbers and much more.



How are you using the current membership theme to encourage involvement? Let us know! email [membership@mopta.org](mailto:membership@mopta.org).



**Susan Rupert**  
Missouri PTA  
President-Elect  
[susanr@mopta.org](mailto:susanr@mopta.org)

## Distinguished Service Award

We all know that special someone that is "truly in it for the kids". It is important to recognize these extraordinary individuals for their service and dedication to PTA. The Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award (formally known as the Missouri Lifetime Achievement Award) was established with those individuals in mind. It is a wonderful way to show gratitude and appreciation for a person's devotion to children and the purposes of PTA.

The award includes a letter of recognition from the state president, a certificate suitable for framing and a lapel pin. The order form can be found on the [Missouri PTA website](#). The Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award fee is \$50.00 plus shipping and handling. The fee is divided equally between the Missouri PTA Scholarship Fund and the Missouri PTA general fund - benefitting the children of Missouri through scholarships and programs.

My local unit, Cameron PTSA honored me with the Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award in 2006. My officer team surprised me with this special recognition as we sat together during dinner at the Missouri State Convention. Tears streamed as they presented me with a framed certificate, the lovely lapel pin and a letter of recognition from then state president, Kathy Nevans. I was so humbled that this group of individuals, that I respected so much for their commitment to "our kids", felt that I was worthy of this award.

PTA is the avenue that brings together families, school and community with the shared goal of every student succeeds. Look for those individuals that are "truly in it for the kids". It may be a staff member, business partner, parent volunteer or even a student. To be recognized for the volunteer and advocacy work I love to do was one of those moments I will never forget. I know that the special someone in your school, town or local unit will feel the same way.

**Missouri  
PTA**  
Online Store

**Shop-PTA.com**  
Apparel, awards, gifts, supplies and more!



## 5 Simple Tips for Engaging Your Family in Reading

National PTA recently participated in Mediaplanet's Literacy in America campaign, where we united with industry leaders to encourage family literacy programs and reading, not just for children, but for families as a whole.

The campaign was distributed through USA TODAY on Dec.16, 2016 and is published online. To view the campaign, visit [EducationandCareerNews.com](http://EducationandCareerNews.com).

## Dell is Giving Away a \$20K Computer Lab to a K-12 School!

Dell is launching a national contest where one lucky school can win a \$20,000 computer lab! Is your child's school in need of a technology upgrade? Nominate your child's school or show some love to a school on the [Dell University Facebook page](#).

The lucky winner will be announced on Feb. 14, 2017, so apply today! As a bonus, if Dell chooses your school, you will also win an XPS 13 laptop!

Get Inspired! Watch [this YouTube video](#), "You Inspire Me to Come to Work."



## PTA, Movies & Compliance

Many PTAs use movies for a variety of programs and activities. In order to legally show a movie outside a home setting, federal copyright law requires obtaining a public performance license.

This law applies whether the organization is non-profit or commercial. It also applies whether admission fee is charged or not. Before showing a movie in school, make sure you're compliant!

What to do this month:

## Watch these National PTA Webinars

These webinars were pre-recorded. Watch them on [National PTA's YouTube](#).

[Safe Drinking Water in Schools: What Families Should Know](#)

[Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention: What Parents and Schools Can Do](#)

[Supporting Student Success \(English\)](#)

[Apoyando El Éxito Académico \(Español\)](#)

[A Parent's Role in ESSA Implementation](#)

## Bullying Prevention

Bullying has been mentioned over and over again in many circles in the past and some think that enough has been done towards this topic in their school. Unfortunately, Bullying is still happening and has taken a new identity in Cyberbullying.

With all of the technology our children are being exposed to everyday in schools and in their home, this topic needs to be treated as a flexible subject. What you might talk to your 5 year old about would be a totally different talk with a 10 year old and also a 15 year old. Please don't think of Bullying as a "one and done" topic. The bullying experience is not an isolated event, it can affect the victim, their family and friends. And not just for the moment but for years to come as well.

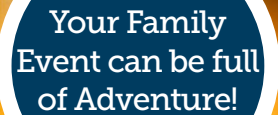
To help your unit/council spread helpful information to all its members about Bullying and Cyberbullying, National PTA has put together a Webinar, "Bullying and Cyberbullying: What Parents and Schools Can Do." Which can be accessed on [National PTA YouTube Channel](#). It is never too late to help a child in need, even if they or those around them don't know that they need help yet.

Please visit [pta.org/C4R](http://pta.org/C4R) for more bullying prevention resources from National PTA

# Resources & Reminders

Share your update or advertise with us! [contact@mopta.org](mailto:contact@mopta.org)

 MissouriPTA  MissouriPTA  @MissouriPTA



Your Family  
Event can be full  
of Adventure!



## Family Night At Your School



**Carrie Dixon** | Missouri PTA Resource Development Chair | [carried@mopta.org](mailto:carried@mopta.org)

Family nights are a great way to create a sense of community within your school. They help parents get connected to the school and show kids that school can be fun. Successful family nights include a program that excites and engages students and parents. Here are some tips to create a program that everyone is excited to attend.

**Have a creative theme for your family night.** When considering a theme make sure you can make lots of connections to the theme throughout your event. Here are some ideas of family nights that I found online (never underestimate the power of Google). Your unit can host a reading night with a western theme. Have everyone dress up in western attire. For entertainment have a cowboy demonstrate life on the ranch and talk about how important reading is to what he does. Finish off the night by entering everyone into a drawing for a basket that includes cowboy items and hat with books about Western life. You could also host a family reading night with a diner theme. Families will go to the cafeteria decorated like a diner where the servers are teachers that bring menus that is a list of books. The family will place their order and receive a book to then read together. You can also extend a theme through audience participation. For instance, if you host a Wizard of Oz movie night you can pass out prop kits that include clappers for when Dorothy clicks her heels, sunglasses to wear on the yellow brick road, glow sticks to wave when the group reaches the emerald city.

**Make sure you properly plan your family night.** Planning should begin at least two months before your event. Begin by deciding when to hold the event and remember that families are more likely to return to school on a week night but have more free time on

the weekend. Be sure to check school and community calendars for conflicts and remember that if any event starts around dinner time you will have a better attendance if you serve food. Make sure that the event location will accommodate the number of attendees you expect. Design a set up sheet that includes all equipment, chairs and tables that you will need for your event. If you're moving from station to station create a rotation and timing schedule. Test equipment before your event and remember to obtain any needed permissions or licenses. Decide if you're going to charge admission keeping in mind, in general, admission fees are not a good idea for family nights since the focus is usually on community building. If funds are needed to offset the cost of the event, you might sell food, snacks, souvenirs or hold a raffle.

**Advertise your family night.** You will want to emphasize that it is a family activity so parents won't just drop off their children. Tell parents what they need to bring such as lawn chairs, sleeping bags and if a meal or snacks will be provided or sold. Make sure to promote the event many different ways: posters in the school, banners as students are dropped off and picked up, school marquee, intercom announcements, and sending fliers home to parents. Attendance will depend on your success at building excitement.

Your family nights can enhance curriculum or they can just be a way for parents and children to have fun together at school. Throughout the process of planning and implementing your program keep that goal in mind. Making sure that everything you do points to that goal will help you to have a successful event and happy families.

Information and Benefits of your involvement in Missouri PTA

# You Need This

Share your update or advertise with us! [contact@mopta.org](mailto:contact@mopta.org)

[f MissouriPTA](#) [p MissouriPTA](#) [t @MissouriPTA](#)

## Missouri PTA College Scholarship Opportunity

### Show Me PTA Membership Opportunity

Are you looking for a way to promote PTA to Superintendents, Board of Education members and anyone who is not connected to a specific local PTA?

Show Me PTA is the answer. Show Me PTA was organized in 1997 as a statewide PTA unit for those who support the mission of PTA, but do not have a local unit to join. We invite everyone to help PTA promote the health and welfare of children and families and to support public education by joining Show Me PTA.

### Show Me PTA Membership Benefits

Membership is available without regard to race, color or national origin. Each member of the Show Me PTA is a member of National PTA and Missouri PTA and entitled to all membership benefits and privileges. Members are entitled to attend PTA events sponsored by Missouri PTA including the Missouri PTA convention, at which time the annual meeting of Show Me PTA is held.

### Show Me PTA Dues

Annual dues for Show Me PTA for the 2016-2017 membership year are \$10.00 each. Please help support public education by joining Show Me PTA. For more information contact the President of Show Me PTA, Kim Weber, at [kimw@mopta.org](mailto:kimw@mopta.org). Joining the Show Me PTA is easy - just visit [our webpage](#).

### Scholarship Information

**Do you know a high school senior who is considering a career in teaching?** Missouri PTA offers Teacher Education Scholarships for graduating High School Seniors; each scholarship provides a stipend of \$500 per year up to a maximum of \$2,000.

To be eligible for this award, applicants must:

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

[Scholarship applications](#) are available on the Missouri PTA website but must be submitted through the school counselor (only one application is accepted per school). Deadline to apply is determined by each school prior to Feb. 15. For more information [visit the Missouri PTA Website](#).

### Your PTA Can Support Student Scholarships

The Missouri PTA scholarship funds receives continuing financial support from contributions made by PTAs throughout Missouri as well as through individual gifts and memorials. The fund receives additional support from one-half the proceeds of the Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award.

**Please consider establishing a line item in your annual budget to help ensure that outstanding young people pursue their dreams of becoming Missouri Public School teachers.**

Donations can be made by check payable to Missouri PTA and mailed to 2101 Burlington St, Columbia, MO 65202.

# Board of Managers

I volunteer my time and efforts to organizations throughout the year. I'm a Girl Scout leader as well as a service team member. I donated time and money to our adopt-a-family program at work. I volunteered at the St. Louis Art Fair. I served with the Pursue Your Purpose Empowerment Program. There are many other organizations that I'm involved in as well. Despite all of these volunteer opportunities, I had a feeling that something was missing and I wasn't doing enough.

In early November, I saw a friend's Facebook post. She planned to volunteer at a local church for Thanksgiving. This resonated with me because the church was close and was affiliated with my home church. I decided to volunteer on Thanksgiving morning.


I told my daughter and she eagerly jumped on board. My niece decided to come to the house on Thanksgiving eve. I told her what we were doing and she wanted to help too.

On Thanksgiving morning, we all got ready and headed to the church. Everyone was so welcoming to us strangers. We all went to work as a team. We made meals, prepped family orders and got them ready for delivery. We were having fun... for real. Then....BONUS!! They needed more delivery drivers.

The girls and I had the privilege of delivering the meals that we helped to pack. We delivered to homes, nursing facilities and places of employment. Everyone was so appreciative.

The feelings that we experienced on this day are hard to describe. But personally, I was filled up and the girls were proud of themselves. I went home and finished preparing our Thanksgiving dinner. There was plenty of time for me to help others on this day. In the upcoming year, please make time for others. It may be what you're missing.



Nothing binds you except your thoughts; nothing limits you except your fear; and nothing controls you except your beliefs.  
Marianne Williamson  




**Burchell McGhee** | Missouri PTA Diversity Outreach & Engagement | [burchellm@mopta.org](mailto:burchellm@mopta.org)

**My position is charged with making PTA welcoming and inclusive for all children and families by honoring their differences as we advocate for the well-being of our communities.**

**I've been involved for 13 years including Hazelwood Central High School and Hazelwood Council**

**What makes you stand out? My smile**

**Healthy Living Tip Needs improvement but we'll start to focus on meal prep**

**What are you learning this year? I'm learning to say NO**

**What is a goal you have this year? My goals include to be more organized and focus on what's really important to me and my family. I'm going to put me first.**

**What is a proud accomplishment? My proud accomplishment was earning my master's degree as a single parent while working full time and at the helm of several organizations.**

**Something interesting you've done this year? This year I donated our time to a local church to prepare and deliver meals on Thanksgiving morning.**



**"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our Light, not our Darkness, that most frightens us."**  
Marianne Williamson