




---

## New Ideas!

---

by Jennifer Penny  
 Springfield Council of PTAs  
 VP of Organization & Development

**What do you do when you have always had the best experience at MOPTA Convention and want to share that experience with everyone? You offer scholarships to Convention!**

The Springfield Council of PTAs did just that recently, voting to provide Registration Scholarships for the 2019 Convention in Springfield. It was the brainstorm of President Becky Volz and once presented to the executive committee; we all were entirely on board. We had money set aside for board members to attend but elected to add \$500 as a line item to pay the \$100 convention registration fee for five PTA members at large. We started advertising the scholarship opportunity in our January and February e-newsletters and on the Remind app. We then opened up the scholarship opportunity on Monday, February 25, with a deadline of that Friday, March 1, with winners notified by email that Saturday.

We used a google form for the scholarship request and played on MOPTA's "PTA Is The Key" theme by stating, "I am KEY to the work of my PTA/PTSA Unit and would love to attend the Convention April 5th~7th at University Plaza

Hotel!" and asked members why they were deserving of the scholarship. We received the best responses and were encouraged by everyone's enthusiasm for Convention.

We made sure everyone knew the \$100 Scholarship would be used for registration and paid directly to MOPTA on their behalf, and all other expenses incurred throughout the weekend were the individual's responsibility.

"We were so delighted with the response, that we found a way to reward scholarships to all seven applicants," said Becky, "The only thing we might do in the future is set the deadline earlier to give applicants plenty of time to register for Convention."

[Click this link to see a copy of SCPTA's scholarship application form](#)

---

## Legislation & Advocacy

---



*12 year old boys culling waste photographed by Lewis Hine. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.*

**by Kristina Wilmoth**  
**Vice President & Director of Legislation**  
**[kristinaw@mopta.org](mailto:kristinaw@mopta.org)**

To understand the passion of PTA advocates, you really have to time-travel back to 1910, Aurora Missouri, where these 12-year-old boys are working outside a mine where their fathers were employed. Our founders worked to protect child-workers, setting a firm foundation for our organization. This is our history and what we were built on-advocating for the welfare and education of

children and it's still our driving force today!

**Now, it's 2019...**

**Do our children still need us to advocate for their well-being? Yes!**

One recent example: [Congress Passes Bipartisan Reauthorization of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act \(JJDP\)](#) (Click on the article title to read more)

**Do our children still need us to advocate for their education? Yes!** There are many examples of how PTA works to advocate and promote access to quality public education. Everything from [Private School Vouchers/School of Choice](#) to [Gun Safety and Violence Prevention](#) are part of PTA's mission and advocating for our children fuels our efforts!

We hear you. As parents, educators, and community-members, you want to **make a difference** and you have the desire to **be the change!** PTA is for you. Be an advocate. Be the change. Be #PTAProud!

## Field Services

by Christine Kent

Vice President & Director of Field Services

[christinek@mopta.org](mailto:christinek@mopta.org)

### Suggested President Checklist for February and March

#### February

- Send in dues
- Send in convention registrations
- Plan to apply for membership awards – due March 1st
- Check on nominating committee
- Hold a Founder's Day event
- Honor volunteers with the Missouri Distinguished Service Award
- Send out JC/DC alerts
- Send out CONTACT
- Prepare for March meeting
- Review guidelines for holding elections
- Review new suggested bylaws on [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org)

#### March

- Send in dues
- Apply online for membership awards (due March 1<sup>st</sup>)
- 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

**by Pat Higginbotham**  
**Regional Director – Gateway**  
**path@mopta.org**

So many of us join PTA to help in our children's schools, yet we get so busy we don't go beyond our unit's PTA to learn more about the Missouri State PTA and the National PTA. We should, because we all have the same PTA purposes.

**Here are a few questions with the answers that you may not have known about PTA (Parent Teacher Association) before:**

**When was the PTA founded?**

Early history. The National Parent Teacher Association was founded on February 17, 1897, in Washington, DC, as the National Congress of Mothers by Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst at a meeting of over 2,000 parents, teachers, workers, and legislators.

**What is the purpose of the PTA?**

PTA's commitment to unified advocacy on behalf of all the nation's children is best reflected in its motto: Every child. One voice. PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

**Why should parents join PTA?**

PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, build rapport, and discuss issues that are on your mind. By volunteering with your PTA, you gain valuable experiences. It's an opportunity to put your skills and hobbies to good use for a good cause—your child and all children in the community.

**Does a school have to have a PTA?**

No, but PTA addresses issues that are important to parents and public school administrators. We fight for full funding, quality teachers, and capabilities for schools to thrive. So working directly within a school does make sense. If your school or district does not have a PTA, now is the time to get one started. Your PTA is autonomous but supported by a national structure.

---

©2019 Missouri PTA | 2101 BURLINGTON STREET, COLUMBIA, MO 65202

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  
**GoDaddy Email Marketing**®