



Will Wiese | MoPTA Student Representative | willw@mopta.org



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.

Before joining the Board of Managers, I would have said students have no place in PTA. After joining the BOM as a Student Representative I realized I could not have been more wrong. Students play an important role in PTA. Serving as Student Representative has been a great honor. One that I have learned a lot from that I will take forward.

As a student representative, my role is to be the voice of the student, which PTA is advocating for. I am able to tell the members of the Board of Managers what I see compared to what they see. The students' perspective is added to the discussion. Student PTA Representatives have been a large part of legislation being passed for Distracted Driving. In turn I have learned the importance of advocacy. My voice does matter, that is the biggest message I would share with fellow PTA members.

PTA needs students, just like you, to step up and take an active role in their PTSA Units. Attend MO PTA State Convention, we have sessions just for you. Not sure how to get involved? I would like to speak with you. After all we are the future, we need to make sure it is a future we can all be proud of.

ASPIRE to INSPIRE

Missouri PTA Convention 2017

Over 30 workshops! President 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

Book your room by April 4, 2017!



ASPIRE to INSPIRE

Missouri PTA Convention 2017

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 – 9am 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

10:45am – 11:45am Workshop Session #6

11:45 am – 12:00pm Pick up lunch

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

2:00pm – 4:00pm Reflections Ceremony

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
(student attendees should be in 8th grade or above)

Register Online
for Convention Today!
Visit www.MoPTA.org for more information

MoPTA Convention

Mark Your Calendar

Contact us! contact@mopta.org

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

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.

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

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

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



School Grants for Healthy Kids:

Thanks to National PTA partners, Action for Healthy Kids has provided \$6.6 million in grants to schools since 2009. Our School [Grants for Healthy Kids can help your school health team](#) achieve its goal to make every kid healthy and ready to learn. **Action for Healthy Kids is now accepting grant applications for the 2017-2018 school year between February 6 - April 7, 2017.**

Congratulations!

Gracemor Elementary PTA in Pleasant Valley and Sunshine Elementary PTA in Springfield both won in the Kindle e-reader giveaway!

Thanks to the generous support of Kindle, 100 Local PTA Units will receive a donation of 5 e-readers from National PTA to engage more families in reading activities. The 2017 reading month giveaway is part of the National PTA Family Reading Experience and in celebration of National Reading Month in March 2017.

contribute to
CONTACT

April Edition: Reflections
Items due March 20

May Edition: Celebrations!
Items due April 20



To contribute, simply email content to contact@mopta.org

From the Missouri PTA President

Contact me! dorothyg@mopta.org

 MissouriPTA

 MissouriPTA

 @MissouriPTA



Every Child, One Voice



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

Every Child One Voice. Four little words that define the 'why' of PTA. Four words that roll easily off the tongue. Four words that send a powerful message. But are we really living those four words? We talk about the importance of diversity within our PTAs and what that looks like depends on each unit and the community they serve. However, to truly live up to those four words, we need to embrace diversity. Not just locally, but realize that to be the One Voice speaking for Every Child we must appreciate the diversity of children throughout the State and Nation. This diverse collection of children will grow up to be the outward face of our Country.

My mother visits the preschool my sister works at every week. She thoroughly enjoys the hugs even though she can't pronounce many of their names. She relishes the opportunity to read them the 'old stories', as she fondly refers to the stories she read me when I was little, even though many of them do not

fully understand the cultural references or the language. You see, the preschool my sister teaches at, in suburban West Saint Louis County, boast six different cultures - Nepali, Syrian, American, Phillipine, African American, and Indian. Of course, language is a hurdle, but one that everyone understands must be bridged. It tends to be the cultural misunderstandings that cause the greatest discomfort. But not for the kids. They are eager to listen to my mother ham up the Three Little Pigs and she is eager to see them each week. The rich diversity they experience each preschool day is a norm in their lives.

Broad support of children, across every barrier whether zip code, race or culture, not just embodies Every Child One Voice but it is what makes PTA stand out. However, for this support to have full impact we, as members, need to live it. We need to speak out and act even when an issue doesn't have an effect on our own individual children. We must champion them all.

Parent Teacher Alliance Activities Not Connected to PTA

A political action committee has been calling itself the "Parent Teacher Alliance" and has been using the PTA trademark while campaigning for candidates for the Los Angeles Unified School District School Board. Please be aware that National PTA, California State PTA and other constituent associations have no affiliation, connection or association with the Parent Teacher Alliance.

The services offered and campaigns made by the Parent Teacher Alliance are not sponsored nor approved by National PTA. As you know, PTA is a nonpartisan association. As such, National PTA and its constituent associations never comment on, endorse nor support candidates for office. Any messages you hear or receive that state otherwise are not ours. National PTA takes this matter very seriously and is committed to ensuring it is resolved.

Communication Tips

Contact us! communication@mopta.org

MissouriPTA

MissouriPTA

@MissouriPTA

Your Social Media Experts Are Closer Than You Think



While we as parents are trying to get our kids OFF their phones, their tech savvy-ness can come in handy for your PTA. They know about all the "cool" new social media apps that are out there.

You can tap into this for your PTA by getting them involved and, (with supervision!) even allow them to help run some of the social media accounts that are geared more towards students. If you can get a few students excited about being involved in PTA (and what better way than telling them they get to be on their phone the whole time!?) they will in turn get more students involved in your PTA!

National PTA does have a [Social Media Guide](#) that is a great resource whether you are just starting out with social media for your PTA, or if you have already been utilizing it.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION With Your Teen

Many of us find it hard to communicate effectively with our teenagers. Most of the time misunderstandings lead to poor communication. Changing how we think can lead to better conversation with your teens.



WHAT YOUR TEEN MAY BE THINKING



"Oh SH!B, they want to talk about _____."

"my grades in school"

"drugs, alcohol, & relationships"

"My parents are clueless."

If they say _____, I'm out of here!

"you'll talk when I'm finished"

"I know what's best for you"

"just do what I say and that will solve the problem"

"do it because I said so"

"JUST LISTEN"

WHAT YOU MIGHT BE THINKING



My teenager really hates me!

"My teen just doesn't get it!"

I wish they would just _____!

"wait to talk when I'm finished"

"understand I know what's best for them"

"just do what I say"

"do it because I said so"

"JUST LISTEN"

Sound Familiar!?

This misunderstanding can lead to contention and mistrust making it harder to communicate with your teen.

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD Teens often hear only 1% of what we say but 100% of how we say it.



STEPS TO A GREAT CONVERSATION

KEEP A FEW THINGS IN MIND

Questions

1. What is the goal / purpose of the conversation?
2. What attitude or assumptions do I bring to the conversation?
3. How will my teen react to the conversation?
4. How have I contributed to the issue at hand?

Review your thoughts and talking points before beginning the conversation.



PRACTICE ACTIVE LISTENING

As a parent, **listen** when your teen will talk about the issue.



Studies show after listening to a 10 minute oral presentation, the average listener has heard, understood and retained 90%.

Quick Tips:

- Teens often say things just to see how you react.
- Avoid becoming defensive, reacting negatively or attacking regardless of what your teen says.
- Respect each other's views.

As a parent you must try to listen attentively and retain 100%.



Fun Fact: We can speak about 125 WPM, (Words Per Minute). We Can Listen To 400 WPM.

By actively listening you are **NOT** focusing on your response, you are focusing on what your teen is saying.

LISTEN

Don't Judge or Attack. Don't React Negatively. Don't Become Defensive.

RESPECT YOUR TEENS OPINION.

QUICK TIP

If you are angry about a behavior or an incident, don't attempt communication until you regain your composure.

JAMES WALKER ELEMENTARY PTA

201 NE Sunnyside School Road • Blue Springs, MO 64014 • (816) 224-1380

Hello Missouri PTA -

I am very excited to be attending my first ever PTA convention. Thank you so much for this opportunity of training, Fellowship & most importantly skills to improve not only our PTA, but myself!

Thanks again!

Heather Lamb

Personal, hand-written notes are always a good idea.

Attending MoPTA Convention is always a good idea too, see you in April!

PTA

everychild.one voice.

The James Walker Elementary PTA shall:

1. Continue to support PTA activities for JWE students and their families.
2. Increase the level of family involvement at James Walker Elementary.



Current Missouri PTA President Dorothy Gardner and past state president Donna Petiford recently attended the Springfield Council PTA Founders Day Banquet.

Would you like your PTA featured in Contact? Send your articles, pictures and tips to contact@mopta.org (Hint: Do it! Submissions counts for leadership project!)

Missouri PTA Online Store

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



Sarah Day | Missouri PTA VP of Field Service | sarahd@mopta.org



Leadership is a difficult responsibility as you are responsible not only for yourself but for so many other people who look up to you. So, when you nurture hope as a leader, you nurture dreams and create possibilities.

You will meet a lot of people in PTA. Remember, no two people are alike. Where they come from, what they have experienced in their lives, what they count as their accomplishments and what they consider as hardship, are all different. As a leader, you have a responsibility to nurture people and motivate them.

As you rise in any organization, even PTA, one of your key responsibilities is to develop your team and help them to grow. Helping people achieve their aspirations is something you must consider as your responsibility.

As a leader, this puts you in a very delicate position. Many times, it is possible that you may come across people in your team whose performance leaves a lot to be desired. In these cases, be cautious before denouncing the person and branding them as incompetent. Quite often you may also be responsible for their low performance if you have not supported them the way you should have.

Think about it! If you have a team member who does not possess the skill or knowledge that is required to execute a particular project and you assign him or her that project without any training or coaching, you are setting them up to fail. If that person does not do well, can you really blame him or her? After all, you are equally to blame. Sometime when you have a position of authority you forget that you were also once in the same

position and that they deserve to be treated fairly and with respect.

Real leaders are those that bring out the best in others and motivate them to work towards a common goal and in the process also help them realize their dreams. If you study people, you will find some redeeming quality in every person you meet and every person you work with. The thing is that you need to be a person who looks for the best in other people. If you are in the habit of running down people, particularly in public, then it is unlikely you will find any good quality in the people you interact with. Since you are looking for faults and issues, that is all that you will find.

Even in the most hopeless of situations, something must be going right and something can be done to improve whatever it is that has gone wrong. Even those you believe are not meeting the goals, not displaying any initiative or interest, could have some issues that you could address and get them back on track. Usually there are reasons that trigger problems and that make people behave in a negative manner. If you can pinpoint it, you would be in a much better position to address it.

Leadership is all about building and nurturing relationships and motivating people to achieve common goals. If you treat your colleagues with courtesy, you will not only build enduring relationships and improve their performance but also add to your leadership skills and image.

So, don't take away someone's hope. PTA has hope! Hope for our children! Hope for the future!



Missouri PTA is proud to be a member of the Raise the Age Coalition. This coalition is working to pass legislation to protect children in the justice system. Missouri's juvenile justice system has become a [national model](#) for rehabilitating vulnerable young people. Our juvenile system can hold young people accountable while helping them get back on track – in fact, people coming out of our adult prisons and jails reoffend and go back to prison three times as often as kids coming out of our juvenile facilities. So why wouldn't we follow the national

trend and rehabilitate 17-year-olds in our juvenile justice system whenever we can?

- Raising the age will improve public safety, save taxpayer dollars, treat families fairly, and get better outcomes for vulnerable young people.
- Raising the age means including 17-year-olds in the juvenile justice system. Right now, Missouri is one of only 7 states that automatically prosecute all 17-year-olds as adults – even for the most minor offenses.

In the 2017 legislative session, Raise the Age Missouri supports [Senate Bill 40](#) and [House Bill 274](#). These two bills are common-sense solutions that will...

- Bring most 17-year-olds into the juvenile justice system, holding kids accountable in juvenile court,
- while still allowing 17-year-olds accused of the most serious offenses to be prosecuted as adults.

Separately, help keep children aged 12 to 15 out of criminal court.

To find out more about Raise the Age click [here](#). You can help by watching for JC/DC Action Alerts about these two key pieces of legislation and contacting your representatives encouraging them to "Raise the Age".

School Board Elections: Get Out & Vote!

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

April 4th voters in towns across Missouri will be electing new school board members and voting on bonds or tax levies to fund public education. These elections are extremely important and something you definitely want to encourage your membership to take part in. Missouri is currently operating under a revenue shortfall so with less tax dollars available whom you elect to your local school board is more important than ever.

Unfortunately, April municipal elections typically have lower voter turn out than state elections held in November. Your PTA Unit can increase the numbers by hosting an event and allowing all the candidates running to speak with your Unit or Council.

Please remember the following guidelines: Because of the PTA's 501(c)(3) status there are IRS restrictions PTAs must observe when it comes to elections. PTAs cannot be part of PACs (Political Action Committee) and they cannot support or oppose candidates.

However there are many things your PTA can do to promote advocacy during elections:

- Host voter registration tables
- Encourage member to register and vote
- Host or co-host student mock elections
- Support or oppose propositions – these must fall in line with PTA mission, purposes, resolutions and positions
- Support school bond and levy issues
- Host candidate forums – all candidates must be invited to participate.

If a Town Hall meeting is not possible, consider adding the candidate bios (Usually you can obtain these from your school district) to your Unit's web page. You could also include a reminder to get out and vote in your newsletters and via social media.

If your Unit has a great idea I would love to highlight it in a future issue of Contact!



Resolution

Radicalization of Youth

Whereas, Youth are actively being targeted for recruitment by extremist groups and research conducted has documented youth, due to their normal cognitive and physical development, are particularly vulnerable to the influence of violent extremism; and

Whereas, Extremist organizations are utilizing online technologies of which youth are often tech-savvy in using and spend large quantities engaging in such as social media to contact and communicate, online gaming to communicate and train, online forums to spread and stream propaganda, and detailed online magazines serving as how-to-guides and disseminating information; and

Whereas, Schools and communities are at an increased risk of being the target of radicalized extremist violent actions but are also the most effective at instituting preventative measures and legislation designed to identify and diminish the occurrences of radicalization among youth; and

Whereas, Family engagement, through positive messaging and mentoring, open dialogue, monitoring of online interaction, and awareness of radicalization or mobilization of activities or behaviors has been identified to reduce the likelihood of youth becoming radicalized or engaging in radicalized behavior; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and councils support legislation requiring school districts to establish threat assessment teams; and

Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parent and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and councils collaborate with community partners, mental health practitioners, social services, school districts, and state and local law enforcement to promote and enhance awareness of resources and effective techniques to identify and prevent radicalization of youth; and

Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and councils strongly encourage the empowering of school boards, administrators, teachers, and families to initiate disengagement activities, engage in positive messaging and mentoring, and educate bystanders on the radicalization of youth.



Missouri PTA has developed a new Resolution that our membership will vote to adopt at Convention in April.

This Resolution is a timely resolution on the Radicalization of Youth. We have read articles and seen stories on the news of young adults being recruited and joining terrorist organizations, becoming victims of human trafficking or influenced by cults. With the resolution we seek to start the dialogue about how we identify harmful sites, institute legislation to prevent radicalization and help our schools and parents identify youth who may be susceptible to radicalization.

We recognize the need for enhanced education of our schools and families to this dangerous problem. We call for schools, families, police forces and mental health professionals to join together to protect the youth of Missouri and the Nation. There will be a workshop at Convention on this and proposed bylaws changes prior to the vote. If you have questions or concerns please plan to attend this workshop.



Inclusive Elections Work



Burchell McGhee | Missouri PTA Diversity Outreach & Engagement | burchellm@mopta.org

Spring is right around the corner. This means that elections are right around the corner as well. Hopefully, your unit has elected a nominating committee. They should be hard at work searching for viable candidates to fill the vacancies in your unit's board. We strive to be more inclusive of all members of the school community and our board should reflect this goal. We must remember that the diversification of our units goes well beyond race and religion.

I'll use Hazelwood Central's Executive Board as an example. Although we are not the We Are The World Billboard, we can be called diverse. The president and vice president are African American women. The treasurer and secretary are Caucasian women. Between the four of us, we are Methodist, Apostolic, Southern Baptist, and Catholic. Some of us are married. Others are single. In addition, one of us uses a wheelchair.

This is so awesome because when we're working on the far end of the campus and realize that we've forgotten something in the main office, her wheelchair travels at speeds of up to 8 miles per hour. You may laugh but I know my limits and really appreciate her.

In the spirit of this month's theme of student perspective, I

asked a couple of students if they thought that our board was diverse. They both had to think about it. It took longer than I anticipated. I had to make sure they knew what diversity meant. They did. Maggie, a sophomore, said that she "doesn't really think about diversity as it is part of her everyday life." She "looks at the person. If they are getting the job done, nothing else factors into the equation." She actually said that she didn't realize that make up of our board until I asked because "We just get things done!!" Deja, a junior, added a different perspective. She said "Yes. We are diverse in race, religion and physical differences. But I would like to see more cultures represented." Out if the mouth of babes.

The input from the students made me think. According to the Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) data, our Hispanic and Asian population are only at 5 and 2 percent respectively.

Deja said that we need to actively recruit these families to be more inclusive and for better input into what the community really wants and needs. The conversations with the students were beneficial. They helped me to see the progress that we've made as well as the work that still needs to be done. Good luck to all units in your upcoming elections!



Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization.

Mahatma Gandhi

 quoteagency



It is not enough to simply listen to student voice. Educators have an ethical imperative to do something with students, and that is why meaningful student involvement is vital to school improvement.

Adam Fletcher

Celebrating achievement in Dance Choreography, Film Production,
Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts

2016-2017 THEME:

What Is Your Story?



Free
for all
Students &
Families!

Missouri PTA Reflections Showcase

Sunday, April 30, 2017

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

Visit www.MoPTA.org for more information

MoPTA Reflections

Students Deserve Computer Science Education!

Your students deserve quality computer science education. [TEALS](#) helps create sustainable computer science programs in US high schools. By pairing computer science professionals from the technology industry with classroom educators, thousands of high school students get access to computer science education, while classroom teachers master computer science content and work toward teaching computer science independently. Learn more at tealsk12.org.

Apply for the Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award

National PTA is now accepting applications for the 2017 [Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Awards](#). These awards recognize PTAs that best demonstrate outstanding achievement in the areas of diversity and inclusion, as well as efforts to end discriminatory practices.

The award will be presented to one state PTA, one district/council PTA and one local PTA at the Annual National PTA Convention, June 22-25, 2017, in Las Vegas. Spread the word to your local PTA units! Get full eligibility and selection criteria and application requirements at PTA.org/Awards. [Submit your application online](#) by Friday, March 17, 2017, 8 p.m. EST/5 p.m. PST.

Tell Your Local Units to Apply for a Mary Lou Anderson Grant

The [National PTA Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant](#) provides up to \$1,000 in matching funds to support local PTA arts projects within their school community. Funded projects will increase access to learning opportunities in the literary, media, visual and/or performing arts for at-risk or underserved audiences.

Arts projects must actively engage families and community partners to strengthen family-school partnerships. Eligible applicants must be a PTA in good standing, as determined by the State PTA. Applications must be submitted by Friday, March 17, 2017. More at PTA.org/Awards.

Support Kids' Health and Well-Being: Apply for a Grant

Action for Healthy Kids is providing over 1,100 grants for the 2017-2018 school year. Apply for a breakfast grant to pilot or expand school breakfast programs or a Game On grant to support physical activity and nutrition initiatives.

Learn more and apply by April 7 at ActionforHealthyKids.org/Grants.

Nominate a Teacher for STEM's Highest Honor

Great teachers ought to be recognized. If you know a seventh through 12th-grade educator that deserves the nation's highest honor in STEM teaching, nominate them for the [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#) (PAEMST). Anyone—parents, students, teachers or friends—can submit a nomination.

Winners receive a signed certificate from the President, a trip to Washington, DC for recognition events and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Nominations close April 1, so [nominate an exceptional teacher today](#).

Student Voice Needed!

How are students incorporated into your unit's programs? Do they actually have a voice at the table? As PTA leaders, who tend to be parents, there is a mindset that we know what is best. After all we've been in this parent role for quite a few years now and are pretty certain we've picked up a few tricks of the trade.

This mindset can, unfortunately, cause us to put on our blinders and bulldoze through our programs. Students involvement and interaction has the power to enhance and sometimes even transform. So, let them take part in the planning and execution. Here are just a few examples.

- **Reflections** – the theme was already crafted by students so why not let students develop and implement the advertising of the program. Kids usually know what resonates with and how to reach other kids. Use this kid strength.
- **Founder's Day** – just recently the Springfield Council PTA Founder's Day event made sure the students were incorporated into the program. Students from all grade levels wrote and read how they felt PTA impacted their lives. Powerful and inspiring stuff.
- **Family Fun Day/ Carnival** – who's going to play those games? The kids! Involve the students in a survey or poll to find out what games they want to see. This not only ensures the games are a success but drums up anticipation for the upcoming event.
- **Grants** – there is a local Liberty unit that decided to include students on the committee to choose teacher grants. The grant requests were all submitted by the teachers. This was not only a great way to give students leadership opportunities, serving on a committee, but also afforded them closer connection to their school.
- **School Board Forum** – need a great moderator for your School Board Forum? Contact your High School debate teacher. Those students are trained, poised, and excited to show off their skills.

Basics for the Election of PTA Officers

- All PTA elections must be held by March 31.
- Using proper parliamentary procedure is important when conducting the election of officers.
- At the election meeting, the presiding officer asks for the nominating committee report.
- After the report is given, the presiding officer asks for additional nominations from the floor.
- If there is only one (1) nominee for each office, the bylaws may provide for a voice vote.
- If any office has more than one nominee, a ballot vote is required for that office.
- There may also be a line for any write-in candidates for each position.
- The president may retain the Chair and conduct the election, even if he or she is a candidate for a pending office.
- Nominations for office are not motions and do NOT require a second.
- The president ensures that every eligible member in attendance and wishing to vote can do so.
- The count takes place on site while the meeting continues.

Will's Favorite Quote

"I'm not the sort to back away from a fight. I don't believe in shrinking from anything. It's not my speed; I'm a guy who meets adversities head on."

-John Wayne

Will's Favorites

Food: Kalbi (Korean BBQ Short Ribs)

TV Show: King of the Hill

Movie: Wayne's World

Hobbies: Camping, Rock Climbing,
Building Computers, and
Photography



*Independent Student Leader
focused on ensuring
student voices are heard*



Will Wiese | Missouri PTA Student Representative | willw@mopta.org

As the student representative, I have multiple jobs that I am expected to fulfill. My main job is organizing the student portion of State convention. My secondary role is to be the voice of students in MOPTA.

I go to Timberland High School in Wentzville, Missouri which I will be graduating from in May. At THS I am active in DECA and FBLA.

I think that what sets me apart from other people is how outspoken I am, my willingness to voice my opinions, and how I really feel about issues that affect me and my peers. If I could describe myself in three words I would

say that it would be confident, leader and adventurous

Over the past year I have been working towards getting my Eagle Scout award. Now that I have finally completed it I realize how much work I did to attain it. The long waits and red tape have paid off and now I have an award that very little scouts receive.

I hope to begin college in the next year and begin pursuing a degree in Network Engineering. I will be starting at St. Charles Community College to get my basic classes out of the way before I go onto a four year university to finish my degree.