

CONTACT



April 2018
Volume 99 | Issue 4



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MoPTA President Shares Her Thoughts on Her Term

From the Students! Advocacy Insight

OUR STATE IS GREAT
MoPTA VP Shares Insight On The Power Of Student Action

SPECIAL REPORT Treasurers Read This!

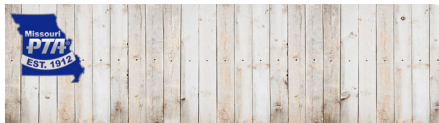
Advocacy Handbook
What You Need To Know Now



EVERY
ENDING
IS REALLY
A
NEW
BEGINNING

From the Missouri PTA Contact Editor

MissouriPTA MissouriPTA @MissouriPTA



Andrea Battaglia
Missouri PTA Contact Editor
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What if the end is really just the start of a new beginning?

Remember those song lyrics, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end?" I think I heard them at just the right time in my life. I think about those lyrics regularly because I know they're a reminder to enjoy the moment you have. Recognize the potential of the new beginnings, understand the value of the endings and celebrate everything in between.

I'm approaching many endings (and new beginnings) in my personal life and in my volunteer roles and it's made it a really interesting time for me. I've focused so much on living in the moment (because I'm an ultra-planner and can lie awake for hours contemplating every life decision I've ever made and ever will make) that I realized this month – ok, right now – that I haven't thought much about the future.

My oldest will be heading into 6th grade – and he's going to be just fine – but I may need a school counselor to get me through the changes my son will encounter. Thankfully, I've made great connections in the middle school and that put my mind at ease. (Also, don't tell me that I will blink and he'll be in college – I work at a college and the first-year parents tell me that every year – it's coming so soon!)

In my volunteer roles, I'm moving away from innovation and design and moving more into strategy and writing. It's going to stretch a new creative muscle for me – so I'm looking forward to it. I love writing (and designing) and am glad I've found roles that let me share my talents and pursue my passions.

I think it's really all about your attitude – I could view both of these changes as negative. Or, I can embrace the good times now and look forward to what the future holds. I encourage you to think about the changes – endings and beginnings – in your life and figure out how you can make the best of them.

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.



This month, our family is trying to find better opportunities to keep our kids active and engaged - outside and creatively. We've noticed the more we're involved, the more our kids seem to respond positively and stay interested longer.

We've had a great time with new discoveries and are making the most of the kids' non-electronics time (or as we like to call it "time").

Each activity has reinforced positive behaviors in our kids. Building playground equipment helped with patience, following directions and math. And the styrofoam box play time showed creativity, ingenuity and teamwork.

How have you gotten your kids involved actively or creatively?

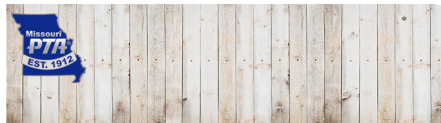
Email us at contact@mopta.org to share your story.



From April 30-May 6, 2018, children, families, entire schools, and communities will rediscover the joys of life beyond the screen. Plan to unplug from digital entertainment and spend all that free time playing, reading, daydreaming, creating, exploring, and connecting with family and friends! Check out the [ScreenFree website](#) for ways you and your family can be screen free!

From the Missouri PTA President

[MissouriPTA](#) [MissouriPTA](#) [@MissouriPTA](#)



Dorothy Gardner
Missouri PTA President
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YOU DID NOT
WAKE UP
TODAY TO BE
MEDIocre

If not you, then who?

President checklist - April & May

Send in dues

Attend state convention

Have committees turn in final reports and procedure books

Executive board review committee reports and select financial review committee

Hold a general meeting

Pass budget for next year

Report on convention

Officer induction

Report on accomplishments from the year

Send out a survey

Thank all volunteers!

I never wanted to be president. Not of a unit and especially not of an entire state PTA. And I can give you 99 reasons why I didn't have the time, experience, etc. that could have been used when asked to take on a leadership role in PTA. When I first sat down with my family to discuss my acceptance of the Missouri PTA President-Elect nomination, because this was a family decision as it affected all of us not just me, I told them PTA was my way of 'saving the world'. I was raised with the notion of giving back. The motto of my high school was Serviam which is Latin for "I will serve". In order to graduate we were required to not only meet the set number of academic hours but also meet a 40-hour volunteer minimum. This service positioned me in an environment where I experienced first hand children who didn't have the support and love at home that I had known. They didn't have someone in their corner advocating for them - making sure their education and welfare were a priority. I saw first hand that if it wasn't me it was probably no one. "If not you then who?" I've asked this simple question of other PTA members since I first became a unit president many moons ago.

So now that my Missouri PTA President term is coming to a close, I still look in the mirror and ask myself "if not you then who". Why? Because even though some days I've wanted to pull out my hair and scream (managing volunteers can be like that you know), the world hasn't changed a lot. There are still children who don't have an advocate in their corner. There are still companies and organizations who will lobby to put their needs above what might be good or beneficial for children. And I wonder, if PTA hadn't been raising its collective voice since 1897 what would the world look like today for our children. While maybe the world hasn't changed much the landscape for children has and many of those positive changes came about because individuals like you and me said "if not me then who?" and raised our advocacy voice.

No, it's never really over. Our PTA job to save the world, even if it's just a little bit here and there, makes a positive impact that nothing can replace. We do make a difference, so we keep fighting the good fight. We serve all our kids.

Workshops you need!

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



It's almost here!

Join us 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](#)

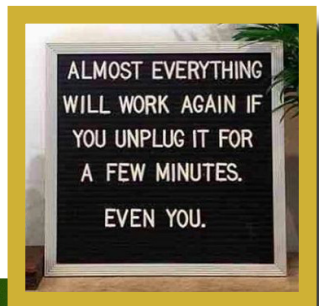
From the team:

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



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

It has been an incredible year. Your units have accomplished so much. As we wind down our school year, we take a collective exhale and think, "We did it"! Some units are transitioning with new leadership, some are exploring the opportunities for new fundraising or educational enrichment for next year. While the end of the year does bring appreciation and celebration, we cannot forget to stay connected to our membership. It's never really over. Membership retention is incredibly important and helps to set the membership goal for next year. As we get ready to say goodbye to graduates and hello to newcomers, plan ahead and give folks a heads up for membership opportunities at back to school night or open houses. Tell them to plan to see you again next year! Finish strong and be proud of your year!

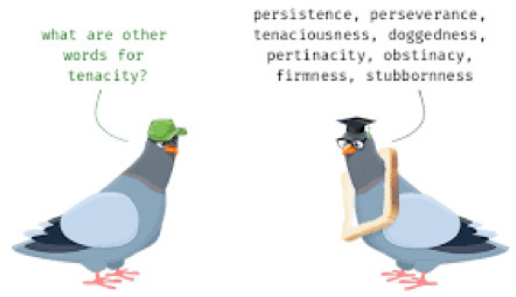
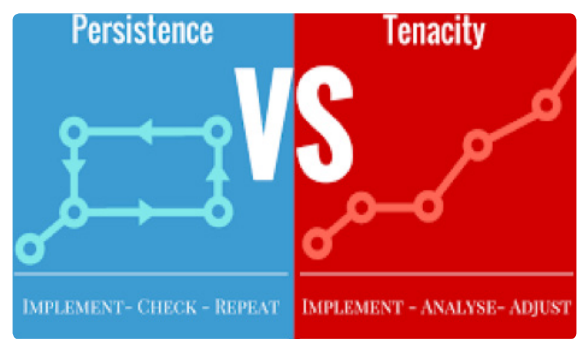


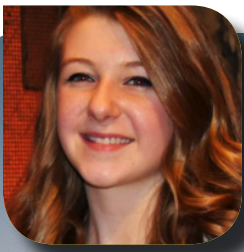
The Tenacity of Membership

What is tenacity and how does it apply to membership? According to several dictionary meanings, the overall meaning is the quality or fact of being very determined or continuing to be persistent.

As this edition comes to press, we are approaching the end of the school year. We are preparing to wind up another hopefully successful year with our units. However, the year is not over yet. Use these last couple of meetings to continue to invite new members and share the benefits of PTA. The upbeat and informative meetings will remind members why they joined and why they want to remain a part of your unit.

So let's plan some fun. We've started a tradition of celebrating Cinco de Mayo at our May meeting. It doesn't matter what day in May your meeting falls on...the members will come and participate. You can celebrate whatever you want. Keep in mind that these celebrations are also another way to diversify your meetings and be inclusive. So let's be tenacious (persistent) about our membership throughout this school year into the next!





Advocating is never really over

Although you may leave your current school, move away, get a new job, or have your kids go away to college, as a parent you never stop advocating for your children. Every step of the way you are there to push them farther and get them where they need to be. PTA does the same thing.

Lexis Wade

Missouri PTA Student Rep

lexisw@mopta.org

Every single day we have millions of parents involved in PTA advocating for children across the U.S. We constantly work to get the best for students, and as a member of PTA, so do you!

Even if you no longer have kids, and they've gone away to start their new adult lives, you can still make a difference with children everywhere. By being a member of a PTA Unit, you automatically help us advocate. Your membership money partly funds state and national PTA representatives who go to the capital speaking to legislators about pressing issues regarding students. Just by being a member, you help millions of kids in the U.S.

Advocacy can even be on a smaller level than legislation. I'm sure you've probably advocated for your children before on a regular basis: fighting to get them into the classes they need to push their education, trying to make changes in your school to better the lives of students, or even just raising money for your kids' school.

As a parent you are constantly advocating. Just as your job of a parent never stops, neither does your advocacy. It always feels like we don't have time. "I don't have time to be involved." "I'm too busy to be in PTA." But in reality, even purchasing a membership helps our cause. Even if you barely have time in your schedule, you can still make an impact on your community.

I hope that these words are taken to heart, and I hope you will stand with us to make this nation a better place for children everywhere. I encourage you to continue making a difference and advocating by giving a helping hand to your PTA Units.



Going to the capitol of our nation is a very crazy experience! Being a student who is interested in becoming involved with politics amplified my experience. This visit was huge for me, I have always wanted to go to D.C., but this trip was even more than I had expected. From the early flight in to the flight out, the only time I wasn't moving was whenever I was asleep. I ended up walking over 30 miles in 4 days and I was not ready for that walk.

We started out with an opening meeting with National PTA that mostly talked about how to get ourselves ready for our visits at the Hill. These meetings were a good outline for what I needed later. They got me ready to talk in front of the Senators and Congressmen we were planning to meet. Then we had dinner and the guest speaker Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, spoke about the School Safety Act. After her speech, the President of National PTA, Jim Accomando, asked if she would consider allowing PTA a seat on a school safety advisory board. School safety was for sure the big focus of LegCon this year.

The next day we began our Hill visits, the most important day of my visit and the most exciting part too. We started out meeting with Senator Roy Blunt. We met with his legislative assistant and gave him an Ask pertaining to school safety and he, of course, seemed very receptive of this. I thought that this meeting was a little rough for me because I was not completely sure what I wanted to say, but after this meeting I became much more confident. After this meeting, we went to meet with Senator Claire McCaskill and we had a conversation with the legislative assistant. She seemed very excited to talk with us. Then we made our way to the Congressional offices on the other side of the Hill. When we got to this side, we had our first meeting with the legislative assistant of Congresswoman Ann Wagner. This meeting was out in the hallway and the legislative assistant seemed very interested in what I had to say just like the legislative assistant for Senator McCaskill. I ended up feeling like I was the focus of this meeting because he asked what I had wanted to see, and I told him exactly what I wanted. I told him that "this is the time to listen to students and youth. For the first time in a long time we are speaking up about something that matters to us and ignoring us is not going to fix this problem, and this will likely be the only time that we are all on the same page about something of this magnitude." It was great to see that everyone was interested in this important legislation and change. From there we went to the office of Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer. This meeting was huge for us because not only did the legislative assistant seem very interested about what we had to say, but they also asked us to help them change the rules for student data privacy. This was what I had originally wanted us to focus on whenever I became Advocacy chair. The provisions that allow schools to sell the data of students to corporations and colleges is something that concerns me because they generally don't have any choice about their information being sold.

These meetings were eye opening to me and made me seriously think about my future and if I would like to be there permanently because the experience was amazing and something that I would really like to experience again. I have been on the Board of Managers for 3 years, this was by far the best experience I have had the whole time I have been part of MO PTA. Anyone can engage with their legislators. Even students, and you know what - they cared! Our mission is big and one that I am so proud to be a part of. PTA PROUD!!

My Experience Going To The Nation's Capitol

Will Wiese

State Advocacy Chair

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From the VP Field Service | Thoughts from our State

Here to help
VP Field
Service



Sarah Day
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How can we create change that young people need?

Sarah Day | Missouri PTA VP Field Service

As I am writing this I am watching the television coverage of the Students March for Our Lives. The passion these students express for their cause is inspiring and heartbreaking at the same time. They speak with such confidence and drive that only comes from within, from first-hand, personal pain. The thought that these students felt compelled to action because of adult inaction is upsetting. In just a few short weeks, these students were able to bring together millions of people around the world on the issue of student safety at school and in their community.

While I question why as adults we have been unable to create the change these young people are demanding, it renews my dedication to PTA. In the context of PTA, advocacy is supporting and speaking up for children—in schools, in communities, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children. We adults need to be advocating every day for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children so these courageous young people can be children a little longer.

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.



Leaders
Project
Feature
Article

From the Ozarks Region | Bolivar Primary School

Here to help
Regional
Director



Tori Sallee
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Regional Director
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Time Flies! I remember like it was yesterday - being asked to be the PTSA President. I accepted knowing in my heart God had led me to this place. I started attending every training that I could. My first training was in the spring of 2014. It was at that training that I met then MoPTA President, Kim Weber. While sitting in the President training class I had all kinds of emotions: fear, anger, and anxiety. It was with the guidance of Kim Weber and Donna Petiford that I set out to make my unit the best it could be. I attended School of Information trainings and viewed online videos. I tried to learn as much as possible.

My first task was to get the President binder from the past President. I got it, in several Wal-Mart sacks. I remember sorting through all those papers thinking, "what did I agree to???" Next, I had to get our unit in Good Standing - mission accomplished. We needed officers, so I pulled out the friend card and I started using it. It was a challenge, but we had officers who wanted to make our unit better. We attended MO PTA Convention and left feeling like we could tackle anything. The training and networking that you gain at convention is outstanding. If you haven't been yet, go, I promise you won't regret it.

Something I took for granted was a working relationship between PTSA and school administrators. If you have one appreciate it. If you don't, work for it. Trust me it's vital to the success of your unit.

I have served under some amazing Presidents. They empowered me to make decisions and they trusted me to make things happen. They lit my fire! And fueled my passion. PTA is contagious, so spread it!

I told myself in May of 2016, this was my last year as an officer. I planned on taking a much-needed break from PTA. However, God had different plans. I was recruited by our youngest son's PTA as Treasurer. Treasurer had to be less stress, less time consuming than President, Right?!? Not like I thought! Our unit at Bolivar Primary PTA needed some TLC. We had a wonderful president who was new, but had the talents, motivation and the willingness to learn. As a team we got our unit back in Good Standing. We had a wonderful year, bought new playground equipment and made some of those forever friendships. I prepared to say my goodbyes to PTA as an officer and just be an active member once again. But, still NOT God's plan. I was elected as the 2017-2018 BPS PTA President. I came full circle back to president of another unit.

This year has been fun! Always learning something. I'm going to miss everything! I will miss the kiddos, meetings, planning and the stress!!! I have invested countless hours into PTA over the years and I'm proud of what we have accomplished. I'm ready to let go, but secretly hide my tears. For all those officers who are wishing away your terms, don't! Enjoy them while they last and make every moment count. You will build lasting friendships, learn skills, grow personally, professionally and spiritually. I wish everyone the best, if it's not the best...then do something about it...Make it the best!

A sincere thank you to my mentors, my officers and most of all to my family! I thank God daily for my PTA journey! #PTAPROUD

by Sunshine Wolfe | PTA Leader

Jeffries Elementary School PTA 2006-2013
Carver Middle School PTSA - 2013-2016, President 2014-2016
Bolivar Primary PTA - 2015-2018; President 2017-2018



The National PTA Center for Family Engagement

Family engagement should transform the lives of every child in America. That's why we are investing in our mission with the [Center for Family Engagement](#). See how you can get involved!

Golden Age of Literature

Is This the Golden Age of Juvenile Literature? We've compiled a list of today's best books for young, and young adult, readers. [Read the article](#).



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

everychild.one voice.®

National PTA School of Excellence

Is your unit looking for ways to bring a closer connection between your school and families? The School of Excellence program is designed to assist units who choose to embark on a year-long commitment in identifying and implementing an action plan based on the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. Chances are your unit is already doing many things which would qualify for the School of Excellence Award. Now is the time to take those great programs and events to the next level! Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year will open May 2018. Watch the [National PTA School of Excellence website](#) for more information.

Missouri Tax Exempt Update

The State of Missouri recently changed requirements for organizations and non-profits to obtain a Missouri tax exempt certificate. If you already have a certificate check to see if it has an expiration date. Some do and some don't – because there was a change in the law a while back with regard to expirations vs perpetual certificates. If yours is close to expiring or your unit does not have a tax certificate, please follow the instructions in the updated Missouri PTA Finances tool kit. Our state office has spent numerous hours working with the Missouri Department of Revenue to ensure the step-by-step process and the attachments needed fulfill Missouri's requirements.



Special Report: Treasurer Information

Wrapping up the end of the year - because for the Treasurer it's not really over until the fiscal year ends. Most bylaws have the clause, and wisely so, "officers shall assume their official duties following the close of the school year, except the treasurer who shall assume that officer's duties at the close of the fiscal year".

This best practice is designed to allow for the books to be turned over when all income and expenses for that PTA school year have been accounted for. No one really likes to pick up in the middle of something and that is especially true with treasurer. In fact, Missouri PTA recommends a review take place anytime there is a change in the treasurer position. This protects both the outgoing and incoming treasurer.

If you are the current treasurer be mindful of these end of year wrap ups to make sure the unit gets off to a good start next school year.

- **Adopt the budget for the next school year now!** A budget is just a best guess as to what income and expenses the unit will experience. It can and should be amended as needed throughout the year. However, if a budget is not approved by the general membership and in place for the next fiscal year, once the books close your access to funds also closes. This means PTAs typically must wait until that first general membership meeting of the school year in August or September, forcing any expenses to be shouldered by individuals until the budget is adopted. So, get that budget done now!
- **The End of Year report sounds way more formal than it really is.** The very last treasurer's report showing all the income and expenses for that year is in fact the End of Year report. Once you have that finalized, presented and accepted by the general membership it is ready to send to Missouri PTA to fulfill Good Standing requirements. There is no need to wait until the Dec. 1 deadline. If you have it done send it in. The incoming treasurer will thank you.
- **Is the annual financial review committee in place?** It's a lot easier to have committee members who are familiar with what occurred during the school year, and it's a lot easier if they meet when their memories are fresh. Check your bylaws to make sure how the committee functions. As soon as the fiscal year is closed and the End of Year Report is finished, gather up those documents and put that committee to work. Again, once the committee has concluded and the report is approved by the general membership don't wait till the Dec. 1 deadline - send that report on its way.
- **The dreaded 990 really shouldn't be dreaded anymore.** Missouri PTA has an agreement with file990.org that allows Missouri PTA units and councils to use the service for free. Remember filing is due by the 15th day of the 5th month following the end of the fiscal year. But again, there is no need to wait. Once you have that End of Year Report done go online and file. At this point that incoming treasurer should be throwing you a party!

Missouri PTA has a great tool to guide you through these more in depth and assist with tackling other financial questions – the Missouri PTA Finances tool kit. You can find this wonderful resource in the PTA Members section of www.MOPTA.org.



Missouri PTA Advocacy Handbook

Your Resources This Month

**“I see skies of blue
and clouds of white.**

*The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.”*

Louis Armstrong

What I Have Learned

Carla Wiese | Missouri PTA VP Legislation & Advocacy

As I look back on the past two years I am humbled and amazed by how important PTA is. We are the voice that keeps speaking up, we are the leaders that are shaping a better future for the children of the United States. We are policy makers, parents, teachers, grandparents, friends and students all working for one cause with one voice.

Be proud of who we are and what we have done. Kindergarten, without us it would not exist. School lunches, again we dreamed that up, we advocated, we made it happen.

School safety is something PTA has long advocated. Unfortunately, it has taken the most recent rash of school violence to galvanize, for me, the most exciting groups of advocates, our students. It is their voice that now joins with ours to say, "enough, mass school violence ends now!" As we look forward the challenges for PTA are big.

I believe we are up for the challenge. I believe we are more. I know we will make sure our children have the biggest, best and brightest future possible. We are PTA!



National PTA Applauds Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Congressional leaders reached an agreement on a bill to fund the government through September 2018. The bill includes all of National PTA's top funding priorities, including \$10 million in funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs) program.

"For years, PTA members and families nationwide have been advocating for investments in the SFECs program because family engagement is critical to student success and school improvement efforts, including efforts to make our schools safer," said Leslie Boggs, president-elect of National PTA. "We applaud Congressional leaders for acknowledging the importance of family engagement and for their bipartisan commitment to the SFECs program to help ensure every child receives a high-quality education in an environment that is safe and reaches their full potential."

The SFECs program is included in the Every Student Succeeds Act. The program will provide states and districts with the capacity to support effective implementation and enhancement of meaningful family engagement policies and initiatives.

In addition to funding for the SFECs program, National PTA is pleased to see that the omnibus includes a \$2.6 billion increase in funding for education overall from the fiscal year 2017 level as well as an increase of \$300 million for Title I—which provides assistance to schools with high percentages of children from low-income families—and an increase of \$275 million for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), through which grants are provided to states to help provide a quality education to children with disabilities.

National PTA is also pleased that the omnibus includes \$1.1 billion in funding for Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV-A), which support safe and healthy students through funding of comprehensive school mental health programs, drug and violence prevention programs, training on trauma-informed practices, and other health and physical education programs. Additionally, the grant program ensures school districts have the resources to support a well-rounded education and the effective use of technology in schools.

Further, National PTA is pleased that the omnibus effectively repeals the Dickey amendment, lifting a ban on research to study the causes and effects of gun violence. The bill also includes the STOP School Violence Act and the Fix NICS Act, both of which National PTA advocated for during its annual Legislative Conference last week.

"We have all watched in horror as our country has experienced far too many gun-related tragedies. Enacting these bipartisan policy solutions is essential to help provide a safer and healthier environment for students and protect our children," said Nathan R. Monell, CAE, National PTA executive director. "We commend Congressional leaders for addressing gun safety and violence prevention and investing in programs to ensure our children can learn and thrive in school. National PTA urges Congress to pass the omnibus and the president to sign it as soon as possible for students, families, schools and communities."

**This is the FY'18 budget. Missouri PTA applauds the work of Congress to keep our students safe and a large increase in funds for education.



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Don't fear the Legislation & Advocacy Title!

Advocacy is simply supporting and speaking up for children in schools, in communities and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children. Advocacy is at the heart of PTA. Check out our [Local PTA Leader Kit](#) for simple ways to build a PTA culture that embraces advocacy—starting with being informed about your own school's improvement plan. Or consider taking a course to learn more - take 30 minutes and discover ways to organize around local issues to better address them to benefit the needs of all children in your community in this interactive eLearning course! You can amplify your [PTA advocacy](#).

Foundation Formula for Education

As of publication, Missouri Lawmakers still do not have a fiscal year 2019 budget in place. There are numerous items I could address that are wrong with the budget. However, for this article I would like to focus on something that Jefferson City is trying to do that is great for our children. For the second year in a row the MO legislature has decided to fully fund the

education formula. What does this mean for our students? It means early childhood education across Missouri is funded. Without funding many school districts would not be able to offer preschool to their students. This is a big deal. We know from numerous studies that early childhood education sets students up for success in primary and into secondary education. In many homes across Missouri, children would have no access to preschool without funded early childhood programs. It means our schools will have funds needed to operate.

President Trump's Education budget

President Trump has released his Department of Education request to reduce its discretionary FY '19 spending by \$3.8 million dollars. His budget also calls for the budget to be slashed 5.6 percent from FY '17 levels. It calls for increasing funding for public and private school of choice by \$1.1 billion dollars. Secretary DeVos will be presenting his budget request to the House Appropriations Sub Committee which handles education spending. None of this is good for our students. MO PTA will be closely watching the budget in both Washington DC and Jefferson City.

School Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

Students deserve a safe environment in which to live, learn and grow. Unfortunately, the threat of violence is a presence in many communities and has grown in a number of schools across the country.

What You Can Do

1. **Talk to Your Children.** Provide a safe environment for kids to ask questions and openly express their worries and concerns.
2. **Recognize the Warning Signs.** Even small changes in behavior (ex: moodiness, changes in sleep, anti-social behavior, change in school performance) can give you an early warning that something is troubling your child.
3. **Know When to Intervene.** If you see children exhibiting behavior or attitudes that could potentially harm themselves or others, talk to their parents or, if it's your child, do something to stop it.
4. **Stay Involved.** Be aware of your kid's school work loads and grades, be informed about existing emergency plans and procedures, and get to know their friends.
5. **Watch "Helping Your Kids Cope With Trauma"** During this [webinar](#), Co-hosted by the American Psychological Association, families will learn how to address when traumatic events happen to kids and when kids witness traumatic events through the media, how to talk to kids openly and directly when traumatic things occur, and how to know when they might need more help than you can give them.

What PTAs Can Do

1. **Read a press release highlighting** National PTA's position statements and resolutions addressing gun safety and violence prevention and mental health services.
2. **Organize a Community Violence Prevention Forum or Crisis Management Team:** Work with other concerned parents, teachers, school leaders, and community members to influence decisions that affect the safety and well-being of our children.
3. **Host one of Sandy Hook Promise's "Know the Signs" programs,** which teaches kids, parents, teachers, and community members to recognize warning signs like social isolation and behavioral shifts – and how to report them.
4. **Help to Develop a School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):** The most effective plans are developed in cooperation with school and health officials, parents, and community members, and should include:
 - Descriptions of school safety policies, detection of early warning signs in children, intervention strategies, emergency response plans, and post-crisis procedures.
 - Designation of a parent/child reunification location, use of school public address/automatic call systems, lock-down procedures, etc.
 - Parents should inquire as to admittance procedures during school hours, number of trainings and drills per school year, and collaboration with local law enforcement.
 - Make Your Voices Heard: Write an editorial for the local newspaper, hold a petition drive, speak before a school board meeting, or send a letter to elected officials.



From the team:

Missouri PTA

Board of Managers

MissouriPTA
 MissouriPTA
 @MissouriPTA



Stephanie Wade

Missouri PTA IT Chair

stephaniew@mopta.org

I have been involved at the Elementary, Middle School and Council level, and have overall been involved with PTA for 11 years. I manage the website for MoPTA and provide IT assistance when needed. I also assist with all A/V needs for Convention each year.

Aloha from Hawaii!

What makes you stand out? **I am super organized, and have great problem solving skills.**

Describe yourself in 3-5 words: **Kind, organized, techy, wife, mother**

Healthy Living Tip: **Take time for yourself – to me, this means make time for exercise each and every day. Drink lots of water!**

What are you learning this year? **How to make healthier choices and become a better me!**

What is a goal you have this year? **Finding new ways to become frugal. My daughter will be a junior next year, and we know we have expenses the next couple of years, so are trying to save as much now as possible!**

What is a proud accomplishment? **Getting to where I am today. I am happily married, we have an amazing daughter, we have a beautiful home, and are financially comfortable.**

I am happily married to my husband Joe. We have been together for 17 years, married for 10. We have one daughter, Lexis who is 16 and a sophomore in high school this year.

All three of us are avid volunteers.

Joe did serve on the PTA board at Lexis' elementary school, but after elementary, he moved on to being a volunteer basketball coach for both IYAA (the local rec league) and the Lady Patriots (a local competitive league). He started out with just coaching Lexis' team, but at one time had two teams, of which Lexis played on neither! He now has a few youth teams that he coaches with the Patriots Elite Basketball Organization. Lexis is involved in multiple organizations at school; Student Council (sophomore class president), GSA, Relay For Life and French Club. She has also recently joined me on the MOPTA Board of Managers as a Student Rep.

I got involved with PTA Lexis' 1st grade year at Procter Elementary as the volunteer coordinator. I moved on from there to be the Bylaws chair, President and Secretary during the rest of her time in elementary school. Her 3rd grade year, I joined the Independence Council PTA board as the Membership Chair, and moved on from there to serve as Treasurer, Fundraising, President, and I have now taken an advisory role as immediate past president. I joined Missouri PTA in the fall of 2015 after being invited to the state office for a Council Connect meeting. I spoke with Kathy Nevans that day about considering joining the MOPTA board, but that I wasn't sure I had the time because of all the things Lexis is involved in. Kathy said something that day that motivated me to talk to our then MOPTA president before I left and commit to joining the MOPTA board. Kathy knows me and my daughter, so knew she was entering high school the next year. She said to me, "You only have four more years of her keeping you busy. It's ok to not be at EVERY game, or EVERY meet. You need to start thinking about what you will do to keep yourself busy and happy after she has moved on. You need to make sure you have something for you." So for now, PTA is my "something for me".

