

CONTACT

February 2018
Volume 99 | Issue 2

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**share
me**
PACKED WITH PTA
RESOURCES

From the Missouri PTA Contact Editor

 MissouriPTA  MissouriPTA  @MissouriPTA



Andrea Battaglia
Missouri PTA Contact Editor
[andrea@mopta.org](mailto:andreab@mopta.org)



Our family has been working on trying new things with a good attitude (or a quiet attitude) and it's working. We're learning about getting involved and being good helpers. Here we are after a recent family adventure - with a rainbow! What are you doing to inspire life lessons in your kids? Email us at contact@mopta.org to share your success.

The PTA Family Reading Experience

In March, thousands of schools will transform their National Reading Month event into a [PTA Family Reading Experience](#) – an interactive event that engages the whole family in reading activities.

Parents take part in the fun with their kids and leave the event with a deeper understanding of the simple ways they can support the core skills of literacy.

Parents will learn how to support these core skills of literacy: Phonological Awareness, Fluency, Vocabulary, Phonics and Comprehension.

The [PTA Family Reading Experience](#) helps families grow kids who love to read. Get started today. Engage families in reading fun at your school by hosting a [PTA Family Reading Experience](#) using our Experience Guide. This guide is organized into 5 steps with links to materials and sample templates you can customize for your own PTA and school.

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

What do you want most? Find clarity for your most important decisions

Lately, I've been focusing on what I want most. It seems a little selfish at first blush, but it's not. This thought method helps align my focus with my values and makes me realize when I have a decision to make – I can think about what I want or what I want most. I can't always have both options, so I have to make decisions based on what is most important to me. It's added incredible clarity and made me step out of my comfort zone even more.

I encourage you to stop and think about what you want most and let that guide you as you move forward. Here is the organized strategy that has worked for me:

Think about what you want most when making memories.

Earlier this year, my husband's family had fancy photos taken of the entire family, including me. Our first option was to take the pictures three days before our baby was scheduled to be born. I asked our family to reconsider and schedule the pictures for months later. Because what I wanted most was her little smiling face in the pictures.

Now, to be honest, I don't like these pictures at all. I just had a baby and am postpartum chubby. Not something I want to display anywhere, much less in a picture for all time. But, I got what I wanted most – which was a smiling baby girl in the pictures (ok, she was looking at the camera like a deer in the headlights, but it's still cute). And so, I realized with this situation, I sacrificed what I wanted (skinny pics of myself – I'd have chosen to take them now – 13 months later) to get what I wanted most (baby girl in the pictures) and as an end result, I'm satisfied with my decision.

Think about what you want most when you're making memories and make it happen. Get in the pictures even if you feel too chubby. Get pictures if your hair isn't right or you don't like what you're wearing. Eventually your memory will fade and you'll be glad you're in your memories.

Think about what you want most when you're making decisions.

We recently started a new family activity every Wednesday night. My boys aren't as excited to go as my husband and I are, but they're keeping a good or quiet attitude (a conversation for another day). Recently, my husband was pretty sick and I had to decide to take the kids by myself or stay home. The kids program is fantastic and our boys were finally starting to neutrally look forward to the evening. What was most important to me was keeping the momentum of the boy's involvement – meaning I had to attend the Parent Workshop alone.

I don't love meeting new people, I don't like doing things alone, and ok, I don't really like doing things. But I put on my good attitude and loaded the kids in the car – and we went. I sat at a table with other moms, met new people and had a nice time. I focused on what I wanted most, instead of my fears or my disinterest. I'm glad I went and now I know I could do it again, if needed.

Think about what you want most when you are making decisions and how it will impact those around you. Do what you know is best in the situation and I'm sure you'll be better for it.

What you want most is an excellent guide for helping you streamline your focus, improve your goals and focus on daily progress. Think about what you want most – really want most – to achieve your desired success. Article adapted from ["Focus On What You Want Most"](#) on andreabcreative.com

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.

Students have a lot going on. We can make a difference for students in Missouri when we help them discover their passion, get more involved and make good decisions.

What you do with PTA matters.

Missouri PTA needs a volunteer to fill the State Student Involvement Chair immediately. This rewarding volunteer position oversees the student involvement opportunities and initiatives of Missouri PTA. You'll get great encouragement and support, will have a leader to guide you with your responsibilities and supporting PTA leaders - parents, teachers and students - across the state.

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

You might be a good fit for the Student Involvement Chair if you are resourceful, personable, innovative and responsible.

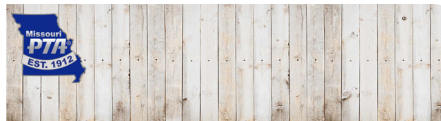
In this position, you spend time providing information to units that wish to become PTAs, developing ideas and coordinating resources for students to become more involved in PTA/PTSA. You work with student reps to plan student workshop activities and promote student participation in Missouri PTA.

To express interest, you can [Apply Online](#) or contact Chistine Kent at membership@mopta.org for more information.



From the Missouri PTA President

 MissouriPTA  MissouriPTA  @MissouriPTA



Dorothy Gardner
Missouri PTA President
dorothyg@mopta.org



Missouri PTA Officer Elections

During the upcoming Missouri PTA annual convention, the following officer positions for the

2018-2020 term will be elected:

President-Elect

Secretary

Treasurer

VP & Director of Communications

VP & Director of Field Service

VP & Director of Legislation & Advocacy

VP & Director of Membership

VP & Director of Programs

The nominating committee has nominated the following individuals.

Please watch for their Bios next month.

President Elect - Carla Wiese

Secretary - Paula McKinney

Treasurer - Stephanie Wade

VP & Director of Legislation & Advocacy
Krissey Wilmoth

VP & Director of Communications
Andrea Battaglia

VP & Director of Field Service
Christine Kent

VP & Director of Membership
Angie Warner

VP & Director of Programs
Amy Blakemore

Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided consent has been obtained from the nominee and provided that nominees running from the floor give the state PTA president thirty days notification before the beginning of convention of their intent to. (Article X Section 1-d Missouri PTA Bylaws).

The deadline for notification is set at **March 29th** and must be emailed directly to dorothyg@mopta.org

Eligibility for elected positions is defined as such according to the Missouri PTA Bylaws. Position of President-Elect requires a service of two years on the Board of Managers immediately prior to assuming office. To be eligible for any other elected offices an individual must have served for one term on the Board of Managers prior to assuming office.

And the Gold goes to...

PTAs work hard and that hard work should be recognized. Make sure your unit or council receives the recognition it deserves by applying for PTA awards. A PTA award is a way to demonstrate to your membership that your PTA is more than just fundraising and class parties.

Award submissions due March 1st - Membership awards and Student Safety
Award submission due April 1st - AtLaw unit and council

Don't forget those individual awards!! For those PTA advocates who go the extra mile. You know who you are and we want to make sure you are recognized.

Award submissions due March 1st - Atlaw individual
Award submissions due April 1st - Leaders projects



What makes PTA golden

On February 17, 1897, over 2000 mothers, fathers, teachers, laborers, and legislators attended the first convocation of what we know today as PTA. The organization's founders, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst (a Missourian), fought to bring about legislation on Child Labor because they felt it would be best not just for the children but also our country that children attend school rather than work in factories. This was PTA's first order of business after the official formation. PTA's roots lie not in classroom parties and teacher dinners but rather in the much larger notion of advocating to ensure the wellbeing of all children. It was never about how a few parents could make their own children's classroom, school or district better, but instead the concept that all children benefit when we join our voices together to speak out on behalf of children.

Is there anything wrong with the classroom party or teacher dinners? No. They are wonderful ways to bring parents into the classroom and celebrate the hard work of our teachers. Is there anything wrong with parents striving to make sure their own children's classroom, school or district is the best it can be? No. Parents and the community should partner with the schools in a joint collaboration. PTA is asking that we do all that but take it one step farther and become child advocates. Our landscape is rich with businesses, organizations and associations whose focus is on their own self-worth and expansion often at the expense of what is really best for children. At the bottom line, producing a product or maximizing profits regularly come into conflict with prioritizing children's education and well-being. PTA draws the line in the sand that says, "our kids are important and should not be taken advantage of, exploited or shoved to the end of the resource line". And PTA does so without any reward monetarily or politically. We advocate because it's the right thing to do, period.

So, this February 17th take a moment to reflect on not just how PTA has worked locally, statewide and nationally, to stand up for children, but also on how you yourself have made a difference in all children's lives. As Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much." PTA is about working together – all of us. Together we positively impact all children's lives.

Photo credit from pixabay.com/

Missouri PTA Advocacy Handbook

Your Resources This Month

*“Never be afraid to raise your voice
for honesty and truth and compassion
against injustice and lying and greed.*

**If people
all over the world
would do this,
it would
change the earth.”**

William Faulkner

*you are
capable
of amazing
things*

Missouri Budget and what you need to know

by Carla Wiese | Missouri PTA VP Legislation & Advocacy

It is that time of year when Jefferson City begins to create a budget. This budget will direct funding for all vital programs including education. This year that process is very worrisome for vital services in Missouri. In 2014 SB 509 was passed by the MO legislature overriding the veto of then Governor Nixon.

Missouri PTA was opposed to this bill. SB 509 is a reduction of taxes both individual and corporate. What made this bill so easy for legislators to pass over the governor's veto was that it would not come into effect until FY'19. This is not an uncommon practice. First it allows for time for the government to prepare for the impact of the new piece of legislation. Secondly, legislators are concerned about legislation and unlikely to pass potentially unpopular bills during election years. It is a little political maneuvering that happens regularly.

Now as Missouri prepares for FY'19 we are facing many difficulties in funding. Our partners at the MO Budget Project have stated the following. We expect that the budget debate will again be a challenge, due to several dynamics:

- The continued implementation of the 2014 state tax cuts contained in SB 509 will reduce state revenue by \$227 million in FY 2019 – the budget year that lawmakers will be debating.
- Changes to the federal tax code that passed Congress in December will interact with the state tax code, and are likely to reduce state revenue. The amount of the decline in state revenue is still unclear. Several changes were made in the final days of debate to the federal bill, and we are working with national partners to gather a thorough assessment of the impact on Missouri. To be sure, the bill will result in reduced state revenue, impacting the FY 2019 budget.

Without intervention, these cuts will be implemented at a time when Missouri is already struggling to fund its budget needs:

- Lawmakers continue to look for solutions to fund Home and Community Based Services for Missourians with disabilities and the MORx program for seniors, which were cut in the last budget debate.
- Simultaneously, the Foundation Formula which distributes state aid to local schools is required to increase by \$98 million in FY 2019 in order to remain fully funded and to fund the early childhood initiative.

As many of you know at the federal level Congress has not been able to agree on a budget. The budget shut down affects education effectively stopping all disbursements to states. The climate in Washington DC is not pro public education. National PTA is working with the state federal legislative chairs to encourage DC to pass increases in CAP funding to allow for more money to be allocated to education.

If the federal government chooses to either not increase or decrease funding to public education combined with revenue decreases our children will suffer. The MO Budget Project has stated it will be very hard to fully fund the Formula for Education next year with the projected revenue. The FY'19 budget for education to fund this formula would have to be increased by a minimum of \$98 million dollars. Remember FY'18 the Formula for Education was full funded. This was the first time in recent years MO legislators were able to fund this. Missouri PTA advocates full funding but knows with a lower revenue all vital programs will be fighting for the same dollars.

Now more than ever we need our members to send out our JC/DC Alerts and let our legislators know that education matters in MO.



The Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award is the most esteemed award given to volunteers at the state level. This award is designed to recognize and honor extraordinary individuals for their service and dedication to PTA. Volunteers are PTA's most precious commodities. The great work and achievements of PTA simply wouldn't happen without passionate and dedicated volunteers providing the driving force.

This award is a wonderful way to show both gratitude and appreciation for an individual's devotion to children and the purposes of PTA. Additionally, one-half of the award fee is strictly designated for the Missouri PTA Scholarship Fund. So not only will you be honoring an incredible volunteer but at the same time supporting Missouri college students studying to be future teachers.



Missouri PTA
Legislation & Advocacy Team



Carla Wiese
State VP of Leg & Advocacy
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Sign up to be part of the JC/DC Network

If you have not signed up to be a part of Missouri PTA's [JC/DC network](#) please take a few moments to do so now. This session will be very active with charter schools and vouchers again being proposed for Missouri. In addition to these, Missouri PTA will be working to Raise the Age and for meaningful school safety legislation. Presidents and legislative chairs should be receiving legislative reports to help you keep track of key legislation.

Missouri Bill Watch

The bills listed below are the bills we anticipate moving quickly through the legislature. This is a very small sample of the bills MO PTA follows. You can track the bills we follow on our website in the [Advocacy](#) section under Capitol Chatter. We encourage all our members to keep track and engage their elected officials about each of these bills. If you have not yet signed up for our JC/DC alerts please do so. When you sign up you will receive email messages and easy ways to engage with your legislators.

Below you will find bills Missouri PTA feels are very important in the upcoming session. You can follow all the bills Missouri PTA is watching in the [advocacy section of the Missouri PTA website](#).

Please remember to sign up for our action alerts and to participate in each alert we send out. Advocacy is one of PTA's most important functions and ensures that the children of Missouri receive the best education possible while protecting our public schools statewide.

Missouri HB 1255 - Nick Schroer

SB 793- Wayne Wallingford

Requires children under the age of 18 to be prosecuted for most criminal offenses in juvenile courts unless the child is certified as an adult.

Missouri PTA supports these bills. These are the bills that we are starting our student advocacy campaign around this month. It has been PTA's long held position to support efforts and legislation that prohibits the incarceration of youth in adult facilities.

Missouri HB 1248 - Patricia Pike

Adds powdered alcohol to provisions relating to intoxicating liquor.

Missouri PTA supports this bill. Powdered alcohol contains 55% alcohol. A percentage much higher than beer (3-10%), wine (8-14%) and the most common spirits (Tequila 40-50%, Vodka 30-50%, and Whisky 40-53.3%). But unlike the liquid forms of alcohol, powdered alcohol is easily concealed by youths and can be mixed in a manner making the end product more harmful to youths.

This bill would label powdered alcohol an intoxicating substance and will help prevent the ability of youth to purchase this substance.

Missouri HB 1639 - Dan Stacy

Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program.

Missouri PTA opposes this bill. The Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program is a particular concern for PTA because this program would create an account that would allow taxpayers to make a qualifying contribution to an educational assistance organization and claim a tax credit, as described in the act. The tax credit is for one hundred percent of the amount of the contribution. The tax credit may be carried forward for four years and may be transferred, sold, or assigned. The scholarships will be used in private schools effectively creating a voucher system in Missouri.

Missouri HB 1668 - Kathryn Swan

Creates an educational savings plan for K-12 educational expenses.

Missouri PTA opposes this bill. The Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program is a particular concern for PTA because this program would create an account that would allow taxpayers to make a qualifying contribution to an educational assistance organization and claim a tax credit, as described in the act. The tax credit is for one hundred percent of the amount of the contribution. The tax credit may be carried forward for four years and may be transferred, sold, or assigned. The scholarships will be used in private schools effectively creating a voucher system in Missouri.

SB 617- William Eigel and SB 611- Andrew Koenig

Each bill contains provisions to dramatically cut state income taxes, beginning in 2019. SB 617 contains an additional provision to completely eliminate income tax over time.

Missouri PTA opposes both these bills. Any bill that decreases income will not be good for education. For the Budget 2019 to fully fund the education formula the education budget is required to increase by \$98 million in order to remain fully funded and to fund the early childhood initiative. The passing of either of these bills would make it very hard to meet this formula. The Senate has held hearings in committee for both of these bills. MO PTA submitted written testimony in opposition to both these bills.



Join the Movement...

WE CANNOT VOTE.

WE CANNOT JOIN THE MILITARY.

WE HAVE NOT GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

WE HAVE JUST BEGUN TO THINK ABOUT OUR FUTURE.

WE ARE NOT ADULTS!

BUT... we can be tried as adults and held in adult prisons.

Join the student-led movement NOW to change the way we look at youth offenders. You can begin the conversation now by posting the following to social media.

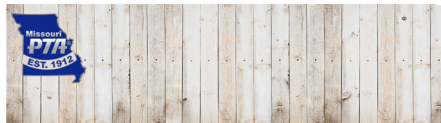
#18in18 because 17 is too young. It is time to

#RaiseTheAgeMO

@molegislature @missouripta @raisetheageMO

From the team: Missouri PTA Membership

 MissouriPTA
  MissouriPTA
  @MissouriPTA



Christine Kent
 Missouri PTA VP Membership
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**BE HAPPY.
 BE BRIGHT.
 BE YOU.**



Burchell McGhee
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Doty Hoffman
 Missouri PTA Membership
 Growth & Development
dotyh@mopta.org



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

Membership Award Focus

You can get more information and your application forms [online](#).

Honor Roll

Matched or increased membership over previous year by March 1st

To qualify for the Honor Roll, your unit needs to either meet or exceed your previous year's membership number by March 1st. Once qualified, your unit will receive an Honor Roll achievement certificate. The Honor Roll will be published on the Missouri PTA website and in an issue of the CONTACT magazine. *New units are not eligible and existing units must have turned in membership the prior year.

Platinum Award

Membership meets or exceeds total enrollment plus total staff.

100% Enrollment. Unit membership must equal or exceed the school's total enrollment plus the total number of full time certified staff by March 1st.

For example, if the school enrollment is listed at 477 and the total number of full time certified staff is 25, the total paid memberships received in the state office by the deadline must be 500 or more.

G - Going Above and Beyond O - Outdoing Ourselves A - Aiming High L - Leading the Way S - Striving for Excellence



Going for gold is doing your best. Going for gold is making the most of your talent. Going for gold is accomplishing a goal. Help your PTA go for gold!

PTA is an organization made up of volunteers, amateurs not professionals. We work hard to guarantee something great for our schools, our kids. We don't always get everything right. It may take a couple of tries at the new fundraiser off the ground. Sometimes we miss things at meetings or announce the wrong dates or make mistakes in emails. The bottom line, we're all doing our best. Most of us never realized the role we would play in our local PTAs, but now that we're here, it's exciting to be involved! Making the most of your PTA and its members is the best you can do.

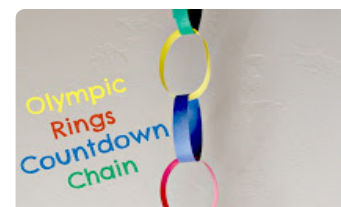
Utilizing your membership and recruiting talent is going to build and grow a successful PTA. Board members, committee chairpersons, volunteers-they

should all love what they do and be passionate about contributing their individual talents to carry the team. Find members who are talented for specific positions. Be smart and get creative, there is a perfect fit just waiting for those members to step in and strengthen your PTA.

Ok, the goal for our PTAs may not literally be gold, but it's very close, our kids. Our kids are the sole reason we sign up and spend valuable time supporting PTA. They are why we attend meetings, and serve on a committee, or even the board. Our children are gold to us and there is nothing more important than their education, their well-being, their motivation and love for learning. It is so evidently clear that being involved sets a positive example to our kids and for our kids. Encourage those in your school community who are not yet members, to continue the tradition of leadership and knowledge and get involved! PTA for the greater good, PTA for the GOLD!



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



Building your membership

from Burchell McGhee, Missouri PTA Diversity & Outreach Chair

Form a Membership Committee.

Yes! It's a real thing! You can't do it alone! You shouldn't try! I'm serious!

Choose a Campaign Theme

Having a theme generates interest and enthusiasm.
Display your theme in a high-traffic area of the school.
Show the results of your campaign.

Set Goal and Have a Plan

Together the membership committee sets goals. Make sure the goals are reasonable and attainable, though challenging. Remember to choose goals that will fit your individual strengths, comfort level, budget, time, and expertise. Plans are worthless unless they are put into practice. Be sure to schedule your recruitment and retention activities throughout the year, particularly at Back-to-School Night in the fall and at the start of the new year in January. Assign a specific person to be in charge of coordinating the different events, but involve all of your members.

Examples:

"We will increase our membership by 10% over last year."

"We will get 100% of teachers to join PTA."

"We will increase our male membership by 10% over last year."

Target Potential Members

Assign committee members specific responsibilities like retaining members, recruiting new members, improving communication to families, increasing male involvement or asking teachers and staff to join

Examples:

"We will set up a membership table at Back-to-School Night."

"We will have an incentive for the class with the highest percentage of members."

"We will post on our social media sites."

Sell the Value of PTA Membership

Recruiting new members goes hand-in-hand with making sure they find value in PTA and renew their membership. Emphasize to new members what they get for their membership dues. Keep members motivated through on-going communication, opportunities to volunteer, and recognition. However, the number one benefit that PTA members receive from PTA membership is the ability to help their own or other children.

Incentivize with Awards/Prizes:

"The Class with the highest percentage of memberships get..."

"The class with 100% envelopes returned gets..." (empty envelopes are okay!)

Ask the Principal to do something wacky if you reach a certain goal.

Offer "punch cards" to members for joining.

Offer discounts on school t-shirts.

\$6 PTA membership dues receives \$6 credit at the book fair or carnival.

Free entrance into the school dance for joining PTSA.

Campaign All Year Long

Every event your PTA holds is a chance to have more people join, so always have your sign-up sheets and information ready! Continue to ask parents to join. Continue to promote your PTA. Every time you have a PTA event, have membership envelopes on hand to hand out to people who are not yet members. Ask for a PTA table at major school events. Include PTA membership materials in new student packets in the school office.

Evaluate and Adjust Accordingly

Continuously seek feedback from committee members on issues such as: How many new members they are recruiting? How they are helping these new members acclimate to PTA and get involved? How many members are staying active?

Regardless of whether the evaluation is done through a formal survey or informal communication, it should be systematic, recorded, and used to adjust and improve the goals of the Membership Committee.

Every unit who increases their total number of PTA members (both business/individual members) by 10 over last year's membership numbers will automatically be entered into a drawing for \$75 dollars. Ten lucky units will be the winners.

Units who increase their total number of PTA members by 20 will also be entered into a drawing for \$150. Five lucky units will be winners.

Units who increase their total number of PTA members by 30 will also be entered into the grand prize drawing for \$250. Two lucky units will be the winners.



Go for the Gold
and participate
in the MoPTA
Membership
Challenge

From the Regional Director | Three Trails Region

Here to help
Regional
Director



Laura Reaves
Missouri PTA Three Trails
Regional Director
laurar@mopta.org

Sometimes you just need a push!

Laura Reaves | Missouri PTA Three Trails Regional Director

Perseverance and dedication are two qualities I admire most about the Olympics. Well, that and thinking about their workout schedules as I sit on the couch eating my extra buttery popcorn while watching them push themselves to the limits.

My name is Laura Reaves and I am one of the Three Trails regional directors for MOPTA. I have been involved in a PTA, well, for most of my life. I was a PTAK (that's short for PTA Kid) my mother was always involved in my school's PTA one way or another throughout my whole educational career. I have many memories of attending meetings with my coloring books and sitting in cold metal chairs. But I think my favorite memory was of the year she served as the Reflections Chair at my high school. This was back in olden days before everything went digital. Yes, those were dark days where you actually had all the original art products to judge. Our basement was covered in artwork, the furniture, the floor, the stairs and even the walls all had pieces of students creativity hoping for a trophy. She had small pathways for the judges (family members and neighbors) to come help choose which pieces would win. Even though my mom admitted to being frazzled I admired her dedication to come back the following year and serve again on the board to keep supporting my school.

When my own children started school, supporting PTA became my own dedication. I have three amazing children, my son who is now a freshman in high school, and two daughters; one in 6th grade and the other in 5th grade. We've been very blessed that our PTA has played such a positive and supportive part of the community they've been able to grown up in.

Every year, since my son started kindergarten, when I register for school I fill out our membership form. I knew it was important to support even back when all I could do was pay for my membership and occasionally volunteer. Let's face it with two toddlers at home it can be hard to find babysitters. As the kids grew older and the girls started school my volunteering involvement grew too. Until that one PTA Mom gave me a

small push (or small shove) and asked me to consider serving as treasurer on their board. I remembered saying okay to thinking about it, she remembers that I said yes.

However it actually happened I was voted in and into a new world I stepped. I was extremely nervous to be so far out of my comfort zone but I found that I loved it. It hasn't always been easy or a smooth ride these few years, but I learned to persevere and keep going because I loved learning something new for myself and my children's school. I loved the community I was drawn into and I loved that I got to be part of drawing other parents into our PTA family. So much so that the friend who shoved me now serves with me not just on our elementary board but our school districts council board and we both serve as the Three Trails Regional Directors for MOPTA together. (I pushed her back.)

Ashley and I would love to see you all at convention this year in Independence, MO. Please come find us, say hi and share your PTA origin story or what keeps you dedicated to putting our kids first.



Leaders
Project
Feature
Article

Springfield Council of PTAs | Ozark Region

Here to help
Regional
Director



Tori Sallee
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Serving as a Regional Director is a great bridge and a new opportunity for growth

Tori Sallee | Missouri PTA Ozarks Regional Director



Reaching for your goals and trying a new challenge is exactly the "Go for the Gold" thinking that will help you grow as a person. Have you ever thought about taking your PTA volunteer knowledge to the next level? Becoming a MoPTA Regional Director is a great opportunity to spread your wings and learn what happens at the state level of PTA right from your desk and your city. Serving as the Ozark Regional Director for the last two years has been a great bridge for me as I navigate the elementary, middle school and high school PTA highway. I served as elementary PTA president and will take on the role of middle school PTSA president next year and I feel being the regional director has helped me understand the broad scope of the PTA, which I hope will help me be a better leader for the future.

Did someone say, "What are the responsibilities?"

- Coordinate the work in the region and assist in organization of new units and councils.
- Be in regular contact with both council and unit presidents
- Keep the state office advised of any changes in council or units
- Attend council meetings in an advisory capacity
- Attend board of managers' meetings in Columbia (4 meetings per year)
- Attend the State Convention

If you are organized, love to interact with PTA people and have a knack for problem-solving, then this is a perfect opportunity for you. The goal is for all units and council know that there is someone to advise, assist or help them and that they don't have to or need to travel the PTA road alone.



Join the team and serve as a Regional Director.

*Not the Bobsled team, that would be crazy.
Join the Missouri PTA team, because that's a good idea.*



Consider applying for an open Regional Director position now.

The Missouri PTA Regional Director position is a great way to make connections and discover new information. You meet and help units and councils in your area. And you get great training and resources from Missouri PTA. Our state is full of passionate, hardworking PTA parents; it's energizing what we accomplish together.

The Regional Director position is great for someone who is personable, organized, responsible and efficient. You will make friends, develop relevant skills and build confidence through your position as a Regional Director.

Take the next step and consider joining us. To express interest in the Regional Director position or apply online, visit our [Board of Managers webpage](#) or contact Sarah Day at sarahd@mopta.org to learn more.

From the team:
**Missouri PTA
Student Reps**

 MissouriPTA  MissouriPTA  @MissouriPTA

good
vibes
only

Hey fellow students, I am talking to you!
Are you in grades 8 to 12? Are you a PTSA member?

Make plans to attend MO/KS PTA State Convention this April. Students from all over MO and KS will be attending.



Alex Wiese

Missouri PTA Student Rep
 alexw@mopta.org



Lexis Wade

Missouri PTA Student Rep
 lexisw@mopta.org

Research shows that one of the most effective ways to prevent bullying behavior is to create a positive school climate. School climate encompasses everything that contributes to a student's experience with a school—from the physical building to policies, staff and peer culture.

Use the [Connect for Respect \(C4R\) Toolkit](#) to guide your PTA/PTSA in engaging students in improving the school climate and reducing bullying.

Get started with Connect for Respect. Walk through a step-by-step process for engaging students, parents and educators in Connect for Respect while learning about all of the tools National PTA and its partners have available for you.

[Connect for Respect
PTA Leader's Guide](#)

[Connect for Respect
Student Leader's Guide](#)

You may be asking yourself, "Why would I want to attend?" I mean it will finally be April and this L-O-N-G winter will be over."

Sessions designed by us for us! We have been working hard to bring you workshops on issues that are very relevant to us today. These sessions include juvenile justice reform and how this can impact our peers. The drug crisis and what we can do to help our peers. Mental Health think depression, suicide etc. I know pretty serious subjects but we think these are all issues any school in MO is facing.

We have some great presenters lined up who will speak to us about what we need to know. These are not come and listen but interactive we want to teach you how to become advocates for great things in our schools. Speaking of being great advocates, I was reminded to ask you all to keep posting to social media - "#18in18 because 17 is too young! @molegislature @missouripta @raisetheagemo! If you have any question email carlaw@mopta.org, hope to see you all there!!

RAISE
THE AGE

Workshops you need!

President Session Treasurer Training Success as PTA Secretary Membership Bylaws
Legislation and Advocacy Parliamentary Procedure Effective Meetings and many more!

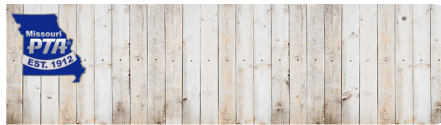


Your Golden Opportunity
for Great Training, Excellent Networking and Fantastic Ideas

Friday, April 27 to
Sunday, April 29, 2018

Missouri PTA and Kansas PTA
Combined Convention
in Kansas City

[Get More Info Online](#)



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Make your Goals Golden

Amy Blakemore | Missouri PTA VP Communications

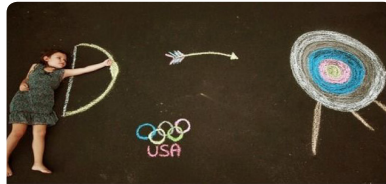
When you're working toward a goal, do you have the dedication and focus of an Olympic Athlete? There are lessons we can learn from each of them. Stay Focused. Don't Give Up. Keep Your Eyes On The Prize.

Have you thought about your goals as a PTA member? Here are a few ideas for you, your unit or your council that can help you stay focused and get to the Gold (and your goals!)

- Invite a friend or someone new to join PTA. By adding 10 new members, your unit will be eligible for this year's Missouri PTA membership challenge and a drawing to win \$
- Try one new event at your school. Keep things fresh and fun by making a change.
- Apply for Missouri PTA's individual, unit and/or council awards (login to our website to access [awards page](#)). We know you are doing great things and we'd like to recognize your accomplishments.
- Attend Convention - and bring your board with you! Convention is a great opportunity to network with others and receive training. We guarantee you will learn something new.
- Share your achievements with other PTA members through [Contact digital magazine](#). We'd love to share your news!
- Try a National PTA program at your school. They have [great programs](#) and great ideas.

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/>



Ideas from [Pinterest.com](#)



The **PTA Marketplace** is here!

[Click here to access great deals!](#)



NEW! PTA Marketplace

Check out the new PTA Marketplace! The marketplace is full of exclusive member offers, Fundraisers, student support tools, authors, speakers & school assemblies, and resources for families. PTA hopes you find this new tool helpful. This is another example of how PTA puts those membership dues to good use.

[Visit the PTA Marketplace](#)



**We need this pullover.
How about you?**

PTA Ladies Microfleece 1/4-Zip Pullover
7.5-ounce, 100% polyester microfleece with 1/4 zip front. Open cuffs and hemmed. Thumbholes to keep hands warm. PTA Logo embroidered on left chest.




Ladies sizes: Small - XXXL
\$25.00 - XXL & XXXL Add \$2.00



Shop-PTA.com

Apparel, awards, gifts, supplies and more!

From the team:
Missouri PTA
Board of Managers

 MissouriPTA  MissouriPTA  @MissouriPTA



Meet Your MoPTA Team



Burchell McGhee

Missouri PTA Diversity Outreach & Engagement

 burchellm@mopta.org

I'm the Missouri PTA Diversity Outreach & Engagement Chair, it's my 2nd year in this position and I am charged with making PTA welcoming and inclusive for all children and families by honoring their differences as we advocate for the well-being of our communities.

I've been involved for 14 years with Hazelwood Central High School/ Hazelwood Council/Gateway Region

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”



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

In early November, I saw a friend's Facebook post. She planned to volunteer at a local church for Thanksgiving. This resonated with me because the church was close and was affiliated with my home church. I decided to volunteer on Thanksgiving morning. I told my daughter and she eagerly jumped on board. My niece decided to come to the house on Thanksgiving eve. I told her what we were doing and she wanted to help too. On Thanksgiving morning, we all got ready and headed to the church. Everyone was so welcoming to us strangers. We all went to work as a team. We made meals, prepped family orders and got them ready for delivery. We were having fun...for real. Then....BONUS!! They needed more delivery drivers. The girls and I had the privilege of delivering the meals that we helped to pack. We delivered to homes, nursing facilities and places of employment. Everyone was so appreciative.

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

Favorite Food
Chinese/Japanese

Favorite TV Show/Movie
Jeopardy, Good Will Hunting & Waiting to Exhale

Favorite Music/Band
Prince/Maze

Favorite Book
Canterbury Tales

Favorite Activities/Hobbies
Reading/ Listening to Music

What makes you stand out?
My smile makes me stand out.

Describe yourself in 3-5 words: Dependable. Analytical. Charitable.

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

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

What are your goals this year?
My goals include to be more organized and focus on what's really important to me and my family. I'm going to put me first.

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

Something interesting you've done this year? I've MC'd several events this year and auditioned for a narration gig.