



Membership Services

Growth

by Angie Warner

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Growth - the process of increasing in size, something that has grown or is growing. When I think of growth in relation to PTA, I think of several different areas. Increasing Membership, growing as a leader, growing a community. There is so much opportunity for growth through PTA.

It almost goes without saying that membership is all about growth. Without more members, organizations can not grow. Throughout PTA we speak continuously about increasing membership. With continual growth each year PTA can support more schools, students, teachers and parents. With a growing membership PTA has a stronger voice for advocacy. The more members we have, the louder that voice is when advocating for legislation in Jefferson City or Washington D.C.

When I first joined PTA twenty years ago I didn't know anything about leadership. I knew that I wanted to help my children be successful in school and help ensure that the school community was a safe and high achieving district. The best way to do this was by volunteering for PTA. Through effective leadership and participating in training events, I eventually moved into leadership roles within my local unit. This leadership growth didn't happen

overnight. Through the examples set for me I grew as a leader. Once we become leaders it's our responsibility to ensure that our board members are trained and understand their roles. It is only with strong leaders that PTA will continue to grow.

Have you ever seen an organization bring together a community, by helping it strengthen and grow? Community in this sense is the school, surrounding neighborhood, local businesses, families and teachers. PTA has such an amazing opportunity to reach into the local community and make growth. PTAs can hold events that include the community and business partners. Look at the diversity within your unit and promote it. There are different ethnicities represented that could share their culture. Share these cultures through programs/performances at the school or bring them into the school to enhance a lesson that is being taught. Through sharing these different types of cultures your community will grow stronger to work together for purposes reflective of PTA.

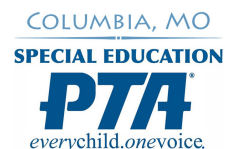
There are opportunities for growth all around us. When thinking about growth this year, think of what your unit can do to grow in membership. What can you do to become a better leader and grow leaders within your unit? How you can grow your PTA presence within the community? I wish you a successful year as you think outside the box to

GROW!!

Personal Experiences

Special Education PTA – Growth in Missouri

by **Michelle Ribaud**
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Three months ago, I had never heard of Special Education PTAs, but I clearly remember the day that I did. It was June 15, 2018, and I was in a meeting for Missouri Disability Empowerment, when one person asked if we had heard of a Special Education PTA (SEPTA). I perked up, and questioned further. As I learned about what SEPTAs in other states do, I felt hope at the possibility of finding other parents that often feel isolated and are embarking on a journey that only another parent of a special needs child can understand.

[Click here to read the rest of the story.](#)

Legislation & Advocacy

From National PTA

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action>

PTA Opposes the Use of Funds to Purchase Firearms for Schools!

The Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment block grant included in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is an important federal program that provides resources to schools to support safe and healthy students through activities such as comprehensive mental health programs and drug and violence prevention programs.

However, the U.S. Department of Education is currently considering a proposal that would allow school districts to purchase guns with Title IV-A funds. This proposal would divert funding away from essential student support services and towards funding guns in schools. National PTA and Missouri PTA strongly OPPOSES this proposal. We have all watched in horror as far too many school shootings have occurred in our schools. We must invest in providing students with the support services they need, not arm teachers with guns. Please [click here](#) to send a letter to your Congressman now.

Tell the IRS to Protect Public Education!

The current IRS regulations eliminate federal tax deductions for both charitable donations to public service entities and donations to private schools. PTA has been troubled to see a large volume of comments urging the IRS to include a special carveout for private school tuition tax credits under this regulation. National PTA and Missouri PTA opposes this and asks the IRS refrain from creating a special tax carveout for donations to private schools. Please [click here](#) to send a letter to the IRS.

Engagement

Membership Growth

by Steven Cook

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Just keep swimming! OR should I say just keep **growing!**

To keep your membership growing, just continue to ask! Members and Non-members just want to be asked! Asked to do anything, to help support their children and their children's school.

Try different ways of recruiting members! Make PTA marketable!

1. Use different media to allow for the ease of signing members up.
2. Use that same media to inform members (daily, weekly, monthly) of what is happening in PTA today.
3. Use different payment options (PayPal, Square Reader, etc..). Allow for easy, no hassle, no fuss payments.
4. Use word of mouth - talk about all the wonderful things that members can and will be part of. Share all your events and ask for ideas! **MARKET YOURSELF AND YOUR PTA!**
5. Check up on members, they simply want to be heard and given the opportunity to contribute. Allow for time at your meetings for members to speak and be heard. This will allow non-members the opportunity as well, thus building a foundation of trust and engagement.

ANYONE CAN BE A MEMBER, so TALK TO EVERYONE about PTA!

Field Services

PTA.org is available in Spanish

by **Christine Kent**

Vice President & Director of Field Services

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National PTA is pleased to announce that PTA.org is available in Spanish, through Google Translate. To translate the website, select Spanish in the drop down bar at the top right of the screen anywhere on the site. Share this feature with your PTAs and in outreach to our Spanish-speaking membership as another tool to support Hispanic/Latino families in the school community.

Looking to translate your resources but don't know where to start? Use the [Breaking Through Language Barriers](#) Tipsheet!

by **Tara Miller**
Regional Director – Pony Express
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Having board members available at all PTA sponsored events can help provide valuable and useful PTA information, it also makes PTA seem more accessible. It shows parents that even with full time jobs and other activities going on in our day to day lives, there are lots of ways to achieve a life/PTA balance.

Remember to always thank your parent volunteers.

Reflections

by **Doty Hoffman**
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- Make sure your unit is REGISTERED for the Reflections Program! Visit pta.org to register.
- Introduce this year's theme, "Heroes Around Me", and get the kiddos excited!
- Recruit Art and Music teachers to help spread the word and make students aware how you can enter and the different categories!
- October is National Arts & Humanities month, celebrate it in your unit!
- The Missouri PTA Reflections deadline is **DECEMBER 15, 2018**, all rules and category descriptions can be found at mopta.org



Did You Know?

Your PTA insurance policy may include coverage for childcare.

The policy from AIM for the Columbia Special Education PTA, covers childcare as long as the people providing the childcare are volunteers.

Check your individual policies to determine your coverage.

Submitted by Michelle Ribaud
President, Columbia Special Education PTA

Did you know that alcohol is still the number one most used and abused drug by teens?

Safe and Sober is here to help with outcomes-based educational material for your school. Each year we offer a FREE, comprehensive video-based program to all Missouri middle AND high schools.

[Find out more about the program here.](#)

Missouri PTA awards scholarships to graduating seniors who plan to go into education.

If you know of a graduating senior who wishes to become a teacher, they should contact their guidance office for information about the Missouri PTA scholarships. Recipients receive a monetary stipend for four years. One of last year's recipients was from the Heritage Region -- Jefferson City Public Schools! And, by the way, one of the requirements for the student to be eligible is that one of the PTA units in that school district must be in good standing. Way to go Jefferson City Public School PTA units!

Submitted by Mary Flatt
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Reminders

by Mary Flatt
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1. Heritage Region School of Information is Saturday, November 3rd, 2018 in Columbia, MO. All PTA members are invited to come to this training. Please submit the registration by November 1st. [Registration and additional information can be found here.](#)
2. New unit membership dues are due the first of each month. You can submit your unit membership dues online [here](#) with a PayPal payment or by mail [this form](#) with a check.
3. The 2017-18 financial review needs to be submitted to the MOPTA office no later than December 1st, 2018.

4. Your IRS 990 form for 2017 must be submitted 5 months and 5 days after the end of your fiscal year. Your fiscal year is identified in your bylaws. You can process the form through file990.org.
5. Are you participating in Reflections? If not, start planning for next year. Check out the great materials about Reflections under Programs on the mopta.org website or on the National PTA website at pta.org.
6. Are your bylaws current? Bylaws must be reviewed and submitted for update and approval every 3 years. If you aren't sure or can't seem to locate a copy of the bylaws, email me and I'll send you a copy. If your bylaws are expired (not submitted for approval), then your unit is not considered in good standing.

Why is all of the above so important?

PTA is a membership organization. Our power comes from numbers in addition to the fact our non-profit status requires us to have individual members. In order to maintain a non-profit status, an organization must file with the IRS in addition to the state requiring bylaws and financial reviews (which is our contract with our members) to be current and to maintain our not-for-profit status.

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