

CONTACT



March 2018
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WE HAVE
POWER &
A VOICE

WE ARE
STRONGER
TOGETHER

REALIZED
POTENTIAL

KEYS TO SUCCESS

SMALL & MIGHTY

IN THIS EDITION

MoPTA President Shares
Her Secret for Success

**School Board Elections
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OUR STATE IS GREAT
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Meet your MoPTA Slated Officers

From the Missouri PTA Contact Editor

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



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

SOMETHING IS
COMING YOUR
WAY--

SOMETHING BIG

HULK



What happens when you're too comfortable in your current role? (like me)

Usually I have an abundance of things to say. I've trained myself to be a confident speaker, an active participant and an engaged leader. And this month, I've struggled with what to write in this section. You see, we're talking about change in Missouri PTA – change that immediately and directly impacts me and will eventually impact you. And I'm feeling a little uncomfortable and unsettled.

I've served as Contact Editor for four years. That is older than one of my kids and longer than I've had my most recent job. I'm pretty comfortable creating this edition for you each month. I also really enjoy the work and it's fulfilling because I know I'm pretty good at what I do. Let me restate the most important thing here – I'm comfortable and I'm not growing.

When we began discussing PTA officer elections, I even brought up the idea that I'd like the team to consider changing the rules so I can stay right where I am. Nice and comfortable.

And I'll be the first to tell you it's a terrible idea.

It won't serve the organization well, I'll start to get burned out and we wouldn't find anyone else that's going to take this magazine – or our regular communication with you – to a new level.

This month, you'll be sending in information about your unit/council changes – and I bet some of you feel just how I did – nice and comfortable. If it's absolutely what's best for your PTA, then I encourage you to stay where you are. But if you were talking to me at convention (and I hope we do find time to talk), then I'd ask you why are you really staying where you are? The time might be right for you to move, grow and change so your PTA can move, grow and change.

You'll see at the end of this edition the PTA members who have been slated for officers for the next two years. I'm one of them. I've stepped up to say that I'm willing to serve in a new role and the more I think about it – and I have to be honest – I'm getting pretty excited about the possibilities. In this new position, I think I could have more of an impact on the state board, helping you with your unit/council and reaching you as a leader and as a human being. After all, we are all in this together – through the good, the comfortable, the changes and the growth.

I look forward to sharing my experiences with you over the next two years and beyond.

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.

My second grader and I recently attended the city-wide performance for third-graders (hooray for multi-age classrooms) of "Peter and the Wolf" hosted by Drury University (my employer) and I volunteered to help seat teachers, parents and students before the performance.

I've been thinking a lot this year about "What can I do?" and if I can help make the situation better by being involved then I get involved. Turns out my help was needed and appreciated, and I wouldn't have known if I didn't ask our Theater department, "What can I do?"

That question - and that mindset - have been keeping me delightfully involved and invested in meaningful support this year.

How have you helped others recently?
Email us at contact@mopta.org to share your story.

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.

Workshops you need!

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



Your Super 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](#)

From the Missouri PTA President

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



Dorothy Gardner
Missouri PTA President
dorothyg@mopta.org



Missouri PTA Officer Elections Update

Following the February Board of Managers meeting where the nominating committee gave its official report the nominees for VP/Director of Programs and Treasurer withdrew from consideration. As per parliamentary procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order, the committee was reconvened and charged find nominees for the positions. The slate of officers is now:

President Elect - Carla Wiese

Secretary - Paula McKinney

Treasurer - Amy Blakemore

VP/Director of Legislation and 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 – Sarah Day

Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided consent has been obtained from the nominee and nominees running from the floor give the state PTA president thirty days notification before the beginning of convention of their intent. (Article X Section 1-d Missouri PTA Bylaws). The deadline is March 29th and must be emailed directly to dorothyg@mopta.org

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

President checklist - March Send in dues

Hold a general meeting – plan an event to bring them in
ELECTIONS –
send in officers by 3/31

Address any bylaws changes you might need

Send in Convention registrations

School board and bond issues

Hold a candidate forum

Consider supporting bond issues

Form a budget committee

Photo credit from unsplash.com



There are copious keys to success or tricks of the trade PTA leaders pass down from one to another. Binders, flash drives and/or cloud-based files each term find a new home with new leaders. At the state and national level resources have been developed and tweaked over time to continually adapt to the changing landscape in which we conduct our PTA work. When I was a fresh new leader with very limited PTA knowledge, having grown up attending private schools where the parents were neither seen nor heard, I read everything I could get in my hands and made room in my schedule to attend trainings. In my mind there was no way I was going to take on a role I didn't feel adequately prepared to lead. In fact, I initially turned down an ask to be a unit president wanting to spend a year as vice president learning what the true keys of success were before taking the helm. However, in that situation my unit was blessed with a former PTA president from a school across the district who (in addition to being the one who made the ask) listened to my concerns and agreed to the arrangement. Her mentoring allowed me to develop my PTA skills. She encouraged me to attend Leadership conference and then convention and made sure the PTA budgeted for the expense, which at that point in my life would have been a significant hardship on my family. She worked with me, explaining the what and why of everything we were doing and asking for and listening to my opinion. The resource materials were great but could have never replaced the one-on-one time I had with another PTA leader.

Through the years I have found many mentors at the state and national level. Some, upon reflection, clearly knew they were mentoring. A big tip off were the words "when you're president". The state president, who said this to me when I wasn't even an officer just an appointed board member, saw something in me and made sure I had ample opportunities to learn and experience PTA at all levels. Others may or may not have realized they were providing mentoring. Regardless, they never ceased to answer my questions or let me tag along when I was put in a situation where I was the only one who didn't know anyone else in the room (or in one case The White House).

Leaders don't simply happen. And I don't even think they are merely grown. Leaders are forged from their experiences. Great experiences led by wonderful mentors forge the best leaders. Leaders, who in turn, return the mentoring favor building bonds and sustainability long after they are gone.

So, what's my key to success? Find a mentor. Shoot, find numerous mentors. Don't be afraid to engage. Ask the questions, share the dialogue that will build your great experiences. And, most importantly, don't forget to return the mentoring favor.

ShopPTA.com

New products for 2018



PTA Volunteer Lapel Pin
1.5" size

PTA Loud & Proud
3/4 sleeve tee



PTA Meeting Tomorrow
500 ct. Sticker Roll



Locking Cash Box
with custom plate



Crossbody Messenger Bag
Embroidered PTA Logo



PTA two-tone Duffle Bag
Embroidered PTA Logo



PTA Loud & Proud
22 oz. Stadium Cup

From the team: Missouri PTA Membership

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



Christine Kent
Missouri PTA VP Membership
christinek@mopta.org

A true hero isn't measured by the size of his strength, but by the strength of his heart



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



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



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

by **Doty Hoffman** | Missouri PTA Membership Growth & Development

I didn't know exactly what I signed up for when I joined the BOM last summer. I knew there was a need and my big, ol' PTA heart leapt at the chance to help out. As I have learned, there is this incredible State-level organization that is made up of so many passionate people! I serve as the Membership Growth and Development Chair and work with the Membership branch

of the greater MOPTA tree. We as a team, have enjoyed getting to know each other and work hard together to create membership themes, membership incentives and support other branches whenever we can. I enjoy contributing to the monthly MOPTA Contact publication, as well. It is important to highlight the overwhelming advocacy and promotion of ALL Missouri students. I am proud to serve along side so many individuals that have big, if not bigger PTA hearts.



A quick search on Google or Pinterest will display all sorts of advice on how to be successful. Some is inspirational, some is unrelatable and some is darn near impossible. What defines a successful PTA? What is successful membership? Is being successful, successful?

Each local unit is unique. It's hard to place everyone in the same category. Some PTAs service very large schools and districts, some are on the smaller side in smaller towns. Some PTAs fundraise for field trips and some PTAs fundraise for yearbooks. Needless to say, it's hard to define success when we all bring something different to the PTA table.

As different as we may seem, we all have a similar, common goal...our children and their benefit. We work hard on PTA boards and committees, we volunteer endless hours and we sometimes tackle the norm to change stereotypes. We provide a voice for those who are growing into theirs. We support staff who help our children blossom into who they will grow up to be. We forge relationships with administrations and districts so that when the going gets tough, they know who to call. We are an association of parents and teachers who believe, above all, in the empowerment of our young people. We want them to be smart, we want them to be creative. We want them to be safe, we want them always to be supported by an incredible network that will always have their backs. We will work hard for the best of them. We will sacrificially spend our time for their cause. They are the measure of a successful PTA, THEY are our keys to success!



by **Christine Kent** | VP of Membership

Even though awards have been turned in for Memberships, we still need to reach down deep and finish strong for the finish line, which is the end of the school year. Don't leave anyone behind. You can still work on getting more memberships from everyone you meet. Continue to give your elevator speech as to, "Why joining PTA is a good idea".

Even now at this moment in the year, I continue to see and hear individuals not understanding the importance of PTA. So don't give up the race now, we are not done yet! Take a look around and see if you may have missed someone. Keep doing the great job that I know you all have worked long and hard at all year. Continue to send in those memberships and make sure to get information on your members so that you can be prepared to invite them to join again, next year.

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

Photo credit from unsplash.com

Consider Joining Missouri PTA as the Student Involvement Chair

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 PTSAs, 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.

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.**

Due at the end of March!

*There is still time!
Participate in the MoPTA
Membership
Challenge*

Photo credit from unsplash.com



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

Keys to Success as a Newbie Regional Director

Laura Reaves | Missouri PTA Three Trails Regional Director

Keys are your success, always know where yours are at; car keys, house keys, spare keys...you get the picture. Nothing can make you more frustrated or give you a feeling of failure faster than losing your keys.

- Have computer access, as in your own personal computation device or check your local library, most have computers you may use. And Wifi, Wifi is life. (It's sad but true, we're all addicted to the wifi.)
- Email, know how to email. Emailing is the main communication resource. Definitely learn how to reply all, it does help with group emails. Ever had that one person in the group have to reply all what you replied to just them? I have, it's embarrassing and makes you feel like a computer goober.
- Always have your phone or a calendar/planner with you. Now I'm not dissing the old school way of life but for me personally, my calendar app has alarms which are great tools. There are also really great calendar apps which you can sync up all your family's calendars so no one will forget when or if you have a meeting. (cough cough Husband)
- Phone Charger. Self explanatory.
- Notebook or writing tablet, writing utensils and/or laptop, are one of my recommendations. I like to jot down notes, questions, important dates, and/or ideas.

Now the next part of the list is more mental preparation than tangible items to have with you:

- Your listening ears and your support. Sometimes the people in charge just need to talk to someone. Be the one who listens first.
- Accept it's ok not to know something. You have resources available to you where you can discover the answers.
- And my personal favorite and honestly one of the most important keys of success is..... DON'T GIVE UP Or KEEP GOING Or JUST DO IT Or JUST KEEP SWIMMING (words of advice from my favorite blue fish Dory)

The greatest failure to yourself and our kids is to quit. Keep trying, know when to ask for help, know when or if you need to step aside, but this job is at its core about our kids and our families. Keep Going.

Take the Next Step

The 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. 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 this position. I encourage you to learn more - simply contact sarahd@mopta.org.



Brian Mercer
Missouri PTA Pony
Express Regional Director
brianm@mopta.org

Pony Express & Three Trails Region



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

The American Association of University Women published findings of a survey in a report titled, [Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment in School](#) conducted in the 2010-2011 school year. The survey questioned 1,965 public school students in grades 7-12 about sexual harassment in all its forms; bullying, teasing and touching. The survey found that about 48% of the students experienced some form of sexual harassment at school. You may think once a child graduates from high school there's less cause for alarm, but that's unfortunately not true.

The statistics for sexual assaults on college campuses are worse than those of high school. On a positive note, college campus sexual assaults are garnering more and more media attention, consider recent headlines from Michigan State University, but we need to empower our students before they reach the college campus. It's time to "shift the paradigm" and view sexual assault through a new lens. Which is what *Shifting the Paradigm*, hopes to accomplish.

Workshop attendees will be broken into three groups; teen boys, teen girls and parents and school staff. Workshop presenters include the following from the YWCA; Carrie Turner, Training and Outreach Coordinator; Karla Hanlan, Sexual Violence Victim Advocate; Wendy Hickman MSW LCSW Sexual and Domestic Violence therapist, Dr. Brad Kincheloe, 20+ year principal at Park Hill High School and Barrye L. Price, Major General, US Army, ret. Presenters will discuss and answer questions on topics like supporting survivors, recognizing rape culture, online abuse, alcohol and consent, and masculinity. Discussions will be a powerful tool for supporting people through these tough conversations, and can be a road map for open, honest communication between kids and parents and students and school staff. We will also have a shortened version of a full length self-defense class. This is going to be an instructive day! Gather a group of students, parents and staff to attend what promises to be an informative and worthwhile workshop.



| noun, a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions |

EMPOWERING YOU AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT:
A WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEENS, PARENTS AND SCHOOL STAFF

When: April 21st, 2018 9am – 3pm

Where: The Kaufman Foundation 4801 Rockhill Rd, Kansas City, MO 64110

Cost: \$5 Which includes a light breakfast and lunch

Registration Opens at 8:30am

Hosted by the Park Hill High School PTA

Park Hill High School



everychild.one voice.®

From the Regional Director | Pony Express Region

Here to help
Regional
Director



Brian Mercer
Missouri PTA Pony
Express Regional Director
briamm@mopta.org

Great things are happening in PTA

Brian Mercer | Missouri PTA Pony Express Regional Director

3rd annual Briarcliff Elementary PTA Trivia Night. This was a great event that I myself donated items to from our district PTA Council along with many other great prizes for the winning teams. Participants at the trivia night were parents, teachers and also a team of students from the North Kansas City High School Student Council. Top Row of Pictures.



Oak Park High School PTSA Chili Supper and Basket Auction. It was a great fundraising event combined with a night of basketball. There were over 50 baskets of different themed items that were still being bid on until the very last minute before it closed. Bottom Row of Pictures.

Leaders
Project
Feature
Article

From the Regional Director | Ozark Region

Here to help
Regional
Director



Tori Sallee
Missouri PTA Ozarks
Regional Director
toris@mopta.org

STEAM Night at Disney Elementary

Tori Sallee | Missouri PTA Ozarks Regional Director

Disney Elementary hosted their very first STEAM Night on January 25, 2018. STEAM is an acronym that stands for "Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics." Two of the Disney Elementary 5th Grade teachers, Ms. Graves and Mrs. Fogle, lead the STEAM Club after school each week; however, the Disney STEAM Night was open for all families and friends to enjoy an evening packed with hands-on activities, focused on a variety of stations, such as coding Osmos and Ollies, Makey-Makey Banana Music, 3D String Art, Rocket Demos, Binary Beading, Robotics, Sling Shot Challenges, and a whole lot more!

It was an exciting and educational night for everyone! Adding the STEAM Club to Disney's list of extra-curricular activities has been a welcomed addition this year!





Connect 4 Respect

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

Focus on Health

[Fuel Up to Play 60](#) (National Dairy Council and the NFL): An in-school nutrition and physical activity program to help students make positive changes in their schools.

[Parents for Healthy Schools](#) (CDC): A set of resources to help schools, PTAs and school wellness committees engage parents to create healthy school environments.

[Thriving Schools](#) (Kaiser Permanente): A targeted, multiyear initiative offering free tools and resources to improve the health of students, staff and teachers in K-12 schools.

March 12-16 is Public Schools Week!

We're calling on every administrator, principal, teacher, student, parent, community member and business leader to leverage social media to foster conversations and strong actions to allow our public schools to thrive and best support our students! Use **#LovePublicEducation** to join the conversation and learn more about the campaign.

Jan Harp Domene (JHD) Award Application Process Now Open

As of Monday January 22, PTAs will have the opportunity to showcase their dedicated efforts and commitment to diversity and inclusion by applying for the Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award.

National PTA was founded in the spirit of diversity and inclusion. Our association's cofounder Alice McLellan Birney expressed that our mission was to make every child's potential a reality, "irrespective of creed, color or condition."

Jan Harp Domene served as National PTA President from 2007-2009 and was a true champion for diversity and inclusion, ensuring that families of all backgrounds felt welcomed into the PTA family.

National PTA established the Jan Harp Domene Award in 2012 to recognize outstanding PTAs across the country who have succeeded and continue to make diversity and inclusion a priority.

The Jan Harp Domene Award will be presented to a PTA at each level: local, district/council/region and state. The

application process will go live in English and Spanish on Monday, January 22 on www.pta.org/DiversityAward and close on March 31, 2018 at 8PM EST/5PM PST.

PTAs who have made progress and plan to continue their exemplary efforts in the area diversity and inclusion are highly encouraged to apply. Attached is a social media toolkit to help you promote this award within your state.

Applications will be reviewed and selected by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and will be recognized at the National PTA Convention and Expo on June 21 – 24, 2018 in New Orleans. Winning PTAs will receive \$1,000 to support their ongoing efforts, as well as a plaque to memorialize the achievement.

Please visit www.pta.org/DiversityAward to review the application and the full list of items winners will receive. We look forward to receiving your application and applications from your state.

Missouri PTA Advocacy Handbook

Your Resources This Month

**“We all have the capacity
to be a superhero.**

*In order to become one, you just have to find your
unique power or ability and use it for the greater
good. The cape and mask are optional accessories,
but a kind heart is essential.”*

Robert Clancy

School Board Elections: Get Out and Vote!

Carla Wiese | Missouri PTA VP Legislation & Advocacy

April 3rd voters in towns across Missouri will be electing new school board members and voting on bonds or tax levies to fund public education. These elections are extremely important and something you definitely want to encourage your membership to take part in. Missouri is currently operating under a revenue shortfall so, with less tax dollars available, whom you elect to your local school board is more important than ever.

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

Because of the PTA's 501(c)(3) status there are IRS restrictions PTAs must observe when it comes to elections. PTAs cannot be part of PACs (Political Action Committees) and they cannot support or oppose candidates. However, there are many things your PTA can do to promote advocacy

during elections:

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

If a Town Hall meeting is not possible, consider adding the candidate bios (usually you can obtain these from your school district) to your Units web page. You could also include a reminder to get out and vote in your newsletters and via social media. If your Unit has a great idea I would love to highlight it in a future issue of Contact!



Missouri Budget Project Tax Proposal Advances without Fiscal Analysis

The Senate Ways & Means Committee passed a substitute tax bill that includes Kansas-style tax cuts and makes it even harder for Missouri to keep up:

Senator Eigel, lead sponsor of the committee substitute [House Bill 617](#), and the Chair of the Committee, Senator Wallingford have stated that they hope the bill will be close to budget neutral, but no official analysis from Senate Research or the Department of Revenue has been made public. Despite the absence of a fiscal note, the committee voted out the bill 5-2.

However, because the substitute removes some of the revenue enhancers, MBP's initial estimates indicate it would result in a net loss to general revenue of \$568 million per year when fully implemented.

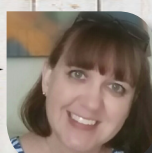
This cost, combined with the fully implemented SB 509 (2014) cuts and the

reduced state revenue resulting from federal tax changes would mean a cut of \$1.346 billion in state general revenue per year.

Missouri's current tax system is unfair to the vast majority of Missourians and is causing a budget crisis. The Senate Ways & Means Committee Substitute for SBs 617, 611 & 667 would make matters worse, leaving Missouri families and communities without the resources they need to succeed.

Changes to our tax system should create more fairness for Missouri families while also providing our communities and schools with the resources they need to allow families to prosper.

*Missouri PTA is opposed to this bill. Please watch for JC/DC Alerts to join us as we try and stop this legislation that is so bad for Missouri.



Carla Wiese
State VP of
Leg & Advocacy
✉ carlaw@mopta.org



Angie Warner
State Legislation Chair
✉ angiew@mopta.org



Will Wiese
State Advocacy Chair
✉ wiliww@mopta.org

National PTA statement on the Administration's Released Federal Budget for FY 2019

Photo credit from unsplash.com

"National PTA recognizes that improvements must be made within public schools to provide an excellent education for every child. Our association supports educational choices within public schools to meet the needs of all students and believes parents and families should be involved in all aspects of public school choice plans," said Jim Accomando, president of National PTA. "There is a difference, however, between public school choice programs and the use of taxpayer dollars for private school voucher programs. Private school vouchers fund the education of only a few, select students; divert resources from the students and schools that need it the most, and lack accountability measures. Public dollars must remain invested in public schools for the benefit of all students and the future of our nation."

National PTA has long advocated for high-quality public education to ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our association remains steadfast in our belief that public education must be strengthened with the support of adequate funding," said Nathan R. Monell, CAE, executive director of National PTA. "National PTA hopes the administration and Congress recognize the importance of investing in public education for children and our nation's long-term success."

National PTA also remains committed to advocating for investments for family engagement in education through the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs) program. The SFECs program would provide states and districts with the capacity to support implementation and enhancement of meaningful family engagement policies and initiatives. It would also empower parents and families with the resources

they need to ensure their children are provided the best opportunities to thrive and learn.

"Family engagement is proven to positively impact student achievement and school performance," added President Accomando. "National PTA encourages our 4 million members to reach out to their members of Congress and urge them to invest in public education and the Statewide Family Engagement Centers program to improve our schools, make every child's potential a reality and increase our nation's economic competitiveness."

While the proposal decreases funding for public education overall, National PTA is pleased to see that funding is maintained for Title I grants—which aid schools with high percentages of children from low-income families—as well as for special education grants through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The proposal also dedicates \$200 million to STEM education and \$43 million for School Climate Transformation grants.

"Strengthening STEM education is critical to bridge the STEM gap and inspire the next generation of STEM professionals. Ensuring children have access to programs and services that provide for their health and wellness is also essential to their long-term success," added Executive Director Monell. "All children must be provided a high-quality, well-rounded public education in an environment that meets their emotional, intellectual, physical and social needs in order to reach their full potential."

For more information on the fiscal year 2019 budget proposal, view the [U.S. Department of Education's fact sheet](#) and the [full budget request](#).



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) National PTA Gun Violence Prevention Efforts

On Wednesday, February 14, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida experienced a violent shooting that resulted in 17 deaths and multiple injuries. National PTA® President Jim Accomando issued a statement that same day to express his sympathy for the students, families and communities affected by the horrendous tragedy. However, enough is enough. We must use our collective voices to demand change to eliminate gun violence. School and child safety, a crucial component of effective learning, is one of PTA's core tenets. National PTA believes that the protection of children in all school settings is a fundamental right and has made it the utmost priority for our work and advocacy.

Following is a sampling of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) National PTA has received in the days after the tragic shooting. If you have additional questions, please contact info@pta.org.

Q: Does National PTA have resources to assist parents, families and educators in dealing with the aftermath of this tragedy?

A: Yes, you can find PTA resources, including tips for talking to children online at PTA.org/SchoolSafety. Like you, our attention and assistance is focused on helping schools, families, and children coping with this traumatic event. Your help in sharing PTA resources within your state is invaluable.

Q: Does National PTA support gun violence prevention? Where does National PTA stand on federal efforts that restrict access to firearms?

A: National PTA celebrates a long history of advocacy for the safety of our nation's children and youth and supports federal efforts to protect children and youth from gun violence. National PTA believes school safety is a critical priority and that every attempt must be made to reduce violence, especially incidents involving use of firearms. Parents, educators, community members, and government must prioritize this issue to ensure a safe learning environment for all students.

National PTA supports the following policy recommendations:

- Mandatory license to purchase a firearm;
- Mandatory three day waiting period and background check to purchase a firearm, regardless of retail venue;
- Prohibition on the sale of more than one handgun per month to any individual
- Prohibition of firearm purchase and possession by those convicted of spousal abuse and child abuse;



- Mandatory increased annual license fee for any firearm retailer;
- Reenactment and expansion of federal ban on the sale and possession of military-style assault weapons;
- Establish federal tax on assault weapon ammunition;
- Mandatory restrictions on Internet firearms sales, including restrictions on materials used to make/modify guns;
- Federal minimum age requirement of 21 years of age to buy a handgun from non-licensed dealers
- Mandatory background check for any firearm retailer;
- Increased penalties for the transfer of firearms, including handguns and assault weapons, to juveniles for use in a crime;
- Licensure revocation for any retailer who knowingly sells to minors;
- Prohibition of firearm sale to any adult convicted of committing a violent crime as a juvenile; and,
- Lifting any ban on research that studies the causes and effects of gun violence

National PTA also advocates for preventative measures to educate students, educators and community members on school and firearm safety, such as:

- Inclusion of safety education in public school curricula and community programs;
- Support and promotion of programs to educate parents, children, youth, and communities about the importance of firearm safety and awareness;
- Promotion of public education campaigns to alert parents and community members to the devastating effects of firearm-related violence; and
- Adoption of school-level and school district-level safety policies and guidelines, including the preparation of educators and pupil support personal in crisis response.

Q: Does National PTA support the Second Amendment?

A: National PTA supports the Second Amendment and recognizes the right to bear arms. Other rights guaranteed by the Constitution, such as free speech and private property, have certain reasonable restrictions to protect the freedom and safety of our fellow citizens and the same principle should apply to the Second Amendment. National PTA encourages Congress to adopt legislation that would help prevent future tragedies like the massacre of innocent children and adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School while preserving the lawful use of firearms for sport and personal protection.

Q: Does the National PTA support arming teachers and school administrators as a way to prevent school violence?

A: National PTA believes the most effective day-to-day school climate to be gun-free, but



defers to local collaborative decision-making to allow for the presence of law enforcement deployed in community-oriented policing.

Q: Does National PTA support increased access to mental health services as one of many efforts to promote public safety?

A: National PTA has long been committed to providing improved mental health programs and services to children and youth and believes that all children and youth have the right to mental health treatment. National PTA encourages each community to make available mental health programs and services, which will meet the needs of all children and youth.

National PTA strongly recommends:

- Any mental health intervention, prevention programs or services must include a strong family engagement component—including collaborative relationships with the family, school and community partners (physicians, early learning providers and caregivers and other related health providers)—as well as transparent and open communication and coordination between provider, school, parents and families.
- States and school districts provide the necessary resources to ensure adequate ratios (grounded in researched-based best practices) of school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers and school nurses, who are the most qualified professionals to provide school-based mental health services.
- States and school districts provide the necessary resources and support to ensure students can receive a proactive continuum of behavioral and mental health services.
- Federal, state and local policies prioritize outreach and education—including professional development for all school-based employees—in schools and communities regarding early childhood mental health and the recognition of youth mental health as a critical health issue.
- Federal, state and local policies promoting a continuum of care through school and community-based professional providers and services, beginning with early childhood mental health systems that include screening, diagnosis, treatment, referral and follow-up services through the age of 21, which is recognized and accepted by federal, state and private insurance programs.
- States and local communities—in partnership with professional and advocacy organizations—should provide greater consumer awareness around federal legislation, rules and guidance related to children’s health insurance programs and general health care provisions that impact mental and behavioral health.

Prioritize Mental Health Education

In any meaningful discussion about school violence we have to begin the dialogue about mental illness in our youth. Missouri PTA supports policies and practices that would enable our schools to diagnose and provide treatment to youth struggling with mental illness. We know many of our youth struggling with mental illness are often either undiagnosed or under diagnosed.

Missouri PTA also acknowledges we need to have better safety measures in place in our schools to identify youth who have either made threats, have plans or are in the active phases of planning violent school incidents. Our schools need to be adequately staffed with trained mental health experts to help our struggling youth.

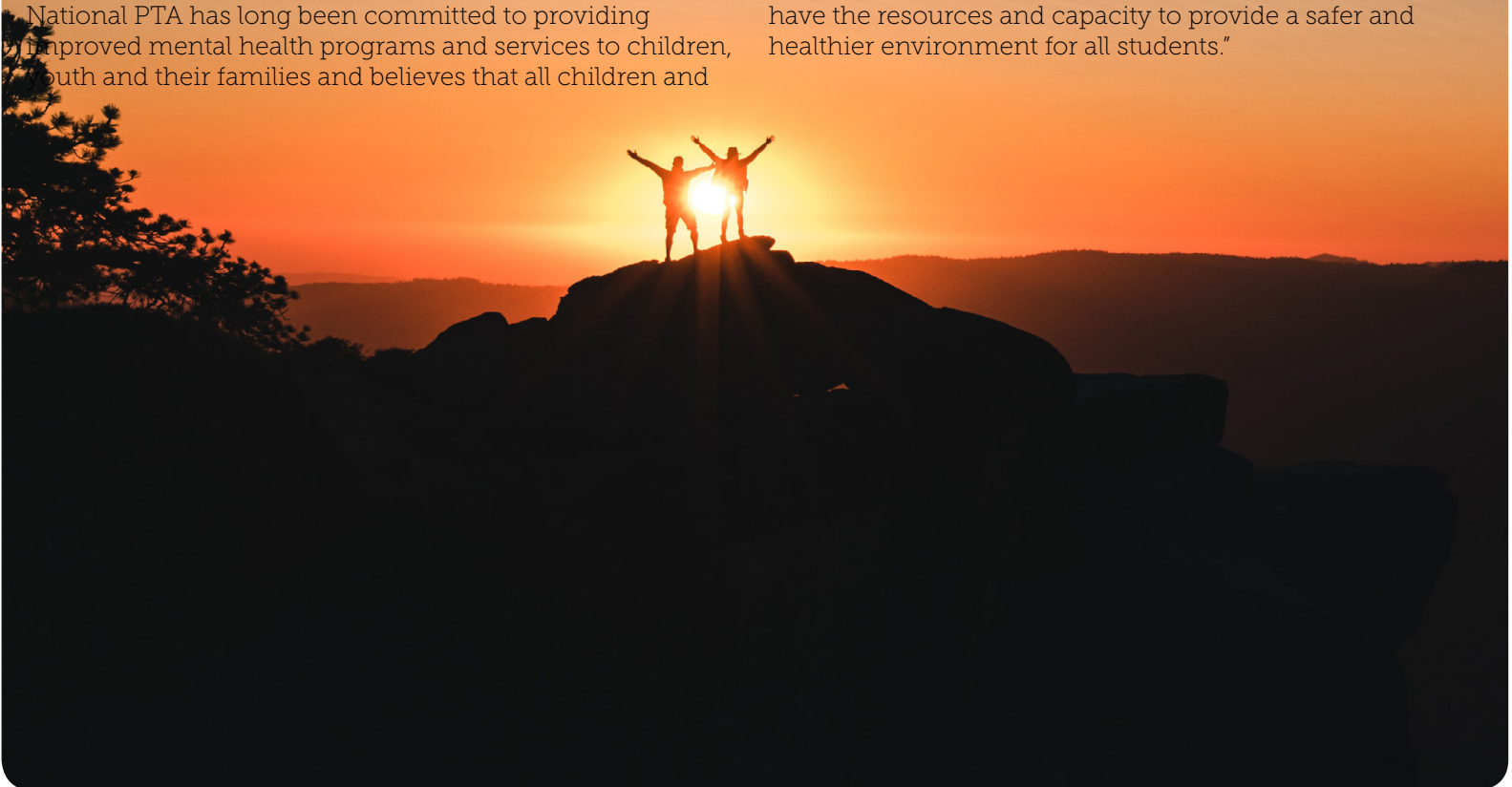
In addition to our Missouri PTA, National PTA has stated, "National PTA urges federal, state and local policymakers to prioritize mental health education, early intervention, prevention and access to school and community-based mental health personnel and services, so that all children can reach their fullest potential" ([Position Statement on Early Identification and Interventions for Children with Mental Health Needs, 2017](#)).

National PTA has long been committed to providing improved mental health programs and services to children, youth and their families and believes that all children and

youth have the right to mental health treatment. National PTA recommends:

- Federal, state and local policies prioritize outreach and education—including professional development for all school-based employees—in schools and communities regarding childhood mental health.
- Resources are specifically provided to build mental and behavioral health system capacity within schools and communities to ensure students can receive a proactive continuum of behavioral and mental health services.
- States and school districts provide the necessary resources to ensure adequate ratios of school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers and school nurses, who are the most qualified professionals to provide school-based mental health services.

"Resolutions and position statements inform PTA's advocacy efforts on behalf of kids and schools," added Nathan R. Monell, CAE, National PTA executive director. "National PTA urges our members and all child advocates to reach out to their members of Congress and state and local policymakers to ensure schools and communities have the resources and capacity to provide a safer and healthier environment for all students."





Missouri PTA Your Slated Officers

Leadership poised to represent
you for the 2018-2020 term

A glass of water with ice and a fresh basil sprig, positioned in the bottom right corner of the page. The background is a textured blue surface.

WITH GREAT POWER,
COMES GREAT
RESPONSIBILITY.

From the team:
Missouri PTA
Board of Managers

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Carla Wiese
Slated for President-Elect
 carlaw@mopta.org

As President-Elect I would focus on the relationships of PTA.

How can we build excitement for our programs and encourage involvement? What do our units and councils need?

Legislation and Advocacy is such a key tenet of PTA what can we do to have our Units and Councils become more active in the legislative process? Everyone has strengths and talents. Are we utilizing our member's skills in the best way? I think we are at a unique place.

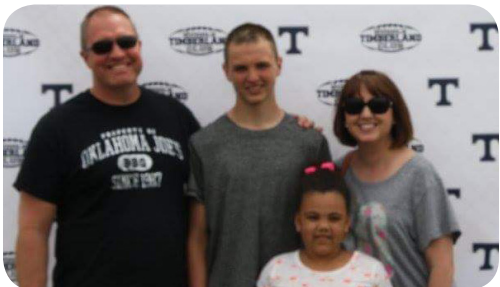
We have started moving forward in a great direction.
I want to ensure we keep moving and do not become stagnant. It is important to recognize our traditions but also be able to adapt to our Units' and Councils' needs now.



I have been involved in PTA for 14 years and on the Missouri Board of Managers for four years where I have served as a Regional Director, Bylaws and Procedures Chair and currently VP and Director of Legislation and Advocacy. I live in Wentzville, MO where I enjoy working with all Wentzville PTA units. I attended Oklahoma State University where I studied Psychology, Spanish and Social Services with a pre law emphasis. I have been married for 21 years to Rick and am the mother to 4 amazing children ranging in age from 18 to 6. I am very proud that my two oldest children serve on the MO PTA Board of Managers. Will is our Advocacy Chair and Alex is one of our Student Representatives.
PTA runs in the family!

I have been asked often why PTA? My answer is always the same and always easy. I believe in the future of our young people and I believe in advocating to make sure they receive the best education we can give them. I started PTA as a mother who wanted what was best for my own children. I cannot emphasize enough the importance PTA plays in education and life.

I am very calm under pressure. I am also able to look past "feelings" to see the bigger picture. I am a very dedicated person. If I say I am going to do something and commit to a position I will give it 110%. I am able to relate to and work with people from many backgrounds, I love to learn about people and make everyone feel welcome. I love to encourage others and support causes that are most dear to my heart. PTA is my passion. I know how important we are to the children and families of MO.





From the team:
Missouri PTA
Board of Managers

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Paula McKinney
Slated for Secretary
 paulam@mopta.org

I currently serve as Missouri PTA Secretary and I'm slated for Secretary again. The secretary position is important to compile, organize and share meeting minutes.

My goal as Secretary is to record all business of Missouri PTA.



I have been involved in PTA at the local unit level since 1998.

I started at the school where I work serving on the carnival committee. I have served on this local unit in several different positions - Carnival Chair, Fundraising, Secretary, President and most currently - First Vice President - Membership. I have also served on the local council board as the Secretary for two years and Presidential Aide for two years. I currently serve on a second local unit as a Parent Representative at the school where my daughter attends.

I feel like my strengths are to be a great listener and a supportive friend. I enjoy being with people and helping others. Another strength is organization. I love to have everything organized. As a leader I am the type of person who has to have harmony. Conflict is hard for me but when I do have to face it I prefer to do it peacefully. I am very social and love to work with others. I enjoy being around teams of people working toward the same goal.

The biggest opportunity for Missouri PTA is advocating. Honestly, advocating is not my strong point. My goal is to make this a priority. Calling and emailing my state representatives will be something I do. I want them to hear from the parents of the children that these issues are affecting.

Working for the better of children is why I love PTA. Back in 1998, when I first joined the local unit, I never dreamed I would someday be nominated to serve on the state board. I enjoy volunteering at the school and being able to develop relationships with the staff and other parents. Serving on the state board will allow me to be a voice for all children. The others that are on the state board are a phenomenal group of people that I look forward to learning from.



From the team:
Missouri PTA
Board of Managers

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Amy Blakemore
Slated for Treasurer
 amyb@mopta.org



My goal as treasurer is to ensure that Missouri PTA remains fiscally responsible and accountable to its members.

I have been involved in PTA at the local unit since 2007 and have held many positions ranging from Box Tops to President. I am currently serving as ByLaws and Legislative chair at my youngest child's school as well as 1st VP for LS Council of PTAs and VP and Director of Communications for Missouri PTA.



I am very active in my school district as an employee, parent and PTA volunteer.

I have a passion for helping others and enjoy giving back to my community through not only PTA but also church and Scouts. I'm kind of a technology geek and enjoy helping others who are not as technology minded. I am analytical and logical which has served me well in past roles as treasurer for PTA and other organizations. I like things to be in order and organized and have discovered that the Organized Living store is my happy place.



I am comfortable as a leader, teaching others about PTA, leading by example and letting others do their job.

I am there for advice and guidance, but I do not like to micromange because I don't like that myself. I believe we all have talents that can be used and try to find a place for everyone.



Kristina Wilmoth
Slated for VP Legislation & Advocacy
[✉ kristinaw@mopta.org](mailto:kristinaw@mopta.org)

I will work to build on the successful MOPTA presence surrounding Legislation through social media, sharing JC/DC Action Alerts, and communicating with legislators.

I'm excited to engage and recruit members from all over the state to join me as advocates! I invite you to connect with me as we communicate legislative updates, visit our legislators, and plan events. It's an exciting time in the world of advocacy and I'm ready for Missouri PTA members to have their voices heard!

I've been involved for 5 Years in Springfield Public Schools PTAs and served three years as the MOPTA PR Chair.



I love communicating! Teaching, speaking to large groups, and spending one-on-one time with others keeps me focused and guides my daily work. I am also a passionate details person that finds satisfaction in making sure every box is checked. Most importantly, I love to smile—it's my favorite.

I became a leader as I looked for ways to best utilize my talents without interfering with my priorities (family, church, day job). I found I am passionate about seizing opportunities to foster empowerment in others. I wouldn't be here typing this profile if my mentors had overlooked their own empowerment and leadership opportunities, so I won't overlook my chance to lead others. I subscribe to servant leadership, which means I am excited to assist and learn from all of those around me—especially those I'm leading—while keeping the big picture in focus.

We have a chance to get every single Missouri PTA member involved in legislative conversations via social media, letters to their representatives, and sharing alerts with their circles of influences.

I'll keep sharing and asking all school administration, staff, teachers, parents, and students to do the same. I invite folks to follow our social media as well as state legislative social media already and I will add reminders to my contacts (in person and via email) regarding opportunities in their area to get involved and follow the advocacy and legislative chatter.

PTA was founded by Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst in 1897 to better the lives of every child in education, health and safety. The mission of our founding leaders is still relevant and powerful today.

Years ago, I was a new member of PTA at the unit level and naive to the concept of advocacy. I felt I didn't have a voice in the large issues that directly affected my children, their schools, and my family. So much has changed in my life because of advocacy opportunities! I suspect there are many members who feel the same way as I did as a newer PTA member. I want to change that and share that ALL members have a voice and your law makers and influencers are listening! Missouri PTA needs you advocating for safe schools, healthy families, and excellent education for Missouri communities.

Overcoming barriers to success is what I do for my day job and I love challenging talented and passionate unit members to find a way to speak up and use their gifts at the state or national level. I know that time is precious when you are balancing a full life so let's find ways you can get involved that don't interrupt your priorities. We need your voice heard for the sake of all of our children.



From the team:
Missouri PTA
Board of Managers

 MissouriPTA  MissouriPTA  @MissouriPTA



Andrea Battaglia
Slated for VP Communication
 andreab@mopta.org



I am a strategic, disciplined leader who speaks with confidence, clarity and focus. I know that I have the ability to empower others with my voice, my innovation and my leadership. I've spent this year focused on, "What can I do?" and it's led me to understand that I can make a larger impact the more I can share significant items in my life with those who have similar goals.

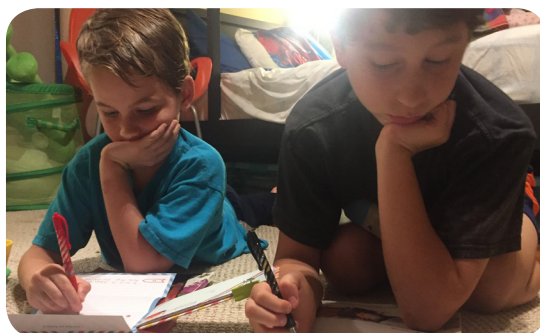
I will provide relevant communication and effective resources to help you improve your unit/council, programs, recruiting and procedures. I'm comfortable asking tough questions and helping to create an innovative solution to improve current methods. Our voice is our lifeline. It's also one of our strongest tools to encourage action and empower change. By strengthening Missouri PTA messages to you and for you, we'll all be better served – and have a large impact for the children of Missouri.

Through the VP of Communication role, I know that I can help Missouri PTA communicate more effectively, more relevantly and more strategically.

I've been involved at the unit level for nearly six years serving as Secretary, Membership Chair and Treasurer. I've been involved with Missouri PTA for over four years and served as PR Chair and Contact Editor. (You can get involved if you've been in PTA for a few years - like me - seriously! Your unit, council and Missouri PTA will be better served having you as an active leader.)

I like getting involved where I know I can make a difference - it's what I enjoy about Missouri PTA. I really like these people and am inspired by the passion and dedication of my fellow BOM (and friends).

I've been married for almost 17 years and my husband, Matt, is also involved in our PTA unit as an officer. We have three kids - Brady (5th grade), Beckett (2nd grade) and Bryce (1). We've lived in Springfield, Missouri since 2005, after moving back to the area from Baltimore, MD. I work full-time in fundraising - leading a team that manages communication, engages volunteers, plans events and supports fundraising through student scholarships - so I'm very familiar with leading positive change toward a significant, valuable cause.



From the team:
Missouri PTA
Board of Managers

MissouriPTA MissouriPTA @MissouriPTA



Christine Kent
Slated for VP Field Service
 christinek@mopta.org

I've been involved in PTA for 7 years and Missouri PTA Board of Managers for five years.

I hope to increase the communication between PTA units, councils & state. Also, to make available direct assistance and information to units and their board members that will increase the strength and knowledge as child advocates.

I listen, usually will raise my hand first, and look for what needs to be done. I don't really think of myself as a leader. I am involved to help others where ever and when ever I can.

The biggest opportunity for Missouri PTA in the field services area is to be more involved, one-on-one with the unit members.

I hope to get feedback from the units/councils and utilize their input to strengthen what we are sharing with the entire state. We have a lot of Board of Managers from Missouri PTA living right where our units and councils are - let's take advantage of this great opportunity!

I know that we have a lot of members who care about our children and their well being. What to do about that is sometimes the unknown question and answer. Caring needs to go beyond the occasional "Coffee Talk" among friends and family. Getting involved and engaging in the topics that surround our children, are much more effective. If we all were united in the solution, like PTA, we would see stronger communities. I see parents, teachers and students struggling independently with home, school and the community on a daily basis. If they all knew that there were others that were sharing in those same struggles, maybe our voices would be a little louder and stronger and then we would start to see results more quickly instead of heartbreak and suffering for so long. PTA does a lot more than fundraisers and parties.

There is a deeper more active side of PTA towards child advocacy, that has been masked by those services. If you care about what is happening with our children, take another long look at PTA and see how we can make a difference.





From the team:
Missouri PTA
Board of Managers

MissouriPTA MissouriPTA @MissouriPTA



Angie Warner
Slated for VP Membership
 angiew@mopta.org

I have served in numerous PTA positions at the elementary, middle school, council and state level. for over 18 years. I've been involved in Missouri PTA for three years and most recently served as the legislative chair.

My goals, if elected, are to help ensure that units understand the importance of PTA membership. The more members PTA has, the stronger a voice we have for advocacy and legislation. In the membership role, I want to provide help for units on recruiting members, both individual and business.

I have worked in public education for 19 years as a Focus Room Interventionist in the Independence School District, currently at Randall Elementary. I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, which helps me daily while working with students who all have their own individual and unique needs. I am married with 3 children, Devon 24, Jordan 24, (identical twin boys) and Amber 22. I have over 18 years experience in PTA, having served in every position except fundraising chair, from elementary PTA, middle and school PTSA. Although my children have all graduated I am still active in my local unit where I am serving as Treasurer. I also have served on the Independence Council PTA in the roles of Legislative Chair and 1st Vice President.

I believe that ALL students need a voice and my mission is to help children and families be successful. What I have learned through PTA all these years is that all we need to do is ASK. Ask people to join, ask people to volunteer. Don't overlook anyone, because everyone has their own niche. It's our job as leaders to help them find it.



I am a caring individual who has a huge heart for children. I am a very organized, supportive leader who believes in teaching, leading by example and mentoring others.



From the team:
Missouri PTA
Board of Managers

f MissouriPTA p MissouriPTA t @MissouriPTA



Sarah Day
Slated for VP Programs
✉ sarahd@mopta.org

I have been involved in PTA for over 17 years with the Hazelwood School District in the Gateway Region. I have held many elected positions at the local level from Book Fair Chair to President and have been Vice President and President of the Hazelwood PTA Council. I currently serve as Vice President of Council and as Missouri PTA Vice President and Director of Field Services. I have also served as Vice President and Director of Membership, Regional Director and State Procedures and Bylaws Chair for Missouri PTA.

Up until this point, I have always worked in the unit support area, helping units to be in good standing, increasing membership and having effective bylaws.

Vice President and Director of Programs is an exciting challenge for me. It will require me to step out of my comfort zone and learn more about the variety of programs National PTA offers.

Of course we will continue to promote and support units that participate in the Reflections Program. But there are many new programs also; Family Reading Experience, Connect for Respect, Healthy Lifestyles, STEM + Families, and the National PTA School of Excellence. There also other grants and awards that I will promote to all the Missouri PTA units.

One of the greatest assets of Missouri PTA is our unit leaders and members. Our leaders are a mix of new to PTA and experienced, young and older, rural and suburban, with a great deal of ethnic and economic diversity. PTA has programs that will benefit all children. **My goal is to promote the advantages of bringing these programs into our units.** I hope to show everyone how easy they are to implement and maintain.





In Loving Memory Special Goodbye from Missouri PTA

PALLBEARERS

Ronnie Bennett
David Gifford
John Walker

Rob Crabtree
Mike Garrett
Kevin Rice



*Make yourself familiar with the angels,
and behold them frequently in spirit;
For without being seen,
they are present with you
-St. Francis de Sales*

Nilson Funeral Home
5611 East Saint Charles Road
Columbia, Missouri 65202
573-474-8443
www.nilsonfuneralhome.com

In Remembrance of



Frances Leona Nichols
August 21, 1941 ~ December 26, 2017

FRANCES LEONA NICHOLS, 76, of Columbia, passed away Tuesday, December 26, 2017. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at Nilson Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. Monday, January 1, 2018 at the funeral home. Burial will follow the funeral service at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Frances Leona Nichols was born August 21, 1941 in Columbia, the daughter of Edward and Rella Davis Bennett. She married Ronnie Nichols August 6, 1960 in Columbia and he survives. She worked for over 20 years at Missouri PTA Association as office manager. Leona was an actively involved member of Nashville Baptist Church. She enjoyed Volunteer work at Shepherd's Basket, singing with her church family at Ashland Villa, baking, and reading books.

Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Ronald. Sons, Ronald Gene, Richard Lee, and daughter, Lori Rice. Brother, Donnie Bennett and sister, Helen Crabtree. 13 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren also survive.

Frances Leona Nichols
August 21, 1941 ~ December 26, 2017

VISITATION

5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Monday, January 1, 2018
Nilson Funeral Home
Columbia, Missouri

FUNERAL SERVICE

1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 2, 2018
Nilson Funeral Home
Columbia, Missouri

INTERMENT

Memorial Park Cemetery