



October/November 2017
Volume 98 | Issue 10

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DIFFERENCE

**DIAPERS THAT
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

RECRUITING WITH
SOCIAL MEDIA

*“The advancement of **technology**
generally evokes a range of emotions
in people from all walks of life.*

*Some view technology as a great evil
that slowly diminishes our humanity,
while others view it as a way to bring the world
closer together and to help solve some
of our greatest challenges.”*

Robert J. Szczerba, Forbes contributor

**NEW! PASSIONATE ABOUT PEOPLE
(YOUR ADVOCACY HANDBOOK)**

From the Missouri PTA Contact Editor

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Contact Digital Magazine
Future Editions:

December 2017 - Awkward!
Send us your stuff by November 20

January 2018 - Fresh Start
Send us your stuff by December 20



Be an active, engaged participant in a world filled with technology

In a world bombarded by technology-skewed interaction and leadership driven-thinking, what does it take to be an active participant? Invest in these important practices to improve your relationships, encourage those around you and feel the satisfaction of being a quality helper.

Listen Attentively. When you are speaking to the most important person in the world; you're captivated. What if you spend most of your conversations in this mode: regular eye contact, full attention and invested conversation? Your relationships would grow and you'd become a more active participant in your own life.

Ask Relevant Questions. When you listen to what your leader is really saying, you're going to understand the purpose of what they're doing and you're going to want to know more. So much so, that you won't be able to help yourself. Your hand will be in the air, you'll be asking questions and you might even be at the edge of your seat with excitement. Great! The leader can see this and it helps bolster their excitement as well.

Allow the Leader to Lead. Sure you're probably a great leader. But every leader has their day and let the current leader have theirs. Do what you can to ensure their success. Ask for their direction, support their decisions and help them make the best of the project at hand.

Cheerfully Make the Effort. I've seen employees and PTA volunteers complete quality work with a terrible attitude, making sure I knew they




didn't agree with or want to complete the project. And I've seen others in the same situation seem like it's the best job they've ever been given, happily complete the project and ask to help with the next seemingly mundane task. Guess what? As the leader, I get it. Not everything that a participant does is going to be fun and exciting, but keeping a cheerful attitude will make the leader appreciate you and your effort—and especially your attitude, and builds trust in the relationship. When you hear "attitude is everything," you'd better believe that it's true.

Provide Appropriate & Constructive Feedback. Many leaders want to know what went well and what could be improved. Be prepared to share both areas with confidence and tact. Praise the successes and tenderly share the opportunities to help build the project and the leader's skills. Leaders appreciate participants that see the bigger picture and the details.

Share the Credit. You may have been the hero participant in the success of the project. It doesn't really matter. Give the leader and the team credit. It will make you feel better and builds teamwork and trust within the group.

Follow-Up with Appreciation. A thoughtful gesture of appreciation can go a long way in improving someone's day, especially a new leader. Take the time with a thank-you note (preferred) or an email to share with the leader about your appreciation and specific successes of their leadership. This small, important gesture will make a big difference.






From the Missouri PTA President

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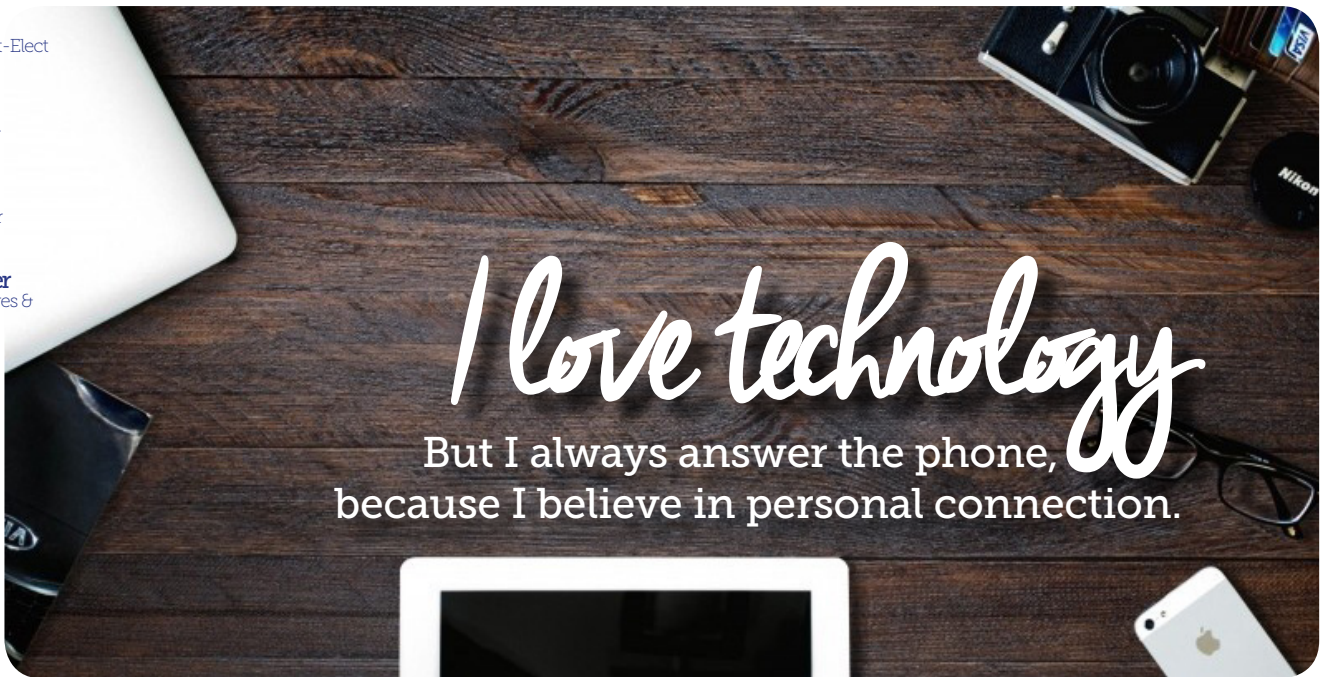
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PTA Vision: Making Each Child's Potential A Reality

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.

Download the entire year in a customizable word doc from the PTA members section of our website at www.MOPTA.org. Just log in with your username and password.



When I was little my mother would assign me the task to contact members on the church call list to request donations or meals for parishioners in need. I hated it for a variety of reasons the utmost being I didn't want to talk to a bunch of adults relaying the same message over and over again. Why do I think my mother didn't want to make the calls? Well, they were extremely time consuming and this would have been prior to the arrival of the answering machine. This meant I had to personally talk with everyone on the list. And while I hated this assigned task, the calls always filled up the list of whatever was needed at that particular time. The personal ask worked.

This personal touch must never take the backseat in any aspect of our lives. Making that direct personal connection, even if brief, builds networks, friendships and most importantly trust. When we communicate through our most basic form of communication we impact others in a personal way.

I LOVE technology! Technology allows me to reach and connect with others in an immediate manner that far surpasses the old rotary phone I used to call the church list. Technology allows me to not just reply quickly but I can reply in situations where I cannot momentarily speak

directly. Technology provides me with the means to manage an organization whose officers, board members, unit/council presidents, and members span a state hundreds of miles wide and long. Technology has provided a platform for group think tanks where sharing of ideas and questions benefits multiples of individuals. Technology has made what I do not just easier but more efficient. And, I whole heartedly embrace all that technology has to offer.

BUT, and this is a big but, I always try to answer that phone call. I always return that voicemail. I always offer to speak by phone. And while meeting in person isn't always feasible, when possible I always offer to meet in person because I know that relationships and trust are built by personal touches like these. This simply can't be replaced by technology. However, it can create a more meaningful interaction when technology is used after that initial connection has been established.

Would I ever want to go back to a time when I had to pick up that rotary phone and make all those calls. No. But, I wouldn't have to. My mom had personal relationships with all those on that church list. If it was today she could have just shot out an email or a text message and the spots would have filled up just the same.

President's October Checklist

Send in dues Review awards Plan for next general meeting Consider hosting a program or event Recognize Reflections winners	Ongoing communication with Executive Board E-learning – Effective Advocacy For Your Child Keep communication current (social media, website, newsletters)	Share Contact digital magazine - Consider submitting article for publication Share MOPTA social media posts Hold Executive Board meeting
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President's November Checklist

Send in dues Send in End of year financial report, annual review report, copy of 990 IRS submission (due 12/1) Hold a General meeting Plan an event or program	Give a treasurer's report Recognize Reflections winners Address any bylaws changes and send amendments to the state Elect the nominating committee (check bylaws)
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Missouri PTA Special Update

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Ritenour Music Teacher Selected as 2017-18 Missouri Teacher of the Year From Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Beth Davey, a K-5 music teacher at Iveland Elementary in the Ritenour School District, was announced as the 2017-18 Missouri Teacher of the Year on Friday, Sept. 8, during a surprise assembly at her school. She becomes the 49th Missouri Teacher of the Year since the program's inception in 1957 and the first to come from the Ritenour School District.

To read more about Ms. Davey's classroom and community accomplishments, please visit the official [Teacher of the Year release](#).

Missouri PTA is proud to serve on the Teacher of the Year committee each year and we continue to be impressed with the teacher nominees and the quality of teachers in Missouri. Teachers - thank you for your work with our children.

What are Bylaws and Standing Rules and do we really need them? Elaine Gerstenberger | Missouri PTA Procedures & Bylaws Chair

Bylaws are legal documents that contain specific rules and regulations that define each PTA's structure and the policies of that PTA. Standing rules list procedures used in a PTA that may change from time to time.

Bylaws contain portions that are in common with all other PTAs (as marked with # symbols) and portions that are unique to the local PTA. The approval process of bylaws requires that the general membership of the local PTA and the Missouri PTA approve bylaws and amendments before they are in effect. All PTAs must have up-to-date bylaws and they must be state approved at least every three (3) years.

Standing rules differ from bylaws in that they address only the needs of the individual PTA unit. They are more flexible than bylaws and are at the discretion of the needs of the individual PTA unit.

They may be adopted, amended, suspended for a meeting, or rescinded by a vote of the membership they address. Standing rules are a good place to list miscellaneous instructions for various chairmen. PTA units or boards use standing rules only if they desire them. Standing rule amendments can be changed when needed, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the board without notice or by a majority vote with previous notice.

Yes, we need Bylaws and Standing rules. These are your unit's policies and procedures, they are what keeps your unit in good standing and out of trouble. If and when there is ever a question concerning why your unit does or does not do something refer back to your bylaws and standing rules. Do you know what your local unit and/or council bylaws say?



Jump for Joy
Do yourself (and your future officers) a favor and tackle your bylaws project now. Once you dig in, you'll realize that Missouri PTA has resources to help make the project more doable. It's a project that will be worth its weight in gold.

How do you start the process in order to submit your bylaws? Elaine Gerstenberger | Missouri PTA Procedures & Bylaws Chair

Please compare your current bylaws with the most current [Suggested Bylaws for Units/Councils](#). Since you only submit bylaws every 3 years there will be updates from National and State level even if your local Unit and/or Council did not change anything in your bylaws (this will save your bylaws committee chairman a lot of time and will make the process go smoother). The current bylaws should be on file with your PTA secretary or bylaws chairman; or a replacement copy can be requested from Missouri PTA. The Suggested Bylaws for Units/Councils are available from Missouri PTA via email and they can be found on the [Missouri PTA website](#) in the "PTA Members Section" under the "Tools" tab (Contact your president to get your credentials, and if they don't have them, they can email website@mopta.org to have your login reset).

A bylaws committee should be appointed each year to review the content of the bylaws. PTA units are required to submit to Missouri PTA a set of bylaws

for approval every 3 years. Any required portions, as denoted by the # symbol, must be included verbatim. The remaining articles and sections may be written in accordance with the local PTA needs. When changes to the bylaws are needed, the amendment process should be followed. The Suggested Bylaws for Units/Councils should be used as reference, not as a fill-in-the-blanks form. More detailed procedures are included in the "Procedures for Bylaws Review" in the "Procedures and Bylaws" section of the MOPTA Tool Kit which can be found in the "PTA Members Section" under "MOPTA Tools" and then "Tool Kits & Guides".

The final draft will be a new document that should be prepared and proofread carefully. Once prepared, and voted on by the general membership if necessary, the bylaws must be sent in for state approval. Email a copy of the bylaws with the cover form as a Word Document attachment to office@mopta.org.

Art Changes Everything.

That's why we need you.

Missouri PTA is seeking a volunteer to fill the State Reflections Chair immediately. This rewarding volunteer position oversees the state Reflections program and the annual Student Showcase Event which features six categories - Dance Choreography, Filmography, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.

This position will help grow your skills and offers a rewarding volunteer opportunity. Here are the basics for this essential coordinator position:

Willingness to learn or knowledge of the Reflections program basics (you get great training and a talented support team).

Excellent organization, Verbal and written communication skills and can work in a team environment.
(You have your own committee of helpers!)

Reliable and responsible - you understand and demonstrate following through with your commitments.
(This program rocks! We need you to rock too)

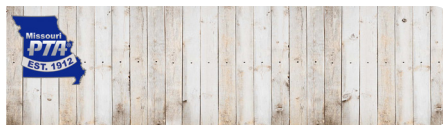
Comfortable with using email. Experience with Power Point, Excel and Google Docs.
(You don't have to be a tech wizard, but it's nice to know your way around the basic programs)

Interested? (Yes, we know you are!)
Contact Susan Rupert at president-elect@mopta.org for more information.



Our National & Missouri PTA Partners

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Susan Rupert

Missouri PTA President-Elect

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"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH."
- Helen Keller



We need you!
Missouri PTA Reflections Chair
[More Info & Apply Online](#)



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New! Cars 4 Classrooms

The Chrysler brand announced it has become a Proud National Sponsor of National PTA.

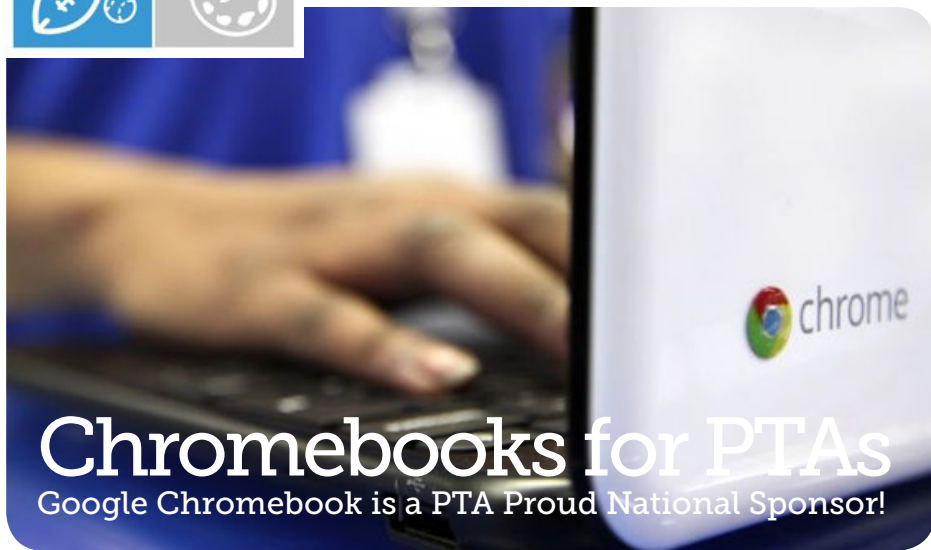
The Chrysler brand and National PTA will support local PTAs across the country in promoting family engagement in education and raising funds for their schools through the Chrysler "Cars 4 Classrooms" fundraising program.

Through the "Cars 4 Classrooms" initiative, PTAs and schools have the opportunity to set up test drive fundraising events featuring the Chrysler Pacifica and Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivan. The brand will donate \$10 to the school for every participant who takes a test drive. PTAs can go to cars4classrooms.com to learn more about hosting an event. Participating Chrysler franchised dealerships will work with PTAs, providing minivans for the events.

Additionally, as part of National PTA's [Take Your Family to School Week](#) (Feb. 11-17, 2018), the Chrysler brand will support PTAs in encouraging families to visit their child's school and get more involved in their education.

"The Chrysler brand and its dealer network have worked with families and educators on test drive fundraisers in communities across America for more than 25 years," said Tim Kuniskis, Head of Passenger Cars - North America. "Through our partnership with National PTA, the goal is to give every school in every community the opportunity to thrive. Every test-drive in the all-new Chrysler Pacifica will help initiatives like after-school programs, new playground builds, and technology updates."

"Across the country, PTAs work to support their school communities and increase family engagement in education, which has been proven to improve student and community outcomes," said Jim Accomando, president of National PTA. "National PTA is pleased to team up with the Chrysler brand to help PTAs support their schools and get more families involved in their child's education."



Chromebooks for PTAs

Google Chromebook is a PTA Proud National Sponsor!

PTAs often help buy technology to support classrooms. To help with fundraising, Google's Chromebook partners are launching a program that contributes funds to your PTA whenever a family in your community buys a Chromebook. Chromebooks are a hit in classrooms and many students and their families also use them at home.

Here's how the program works:

- Enroll in the program using the Chromebook manufacturer pages on the [Chromebooks for PTAs fundraising program website](#). You'll receive a special purchasing link to track purchases made in your community so that funds can be provided to your PTA.
- Spread the word about Chromebooks with those in your network and encourage them to use your special

purchasing link so their purchase can help your PTA.

- Your PTA earns money for every local Chromebook purchased online using your special purchasing link.

To get your special purchasing link and find out how much your PTA can earn, visit the [Chromebooks for PTAs fundraising program website](#). You may sign up with any/all of the manufacturers you want. If you aren't sure which manufacturer(s) to sign up with, ask your school which devices they use.

For more information about the program, check out the [Chromebooks for PTAs fundraising program website](#). We hope this helps your PTA earn extra funds to do even more to help the children and families in your community!

Parents For Healthy Kids

National PTA and Action for Healthy Kids, with support from ALDI, have teamed up to create ParentsforHealthyKids.org, a new website that teaches parents how to get involved in school health and wellness to create healthier schools where kids can thrive.

The site is unlike any other dedicated to school health—it's by parents for parents, no matter what your knowledge or experience is in school health. The interactive site includes:

- Quizzes: Do you really know how healthy your child's school is?
- Like a Boss: Everything you need to navigate the hallways of school health and wellness.
- Hot Topics: Physical Activity & P.E., Recess, Good Eats, Snack Time, Fundraisers and Policy.
- Inspiration: Videos and testimonials that will inspire you to get started or keep going.
- A Community Forum: exchange ideas and connect with other parents

Wherever and whenever you are ready to champion healthy habits in your child's school, take the first step by visiting ParentsforHealthyKids.org.





For Local PTAs:

National PTA STEM + Families Science Grants (Bayer)

The 2017 National PTA STEM + Families Science Grants will award \$1,000 to 30 local PTAs to host a STEM + Families Science Festival. All elementary and middle school PTAs are eligible provided they can host their event during the 2017-2018 school year. In addition to the \$1000 grant, National PTA and Bayer will provide awardees with a starter pack of \$400 worth of materials to give PTAs a jump-start on collecting the supplies needed for your Science Festival.

For State/District/Regional PTAs:

National PTA STEM + Families Science Grants (Bayer)

Do you want to help build capacity in your local PTAs? Then this grant is for you! The 2017 National PTA STEM + Families Science Grants sponsored by Bayer, will award \$3,000 to five State or regional/district PTAs to host:

- Two STEM + Families Science Festivals at the elementary or middle schools of your choice
- One State PTA Convention presentation on STEM + Families
- In addition to the \$3000 grant, National PTA and Bayer will provide awardees with a starter pack of \$1000 worth of materials to give PTAs a jump-start on collecting the supplies needed for your Science Festival.

National PTA STEM + Families Game Giveaways (ThinkFun)

Looking for cool new ideas to host an exciting PTA family game night? Let National PTA and ThinkFun help! Complete a short survey for your chance to win 48 FREE award-winning learning games from ThinkFun. Use 36 games to host a STEM + Families Game Night and 12 more as prizes.

This is a GIVEAWAY! That means winners will be chosen at random from ALL PTAs that submit a survey.

Visit www.pta.org/STEM for more information

From the team: Missouri PTA Programs

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We need you!
 Missouri PTA Reflections Chair
[More Info & Apply Online](#)



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From the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Parent-Teacher Conference Tips

Effective parent-teacher conferences can support a child's learning and development by building on home-to-school connections. The National Association for the Education of Young Children offers tips to [assist both teachers and parents](#) in building strong partnerships through parent-teacher conferences.

School Readiness Starts Now

School readiness starts long before a child enters the doors of a formal school setting. This [infographic](#) and [video](#) provide support for both parents and caregivers in preparing a school-ready child beginning at birth. This [helpful article](#) from the National Association for the Education of Young Children shares other ways to set the stage for school readiness.

Building Early Literacy Skills

The last two decades of reading research has shown that early instruction of phonological awareness leads to more efficient word-level reading and is essential in becoming a skilled reader. Phonological awareness – the ability to recognize and manipulate the sounds within words – can be improved in as little as 10 minutes daily through books, songs, games and everyday interactions with children. A resource for teaching awareness can be found [here](#).

Students: You can make a difference! PTA and Social Media

Lexis Wade | Missouri PTA Student Representative

In this day and age, technology and social media are all the rage. It connects our world and everything in it. There are around 2.46 Billion social network users worldwide. Everyday, trillions of posts are made, and information is shared and spread everywhere. We can use this to our advantage.

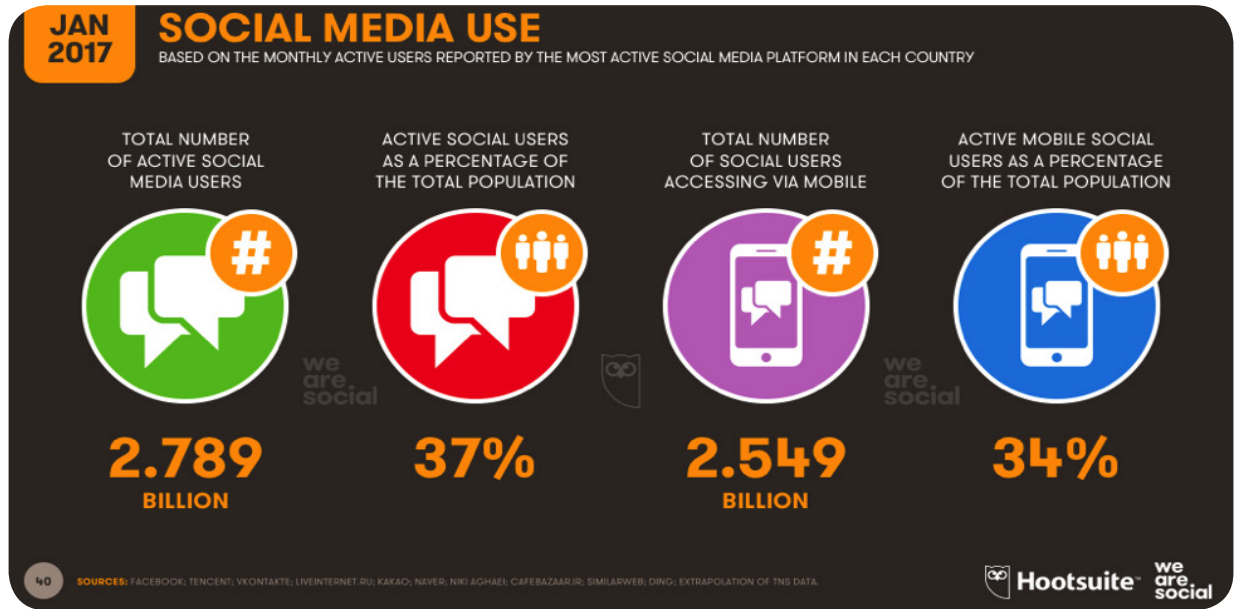
If you are part of your local PTA, you have the opportunity to help out. Every time your PTA has an event, you could make a post to show everyone the awesome event your Unit is doing! This not only gets word out about your event, it also helps bring in new members and interest in PTA.

When someone sees a post about the wonderful things PTA is doing, it changes their view point of our organization. With social media, we can connect to thousands of people all over the U.S. This allows us to make connections and help Units all over the nation. Memberships help to pay for our leaders to go advocate in legislation for children all over the U.S. which enables us to try and make changes to better the lives of students and schools everywhere.

Social Media also helps get students involved. If a student who is part of a PTSA makes a post about a PTA event they were at, it get peers interested, and helps bring in more student representatives. Getting students involved in PTA is extremely important. PTA provides leadership skills and helps to teach students the importance of being involved in the community.

Many people also do not know what PTA does and how important it is to the community. If we were able to give people access to articles about how the PTA advocates for the health, welfare, safety, education, and protection of children at every level of government, we may be able to get them to understand and join our cause.

So the next time you're on social media, check out your local or state PTA pages and try to share their information with your community. You CAN make a difference!



My name is Lexis (Lexi) Wade. I have been involved in PTA since 3rd grade, and this is my first year on Missouri PTA Board of Managers. I really wanted to be involved because I have always loved PTA, being involved in the community, and my mother has also been very involved since I was little. I have been to the past 3 Missouri PTA Conventions, and I am so excited to co-lead student workshops at convention!

This year, I am a Sophomore at Truman High School in Independence Missouri. I am Sophomore Class President, and I hope to use my Student Council connections to help promote PTA as well. I love to be busy and part of the community, and I am participating in a number of Clubs and Activities this year. I am part of the Marching Band, Symphonic Band, French Club, GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance), Girl's Basketball Team, Track Team, Student Council, Relay for Life, and maybe even more if I happen to find another club!

Being in PTA has shown me so many opportunities through the years. Every year, I attend the Founder's Day Breakfast in Independence, and last year I had the opportunity to give the Inspirational Thought. Missouri PTA Conventions have given me valuable information such as college prep, leadership skills, advocacy skills, and even awarenesses of drug and alcohol risks in high school. PTA has showed me how to be involved, and how to be a leader.

Hey Friend, We See You!

(And We Like What We See)

We are looking for more interested, committed volunteers to join our state board!
We have open positions now and more opportunities in May 2018.

Involvement on Missouri PTA Board of Managers is workable with your schedule. Tasks and most meetings can be done from your home and are planned in advance.

Missouri PTA Board of Managers is a great way to make connections and discover new information. We meet in person quarterly in Columbia at the State PTA office. Our meetings are comprehensive and concise - our working groups get stuff done and do it quickly and accurately. Plan on a full, informational and fun day with each meeting.

Involvement in Missouri PTA doesn't add a financial cost to you. Mileage is reimbursed for travel (be sure to carpool when possible!) and we provide lunch and dinner on meeting dates.

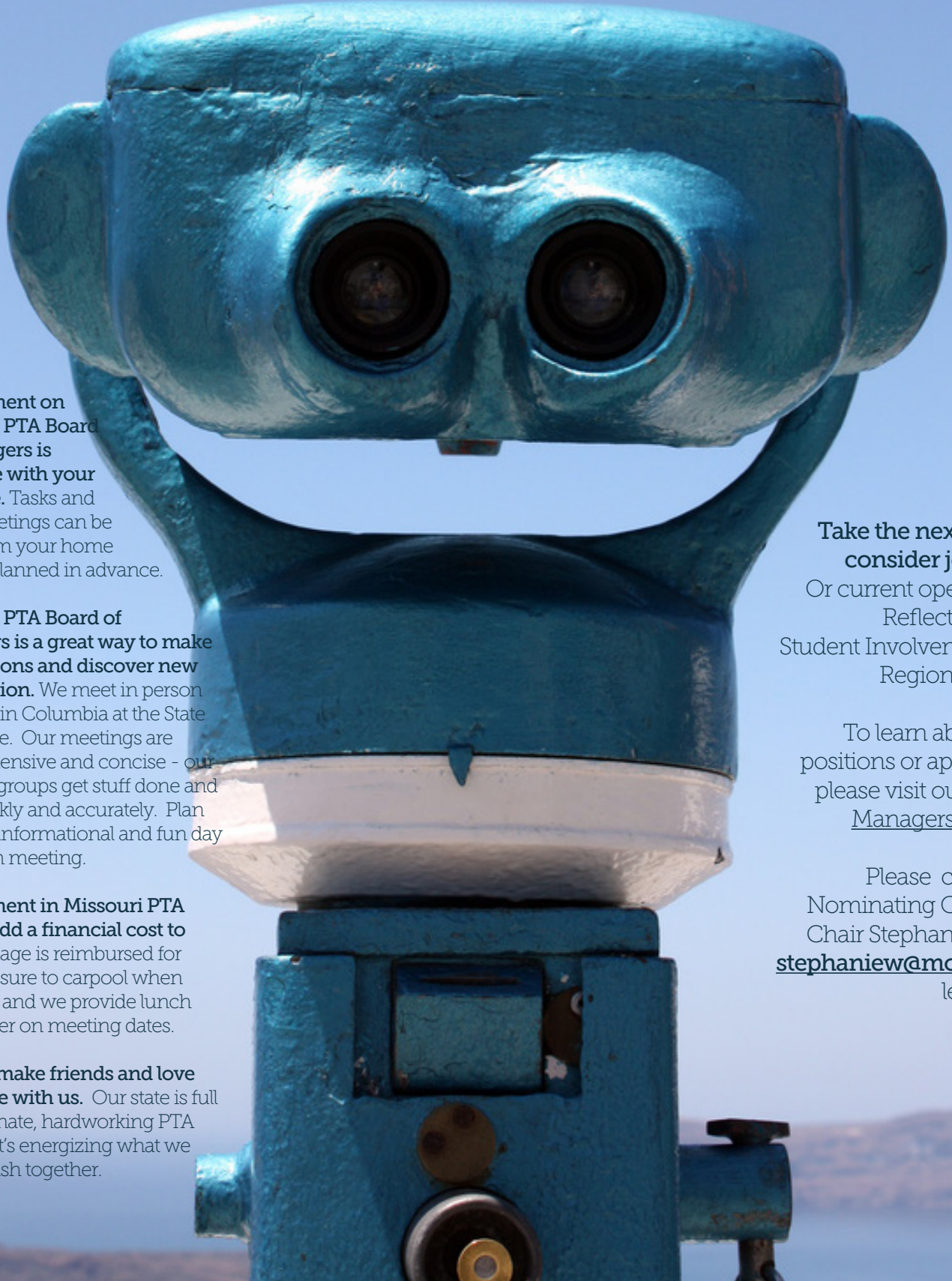
You will make friends and love your time with us. Our state is full of passionate, hardworking PTA parents; it's energizing what we accomplish together.

Take the next step and consider joining us.

Or current openings are:
Reflections Chair
Student Involvement Chair
Regional Director

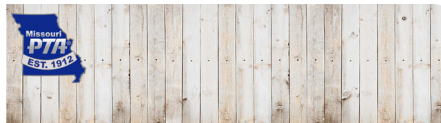
To learn about all our positions or apply online, please visit our [Board of Managers webpage](#).

Please contact our Nominating Committee Chair Stephanie Wade at stephaniew@mopta.org to learn more.



From the team: Missouri PTA Field Service

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We need you!
 Missouri PTA Heritage Regional Director
[More Info & Apply Online](#)

The Positive Impact of Social Media

By Halle Robbins | Halle Robbins is a Junior at Glendale High School in Springfield, MO. She is a member of her high school's newspaper and dances for the Crimson Girls Dance Team. Photos courtesy of Heather Robbins, Glendale's PTSA President.

When my mom and I heard the news of Hurricane Harvey hitting Texas and the amount of people it affected I knew we had to do something, but I just didn't know what. My mom started looking into the needs of the victims and decided that a change drive for Convoy of Hope or a diaper drive would be the most beneficial. We brought the idea to my principal at Glendale High School, Dr. Natalie Cauldwell, and she loved it. She passed it on to the members of our student council, and they decided to hold the change drive for Convoy of Hope. Since I learned that disaster relief places do not provide diapers, I still wanted to do something to help the babies of Houston.

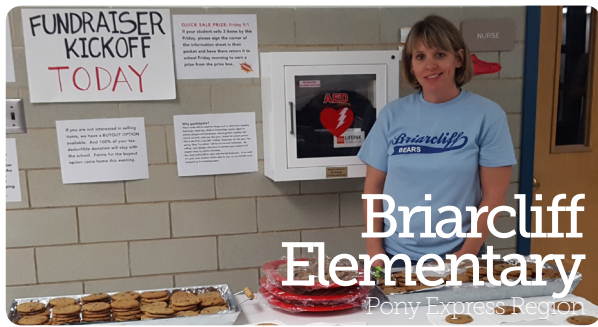
immediately started helping make posters and collecting diapers. They even set up a drop off area in their classroom and made letters to send with the diapers to the victims.

When Mrs. Heather Freeman, a seventh grade teacher at Pershing Middle School, heard about the drive she decided to get her students involved and the entire seventh grade class. They did a great job helping us and collected a large amount of diapers to give to the drive.

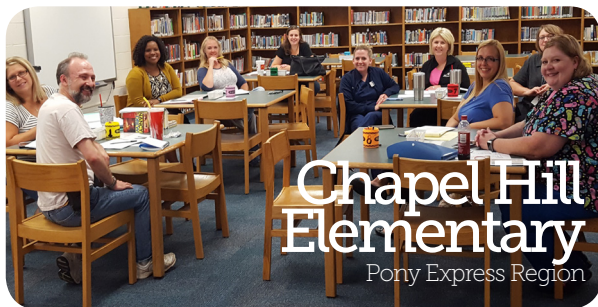
On Labor Day we sat outside Glendale with signs while people came to drop off diapers or donate money for us to use to purchase more. Thanks to the help from Glendale High School, the special education students, Pershing Middle School, and many people in our community, we were able to collect 7,846 diapers in only five days. With the help of the Midwest Technical Institute, we were able to send those diapers on a truck to Houston and help the families in need.

I talked to my mom and we decided to start the diaper drive not knowing how many we would be able to collect in such a short amount of time. We started spreading the word on social media and several of Glendale's accounts shared the posts. Before we knew it we had collected more diapers than we ever thought possible.




One of my classes at Glendale is A+ tutoring for the special education class. I told their teacher, Ms. Lisa Collins, about the diaper drive I was holding. She was excited about the drive and wanted to get the students from the class involved as well. She told the class about the diaper drive and they

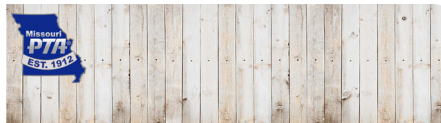


Does your PTA have good news to share?
 Simply email contact@mopta.org for a feature in Contact Digital Magazine.

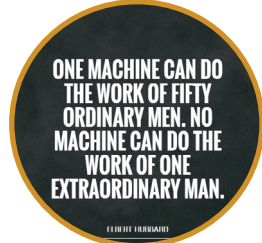


From the team: Missouri PTA Membership

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We need you!
 Missouri PTA Student
 Involvement
[More Info & Apply Online](#)

Membership Award Focus:

Units may earn this award by achieving an increase in total memberships by March 1st over the previous year's membership totals.

Bronze Medal - 20% membership increase over previous year

Silver Medal - 50% membership increase over previous year

Gold Medal - 100% membership increase over previous year

Early Bird Award

There were quite a few units who dove right into memberships early this year. Congratulations!

Individual Memberships:
 Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA
 Discovery Middle School PTSA
 Longview Farm Elementary PTA
 Line Creek PTA
 Barry Pathfinder PTA
 Pioneer Ridge Middle School PTSA
 Hazelwood Central High PTSA
 Trailridge Elementary PTA

Business Memberships:
 Hazelwood Central High PTSA
 Longview Farm Elementary PTA
 Discovery Middle School PTSA



For more information, contact our Membership Chair at membership@mopta.org.

Doty Hoffman | Missouri PTA Membership Growth & Development Chair

Reaching, recruiting and reporting to your membership is becoming ever more vital using the modern ways and tools of this world, technology. To be honest, sometimes the thought of technology makes me cringe. Our children are issued devices at school. There are so many apps that keep us connected to our teachers, our scouting groups, even the local council PTA! At times it can seem overwhelming, but the flip side is continual open lines of communication. That, itself, is critical when you are trying to reach parents who are on the go but very interested in being active in your membership.

Some tools my local PTA has embraced this year is by using a website, texting service and even a digital newsletter. It has helped us reach our membership in a unobtrusive way, and most services are cost-effective for PTAs. Members can join, donate or sign up to volunteer all with just a few clicks. As your membership grows, exploring technology and how it relates to that membership is important and can positively impact your PTA.



How can we get more men involved? National PTA surveyed nearly 2,700 men in fall 2004 to find out. The findings from that survey have been distilled to the top ways a local PTA can break down barriers to male involvement and increase male PTA membership.

Make the membership pitch relevant to males. The number one reason why survey respondents joined PTA was "to work to improve the school for the benefit of my child/children." Therefore, your recruitment materials and your membership pitch should explain how men's involvement in PTA would benefit their children and their children's schools. A dad's involvement in PTA:

- Shows added interest in his child's education and school activities;
- Shows greater support for his child's teachers and school; and
- Improves relationships between parents and school personnel.

Use specific messaging and advertising aimed at men.

When asked what would encourage men to join PTA, men most frequently answered male-oriented advertising. Eighty-seven percent of the men surveyed believe that PTA values men, but 67 percent don't believe PTA does a good job promoting male involvement. Be sure to show

men's involvement in your PTA in your communications to members and potential members.

Just ask them. Nearly half of the men who responded to the survey said men don't join PTA because they aren't asked. Just asking could pay big dividends in membership recruitment for your PTA! Tips on making "the ask" successful are available in the [Male Engagement Toolkit](#).

Ask the women in your PTA to invite the men in their children's lives to join PTA. Research reveals that women can influence men to join PTA. More than 90 percent of male PTA members indicated in the survey that their spouses, who were already members, contributed largely to their involvement in PTA. Yet both mom and dad are PTA members in less than 50 percent of families with children in school.

Create more volunteer opportunities and special events for dads. Survey respondents stated a preference for hands-on projects and suggested events such as "dads only" events, school carnivals, sports activities, father-daughter and father-son activities, and back-to-school fests.

From the team:

Missouri PTA Communications

MissouriPTA MissouriPTA @MissouriPTA



Amy Blakemore
Missouri PTA VP Communications
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Article adapted from "Don't Wait Until You Are Ready. Start Today." on andreaabcreative.com

Photo credit for all Contact Digital Magazine photos on this page are from Pinterest.com

Don't Wait Until You Are Ready. Start Today.

Andrea Battaglia | Missouri PTA Contact Editor

I heard advice that you shouldn't wait until you're ready. Because if you wait, you'll never do anything. It reminded me how important it is to take risks, to make progress every day, and to purposefully spend time developing your next step. I'm working on this goal and I encourage you to do the same. Start something now, even before you think you're ready.

Start when the idea is just an idea. I spend many of my days in brainstorming mode. And I come up with some crazy ideas. Some are crazy good and some are crazy terrible. But all of them are worth time and discovery. Staying in full brainstorming mode forces me to create and develop tons of ideas and helps me move forward before I'm entirely sure of the end result. I encourage you to spend a regular amount of time thinking up new, crazy ideas. In fact, I want you to schedule that time – it could be during your workout, in the shower, or at 4am (when I unintentionally do some of my best brainstorming). You'll start to notice that you look forward to that time and can think more clearly and purposefully with your big ideas.

Start when the idea scares you. Recently, a friend applied for a promotion at his current job. His response when asked, "Well, they'll either hire me or hire someone better than me." I was impressed with this thought process and wondered how ready he'd felt when he applied. I'd bet he felt mostly ready to take on a new position like this. If you wait until you're completely ready, you're already too late. Too late for the job, the experience, the chance. I encourage you to move forward when you feel about half-way ready. You should feel a little scared/excited with your plans. Then be purposeful with your time and effort to help make this step happen. You'll notice that scared/excited begins to look more exciting when you really make progress. And soon you'll be right where you want to be.

Start when things will get messy. I love a clean process, it's refreshing to get things done and have them turn out exactly as planned. Do you know what never happens for me? A perfectly clean process. You know what I've learned over the years? To enjoy the mess. In fact, now I really look forward to it. I know things are going to get messy and disorganized. And that's OK. Because eventually, the same things will get cleaner and organized and totally make sense. I encourage you to look forward to the mess. Try to do a little something each day. My house is full of projects, my office is full of tasks and I have lists of ideas to start. Each of them have their own life cycle: mess and success. I know where I am with each item because I focus on a little each day. You may only have fifteen minutes – use it. Doing a little bit every single day will make a big difference over time.

It's easy to wait until you're totally ready to do anything. It's too easy. Don't let yourself get that complacent. Start before you are ready and you'll start to notice how much progress you can make.

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Kristina Wilmoth
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Missouri PTA President Connect Facebook Group

This resource provides presidents across the state with a networking tool so we can work together to achieve our common goal of helping our children reach their full potential. Share ideas, ask questions, or ask for advice. Send a request to join at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/presidentconnect/>

MissouriPTA

What we love right now



From the team:
Missouri PTA
Board of Managers

f MissouriPTA p MissouriPTA t @MissouriPTA



Pat Higginbotham
Missouri PTA Regional Director
✉ pat@mopta.org



Pat's Favorites

Television :

Chicago Fire

Christmas Specials

The Last Ship

NCIS Series

Childrens Movies (for all ages)

Code Black

Hallmark Movies

Music :

Rock & Roll

Books:

Childrens books of all ages

Craft books

Hobbies:

Scrap Booking

Refurnishing furniture

Gardening

Repairing / Restoring items

Favorite websites:

www.MOPTA.org

National PTA

Pinterest

Google (I find lots of answers)

From time to time, I've wondered what I would have done differently in my life if I had not been the wife of a military man; traveling every two years between states for 22 years, had four (4) children born to us, settled in Florissant, Missouri, and purchased our first and last home. What if I had not volunteered with PTA, Girl Scouts, and my local Food Pantry? As of today I have been volunteering for 45 years, 25 of those years in PTA.

My thoughts always come back to say I would not have changed anything. My past is what has made me who I am today; a kind, friendly, determined, and caring person, who speaks their own opinion. Those experiences and learning opportunities I have had and continue to have with PTA and other organizations truly adds to the person I am today.

I have been around children my whole life. They are our future.

My goal in life is I hope to meet my maker knowing I've lived my life full.

Help Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands From the National PTA President:

Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are facing an unprecedented crisis. The islands were heavily damaged by Hurricane Irma, and before they had a chance to recover, Hurricane Maria hit and devastated any remaining structures and supports.

Families and school communities in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands need our support now more than ever.

Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria were the strongest storms to hit the islands in decades—families remain without power and access to basic necessities and schools remain closed. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the families, educators, schools and communities affected, particularly all of our PTA families. We acknowledge the leadership of Puerto Rico PTA President Vivian Ruiz and Virgin Islands PTA President Richard Muhammad during this difficult time. We are deeply concerned for everyone impacted and encourage all of our members to rally together to assist families and help restore communities and learning environments as quickly as possible.

We urge everyone to donate to our association's [Disaster Relief Fund](#), which was established to respond to tragedies that grievously disrupt a school or education system. One hundred percent of donations to the fund will go directly to PTAs and schools in need and will help provide important supplies for students and teachers when schools reopen.

We also encourage our members to donate basic necessities and/or make a financial contribution to the [American Red Cross](#), Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster or other similar organizations to help the children and families that need it most.




Please share this message with PTAs, members and families in your state to help spread the word about ways to support families and school communities in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in their efforts to rebuild and recover. Please watch for more information on additional ways to support the recovery efforts.

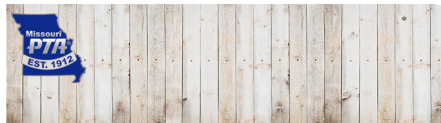
The need to give has never been greater and our mission at PTA has become that much more important.

Thank you for your support of those impacted by this unprecedented hurricane season and for everything you do to give our children and school communities what they need to thrive.

Jim Accomando
National PTA President

From the team:
Missouri PTA
 Board of Managers

 MissouriPTA
  MissouriPTA
  @MissouriPTA



Elaine Gerstenberger

Missouri PTA Bylaws Chair

elaineg@mopta.org

I first joined PTA in Hazelton, Iowa in 1992 when our oldest started Kindergarten. I wanted to make sure that he would get the best schooling that he was entitled to, as well as all children that are not traditional students. When we moved to Cameron,

MO the following year I joined our local unit. I held many positions from the Programs Chairs (2 terms), Parliamentary, and President (2 terms) before joining the State Board in 2001 as a Regional Director - Pony Express, then went to the Health & Safety Chair when I came of the Board in 2005.

Life before PTA: I was the first of my 4 siblings to join the Military (Air force), I was in the Girls Scouts, Job's Daughters and then joined [Civil Air Patrol](#) (C.A.P) in North Platte, Nebraska and then helped my oldest sister start a C.A.P Unit in Ogallala, Nebraska. I was lucky enough to be selected to the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) Program in 1981 and was able to go to France for two weeks. The following year I went to Israel to visit one of the cadets in our IACE group and when I came back I joined the Air Force (1982). I started out as a Morse Code Operator and then Operations Management Specialist, stationed in Sembach, AFB Germany. On July 4, 1984 I married my soul-mate (Phillip R.) in Winnweiler, Germany. In 1985 we were transferred to Homestead AFB, FL. Where our two sons were born. In 1990, it was time for me to leave the Air Force in order for me to witness those "First's" that our children have. I had missed most of those for our oldest son due to my military career.

The boys and I stayed at Homestead AFB, FL when Phil got stationed at Clark AFB, Philippines, He arrived there on Thursday and by Monday Mt Pinatubo was erupting. When he arrived back to Homestead (after 30 days) we were then station at Moody AFB, GA and then in 1992 Military life was ending and we moved to Hazelton, IA. In 1993 we moved to Cameron, MO and In 2001, I received my Bachelors of Science in Psychology.

I do have to say that out of everything that I have been involved in so far in my life PTA has been the most enlightening. Due to all of the resources and training that is available to all parents and to know that as parents we all have the same issues and concerns for our children.

Elaine's Favorite Quotes

If anything comes up I'll be at home

Just breathe

Stay open minded, doesn't mean you have to like or agree with what is being said, however just listen

On our head stones it's not our date of birth or the date we pass that is the most important, it's "the dash" Is what is truly most important of all. What does your dash say?

I was first on the State Board 2001-2005 as a Regional Director – Pony Express and ended with the Health & Safety Chair. I'm currently the Bylaws Chair.

At our local unit level: I started out as a member 1993 (However Started PTA in 1992 Hazelton, Iowa) the Programs Chairs (2 terms), Parliamentary, and then President (2 terms)



Elaine's Favorites & More About Elaine:

Food What makes you stand out?

German, Mediterranean and Paleo

That is a good question, I do not know!

TV Show/Movie
 "Somewhere in time."

Describe yourself in 3-5 words: Patriotic, Family, Loyalty, Honest, & Trustworthy!

Music/Band

All types of music, depending on the mood I'm in is what type of music – My Favorite Band is OOMPH – German band

Healthy Living Tip:
 Find what works for you

What are you learning this year: Genealogy

Book

Anything by Cassandra Clare

What is a proud accomplishment? Marrying my soul mate (of 33 years), birth of my 2 sons, and my two beautiful granddaughters.

Activities/Hobbies
 Crocheting

*I'm passionate about people. I've spent my life in **advocacy**.
People matter - whether or not we agree on the issue, people matter.*

Ann Marie Buerkle

Missouri PTA Advocacy is not a mysterious enigma - it's a daily mindset that includes action to support our children. We believe that our children are important and need our voice to support them - it's why PTA exists.

Each month Missouri PTA is committed to giving you the Advocacy resources you need to make a difference in your school, in our state, in our country and most importantly, in the lives of our children. You don't have to be a policy expert to have an impact on issues affecting your child, you just need your voice and action.

Everything you do for Advocacy makes a difference. Facts and figures can be helpful, but if you don't have those handy, personal testimony about how a policy or decision would impact you can go a long way!

National PTA Urges Congress to Pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Para ver esta declaración en español haga clic [aquí](#).

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Sept. 6, 2017)—Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program will be terminated March 2018. With the six-month delay in enforcement, Congress now has the opportunity to address the issue of immigration in a fair, appropriate and equitable way.

“With the announcement that the DACA program will be rescinded, our attention turns to Congress to urge bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform. Now, policymakers have a momentous opportunity to work together to provide real solutions that benefit our nation’s diverse and talented youth and their families,” said Jim Accomando, president of National PTA. “National PTA encourages our 4 million members to mobilize by reaching out to their members of Congress, urging them to pass legislation that provides the young immigrants who have received protection under DACA the ability to reach their fullest potential. Their future and our nation’s future depend on it.”

National PTA has long believed that every child residing in the United States—regardless of their immigration status—has the right of access to a high-quality public education, adequate food and shelter, and basic health care services. Ensuring that all children, including immigrant children, have the opportunity to become productive members of society is essential and in the best interest of the nation.

“Access to an education and essential services is the most effective method to give children—and our nation—the best opportunity to succeed. These services should not be denied to any child,” added Nathan R. Monell, CAE, National PTA executive director. “At National PTA, our motto is ‘Every Child, One Voice,’ and one of our founding principles is to advocate for children and families who are most vulnerable. With yesterday’s announcement, our association raises our voice for the 800,000 young immigrants who are impacted.”



— SAVE THE DATE —

2018 NATIONAL PTA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

MARCH 13-15, 2018
ARLINGTON, VA

**Early-Bird Registration
Opens This Fall!**



RAISE
THE AGE

**#18in18
coming this
January!**

Our Raise the Age student advocacy campaign has been delayed until January to better coincide with Missouri Legislative session. Watch for more information soon.

Look for more information and direction coming from our Advocacy Chair, Will Wiese, later and pledge to help us Raise the Age! Learn more online at [Raise the Age MO](#).

Visit [PTA.org/LegCon](#) for details and highlights from the 2017 LegCon

From the team:

Missouri PTA

Legislation & Advocacy

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

New! Special Section
Advocacy & Legislation



Carla Wiese

Missouri PTA VP Legislation & Advocacy

carlaw@mopta.org

“ALWAYS WONDERED
WHY SOMEBODY
DOESN'T DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THAT.
THEN I REALISED I WAS
SOMEBODY”
LILY TOMLIN



Angie Warner

Missouri PTA State Legislative
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Will Wiese

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Digital Access

Technology and learning go hand-in-hand. Unfortunately not everyone has access to the internet at home, which makes it hard for kids to do homework and learn at their own pace, and for families to stay informed and connect with teachers.

National PTA and AT&T have teamed up to help close the “homework gap” and ensure SNAP eligible families in select States have the resources they need for kids to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

[Access from AT&T](#) gets families in low income communities connected to affordable internet access at home for as low as \$10 per month.

Interested in learning more? Watch this [informational webinar](#).
More Resources for Families

Digital You: created in collaboration with Common Sense Media, this site helps you with privacy, safety and security as you connect online.

EveryoneOn: Find low-cost Internet and affordable computers in your area.

Tip! You don't have to be a policy expert to have an impact on issues affecting your child.

US Congress Bill Watch

The 115th Session of US Congress is underway with several bills PTA supports. I hope you will take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the bills listed below. While these are not the only bills PTA supports these three have already been approved by one house and are on their way to the other. You can view a [complete list of bills](#) online.

Teachers and Parents at the Table Act ([H.R. 3246](#))

Bill Sponsor(s): Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY-4) and Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21), Co-sponsors: 3 in the House
Short Summary: This bill would create a Parents and Families Advisory Committee and a Teacher Advisory Committee at the U.S. Department of Education. The bill recommends funding the advisory councils at \$500,000 over four years to cover programmatic and administrative expenditures.

Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017 ([H.R. 695/S. 705](#)) - Bill Sponsor(s): Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA-28), Rep. Mike Bishop (R-MI-8), Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Sen. Al

Franken (D-MN), Co-sponsors: 46 in the House and 10 in the Senate

Short Summary: The bill would direct the Department of Justice to establish a program to provide national criminal history background checks and criminal history reviews for individuals who apply to work or volunteer at organizations that serve children, elderly adults, or individuals with disabilities. No federal funding will be authorized for the background checks and the fee for the background check will not exceed the cost of running the background check.

Child Care for Working Families Act ([H.R. 3773/S. 1806](#))

Bill Sponsor(s): Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA-3) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Co-sponsors: 44 in the House and 27 in the Senate

Short Summary: This bill would double the number of children eligible for child care assistance, help all Head Start programs to provide full-day, full-year programming and would provide incentives and funding for states to create universal preschool programs for 3- and 4-year olds during the school day.

Educate Your Members on College and Career Readiness

Start to prepare now for the future (no matter your kid's grade!)



National PTA has created a new resource for your PTA meetings, trainings and events that will help your members understand how high standards, quality assessments, ESSA and advocacy can make a difference for all children.

It contains everything you need to provide a brief presentation to parents on this important topic: sign-in sheet, script, handouts and a video. Learn more at [PTA.org/CCRTToolkit](#).

National PTA's resources, guides and tips can help you achieve our mission.

- [2017-2018 Back-to-School Kit \(PTAKit.org\)](#) Use this thorough guide to walk through every step of being a PTA leader, from Finance to Advocacy.
- [E-Learning \(PTA.org/ELearning\)](#) New to being a PTA Leader or want to sharpen your skills? Watch one of our e-learning courses.
- [Parent Guides to Student Success \(PTA.org/ParentGuides\)](#) These guides provide clear,

consistent expectations for what students should be learning in each grade.

- [Family Guides \(PTA.org/FamilyGuides\)](#) See how you can support your child's learning at any age.
- [State Assessment Guides \(PTA.org/AssessmentGuides\)](#) Get a breakdown of when and how students are assessed in your state.
- [BeALearningHero.org](#) Use these tips and tricks to help reinforce what your child is learning at school, at home.
- [Our Children Magazine \(PTAOurChildren.org\)](#) Read articles on everything from How to Raise a Leader to Launching a Homemade Rocket.
- [Every Student Succeeds Act \(PTA.org/ESSA\)](#) If you haven't heard, there's a new law governing K-12 education this year. We break down what this means for you.

Help us celebrate the 2017 Back-to-School Season! Join the conversation on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) by using #PTAB2S or #PTAProud.

FAQs: Immigrant Students & Families at School

Who is considered an immigrant in the United States?

ANSWER: A person residing in the United States who was not a U.S. citizen at birth is considered an immigrant. This population includes naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents (LPRs), residents with student or work visas, those admitted under refugee or asylum status and persons illegally residing in the United States.



Fact: There are 43.2 million immigrants in the United States today and 17.8 million children in the United States have at least one parent who is an immigrant.¹

Who is considered an undocumented immigrant in the United States?

ANSWER: A person residing in the United States who entered legally but whose immigration status has since expired, a person who entered the United States without inspection or a person who submitted an immigration application/petition and was denied but continued to remain in the U.S. are all considered to be an undocumented immigrant.



Fact: There were 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States in 2015.²

What about undocumented students in the United States?

ANSWER: Many undocumented students have lived in the United States most of their lives, attended elementary, middle and high school in the United States but currently lack a way to become legal residents or citizens of the United States.



Fact: Over 1 million students enrolled in U.S. schools in 2014 were undocumented immigrants.

What are undocumented students' rights in schools in the United States?

ANSWER: Under federal law, all children, regardless of their citizenship or residency status, are entitled to a free public K-12 education. School districts that either prohibit or discourage children from enrolling in schools because they or their parents are undocumented immigrants may be in violation of federal law.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers and agents are to refrain from enforcement actions against students in schools, including preschools, primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities and other institutions of learning, such as vocational and trade schools.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), schools are prohibited (without parental consent) from providing information from a student's file to federal immigration agents if the information would potentially expose a student's immigration status.

What can PTAs do to welcome immigrant families?

ANSWER: PTAs have an important role in connecting immigrant families to community and school resources to help them feel more informed and welcomed in their schools. Go to PTA.org/Diversity for more info and tools to help your PTA support immigrant families (regardless of citizenship status) in your community.

¹ Migration Policy Institute (MPI) tabulation of data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2015 American Community Surveys (ACS).

² Passel, Jeffrey S. and D'Vera Cohn. 2016. "Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009." Pew Research Center, September.

PREGUNTAS FRECUENTES:

Los estudiantes y las familias inmigrantes en la escuela

¿A quién se considera un inmigrante en los Estados Unidos?

RESPUESTA: Una persona que reside en los Estados Unidos que no fue ciudadano estadounidense al nacer es considerada un inmigrante. Esta población incluye a los ciudadanos naturalizados, los residentes legales permanentes (por sus siglas en inglés LPR), los residentes con visa de estudiante o de trabajo, aquellos admitidos bajo el estatus de refugiado o de asilo y las personas que residen en los Estados Unidos de manera ilegal.



Dato: Existen 43.2 millones de inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos y 17.8 millones de niños de los Estados Unidos poseen al menos un padre que es inmigrante.¹

¿A quién se considera un inmigrante indocumentado en los Estados Unidos?

RESPUESTA: Una persona que reside en los Estados Unidos que entró en el país legalmente pero cuyo estatus migratorio ha expirado, una persona que entró en los Estados Unidos sin inspección o una persona que presentó una solicitud o petición migratoria y se la denegaron pero continúa en los Estados Unidos son todas consideradas inmigrantes indocumentados.



Dato: En 2015, había 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados en los Estados Unidos.²

¿Qué ocurre con los estudiantes indocumentados de los Estados Unidos?

RESPUESTA: Muchos estudiantes indocumentados han vivido en los Estados Unidos la mayor parte de sus vidas, asistieron a la escuela primaria, intermedia y secundaria en los Estados Unidos, pero actualmente no poseen una manera de convertirse en residentes legales o ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos.



Dato: En 2014, más de 1 millón de los estudiantes inscritos en las escuelas de los Estados Unidos eran inmigrantes indocumentados.

¿Cuáles son los derechos de los estudiantes indocumentados en los Estados Unidos?

RESPUESTA: Según la legislación federal, todos los niños, independientemente de su estatus de residencia o ciudadanía, tienen derecho a acceder a la educación pública y gratuita desde el kínder hasta 12º grado. Los distritos escolares que prohíban o se opongan a que los niños se inscriban en la escuela porque ellos o sus padres son inmigrantes indocumentados pueden estar violando la legislación federal.

Los funcionarios y los agentes de la Oficina de Inmigración y Aduanas (por sus siglas en inglés ICE) deben abstenerse de aplicar medidas contra los estudiantes de las escuelas, incluidos los preescolares, las escuelas primarias, las escuelas secundarias, las universidades y otras instituciones de aprendizaje, como los institutos vocacionales y profesionales.

Según la Ley de Derechos Educativos y Privacidad de la Familia (por sus siglas en inglés FERPA), las escuelas tienen prohibido proveer (sin el consentimiento de los padres) información del expediente de un alumno a agentes federales de inmigración si dicha información pudiera exponer potencialmente el estatus migratorio del estudiante.

¿Qué pueden hacer las PTA para integrar a las familias inmigrantes?

RESPUESTA: Las PTA cumplen un papel muy importante en lo que respecta a conectar a las familias inmigrantes con la comunidad y los recursos de la escuela para ayudarles a que se sientan más informadas y bien recibidas en su escuela. Visite PTA.org/Diversity para obtener más información y herramientas para ayudar a su PTA a apoyar a las familias inmigrantes (independientemente de su estatus de ciudadanía) en su comunidad.

¹ Instituto de Políticas de Migración (por sus siglas en inglés MPI) tabulación de los datos de la Oficina del Censo, 2010-2015 American Community Surveys (ACS).

² Passel, Jeffrey S. y D'Vera Cohn. 2016. "Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009." Pew Research Center, septiembre.