FROM MOPTA PRESIDENT

SUSAN RUPERT

SAVE THE DATE:
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020
WE WILL PTA!

Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher is credited with the phrase, “Change is the only constant in life.” I doubt in his wildest dreams he envisioned how accurate this would describe life over 2500 years later, in the year 2020.

Starting in June 2019, your Board of Managers worked hard to create a fantastic state convention event that included 35+ workshops that was scheduled to take place at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac the beginning of May. Like many events across the country, COVID-19 health concerns made that impossible.

For the past 4 months, we have been collaborating with the Missouri School Board Association (MSBA) and Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA) to join their Annual Fall Conference in Kansas City the end of September. This collaboration would have been the largest gathering of education leaders in Missouri. Unfortunately, once again COVID-19 health concerns changed our plans. We are PTA flexible, so we just moved on to plan C. Actually…we are calling it plan Z - Zoom into Convention!

It is with great excitement that I am able to extend this invitation to you and all PTA/PTSA members to attend the first ever, virtual 104th Annual Missouri PTA State Convention. While this historic event will not feel or look like our traditional convention, important business will be discussed, and valuable training will still take place. Like always, your unit or council should be represented, and your leaders need training that helps them be successful. So, mark it on your calendar now - Missouri PTA Convention Saturday, October 3, 2020! Unit/council presidents will be receiving voting delegate information shortly and the official Call to Convention will be emailed and posted on our website.

We are facing very new and different challenges as parents, educators, communities and as an organization. Thinking outside the box is no longer an option it’s a necessity! In this time of uncertainty, I know for sure the community that PTA creates is essential. The children we advocate together for are our priority. History shows we DID make a difference! What we are doing DOES make a difference! Ladies and gentlemen, this is 2020 and we WILL make a difference. In some way, shape or form we will „PTA“!

Delegate Registration Fee – only $15.00
Each delegate will receive the 2020 Advocacy T-Shirt
CONSIDER JOINING US.
WE CAN SEE YOU ON OUR TEAM!

As we move into the 2020-2021 school year, Missouri PTA realizes some of our councils/units are still working through their nominating and election process. As soon as this has been accomplished please forward this information to the state office to ensure consistent communication. As previously stated, the March 31 deadline for providing officer information to our state office is set in our bylaws and is a requirement of good standing. While this date cannot be changed, we want to continue to be sensitive to the extenuating circumstances and support our councils/units. Good standing is a factor when verifying eligibility for awards, recognition, scholarships, grants, etc. The Missouri PTA Executive Committee voted to exempt applications from the 2020-2021 officer information submission deadline of March 31. The Executive Committee recently extended this exception through October 1, 2020.

We love going to the state fair for the food. And we love to make it at home ... on occasion. Just remember these recipes the next time you're in the mood for a little state fair flavor - you'll find it here.

JOIN OUR BOARD OF MANAGERS
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO FILL OUT TALENT BANKS FOR OPEN POSITIONS!

I have never been part of an organization that has invested in my professional development more than PTA has...and that isn't why I joined or why I stay. I am proud to be a part of the collective voice that speaks as the largest child advocacy organization in America! What an honor! This group has become my extended family and I'm grateful for the opportunity I had 6 years ago when I came to the Board of Managers. I invite YOU to fill out a Talent Bank today...If you have the passion, we have the position for you!

WRITTEN BY KRISTINA WILMOTH, VP LEGISLATION & ADVOCACY
"If you see me talking to myself... I am having a Parent teacher conference."

-Nathan Monell
National PTA, remarking on the dual roles parents are filling during this time

"I PTA for all children. I represent those who are unable to be at the table and I represent those who don't have resources or materials for daily needs at home, school and community, also for health and safety and education and so much more"

Christine Kent
Meet the following candidates slated by the Missouri PTA 2020 Nominating Committee for the 2020-2022 Executive Board.
Current MoPTA Board of Managers Position
VP OF FIELD SERVICES
Nominated for 2020 - 2022 President Elect
Years Involved in Board of Managers 6 YEARS

What does your position do?
The VP of Field Services overlooks the work of the Regional Directors. Regional Directors assist units and councils obtain Good Standing status and helps develop training and learning experiences for the state of Missouri.

Unit/Council, Region and Years Involved - In the Three Trails Region, I had been involved with Christian Ott Elementary PTA from my son’s 1st to 4th grade as President. I was also involved with the Independence Council PTA for 1 year as Corresponding Secretary. I was involved with Bridger Middle School PTSA when my son went to 6th grade as President. And returned to Independence Council PTA during my son’s 7th to 8th grade years as VP of Programs. I also served as President Elect and President during this same time with Bingham Middle School. I began serving on the Missouri PTA board as Health and Safety chair during my son’s 6th grade year followed by serving as Student Involvement Chair later stepping into the VP of Memberships position and currently VP of Field Services.

Why are you involved in PTA?
Originally, I wanted to help in someway, anyway I could with my son’s school experience. It later became a need to be more involved in what was going on within the school for all the children and teachers. After having been in the PTA for several years, I eventually started seeing that there was more to having a PTA than just serving the one school that we were standing in and I wanted to do even more. The equity between schools, cities and states was not balanced in representation. I am continuing to learn everyday the engagement and impact that PTA has with students, teachers, parents and the community at the local, council, state and national levels. It is truly exhilarating and empowering to see so many individuals making connections and being united in the efforts of looking out for the health, welfare and education of children and their utmost future potential. Finding future leaders and inspiring others to be involved and engaged in our children and to keep the momentum going of growing our PTA numbers is my newest set goal for PTA and PTA’s everywhere.

Favorites:
Food/Drink I love all types of food but my go to is usually Mexican or Italian. My mom and I love to try new recipes and baking is her thing and I like to decorate food so we make a good team in that way. Also, I do love a Barq's Root Beer from time to time.
Season Fall because of Halloween and a time to be something else for a day.
Entertainment (Book, Movie, TV, Band, Music) I am open to all types of entertainment. Usually what someone else enjoys. I like to experience what others like. My favorites change with my moods but my favorite movies are Blade Runner (Original) and Dune because they are my dad's favorites and we share that in common. I wait to hear Hotel California by the Eagles on the radio, it reminds me of my brother.
Activities/Hobbies I craft for a living so I get to try so many different things for a creative side but I enjoy doing jigsaw puzzles and crochet mostly.
Describe yourself in 3-5 words EMPATHETIC, TRUSTING, DETAILED, MULTI-TASKER, HELPFUL
What is a goal you have this year? One of my goals this year is to search for ways to partner and collaborate with our local and state child organizations and community leaders.
What is a proud accomplishment? MY SON.
Something interesting you've done this year I judged for DECA for the first time and volunteered to do a similar judging for our local debate tournament. It was exciting to see the youth have so many ways of interpreting and expressing thoughts and ideas.
Years Involved in Board of Managers - 5 years

Current MOPTA Board of Managers Position and Years Involved in Board of Managers – I am the Secretary for Missouri PTA and have been in this position for four years.

What position are you nominated for? Vice President Legislation and Advocacy

What does your position do? Vice President Legislation and Advocacy provides advocacy for safe schools, healthy families, and excellent education for Missouri communities. My role will provide a Missouri PTA presence surrounding legislation by using social media to provide JC/DC alerts to the delegates and speaking with our legislators about important issues.

Unit/Council, Region and Years Involved – Currently I serve on a local unit and a council unit as the treasurer for both in the Three Trails region. I have been involved in PTA at the local unit level since 1998.

What are your strengths - What makes you stand out?
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. I am very social and love to work with others.

Why are you involved in PTA?
Children. I want to make a difference for children. I love serving on a team with people who are all working toward a common goal. The PTA Mission statement means so much to me - 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.

What is a goal you have this year? My goal is to advocate. 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.

What is a proud accomplishment? My family is my proudest accomplishment. I have been married to my wonderful husband for 18 years. We have one daughter, MacKenzie, whom we adopted at birth. She is 9 years old now and keeps us laughing everyday. Through foster care our family has grown again. John and I are so lucky to have these awesome children in our lives. We learn from them each and every day.

Favorites:

Food/Drink - My favorite food is Mexican. I love chips and salsa! My favorite drink is iced tea.
Season - My favorite season is Fall. The beautiful colors of the season and not to mention the fact my birthday is in the Fall.

Entertainment - I love to read all types of books. Right now my favorite show is Riverdale, my children got me hooked on it. I love all types of music, it is so good for the soul.
Activities/Hobbies - I love to spend time with my friends and family. My family enjoys watching movies together and spending time outdoors.

Quote - “This is the year I will be Stronger, Braver, Kinder, and Unstoppable. This year I will be fierce!”

Describe yourself in 3-5 words - Ambitious, Compassionate, and Devoted

Something interesting you’ve done this year - Family is so important to my husband and I.

This past year we became foster parents to our two nieces and our nephew. Our family grew from three to six overnight. Being a foster parent has provided me the opportunity to continue to advocate for children. 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 team of people that are on the state board are a phenomenal group that I look forward to learning from.
Stefanie Adair

Years Involved in Board of Managers - 2
Current MOPTA Board of Managers Position and Years Involved in Board of Managers - Student Involvement Chair

What position are you nominated for? Secretary
What does your position do? I stay involved with the students. I help PTSA units with ideas on how to get their students more involved.

Unit/Council, Region and Years Involved – Independence 6 years

What are your strengths - What makes you stand out? I am outspoken, I take the lead when need be and always pitch in with ideas.

Why are you involved in PTA? The Kids! Helping children to succeed.

What is the biggest opportunity for Missouri PTA in your area? We have so many people in our area. I would love everyone to just be a member!

What are you learning this year? Patience!

What is a goal you have this year? I would say my biggest goal is just to do the best job I can, I am always learning

What is a proud accomplishment? Everything I do PTA related. Going to Leg Con was amazing.

What will you do to help accomplish this? I will do my best! I will learn from others and I will never give up.

Favorites:
Food/Drink- Mexican Food and Diet Coke with a lime!
Season - Fall
Entertainment (Book, Movie, TV, Band, Music) - Books of all kinds! Mostly murder mysteries. I love to read. I rarely watch tv.
Activities/Hobbies - I read in my down time. I also love the water and you can always find me at a concert.
Describe yourself in 3-5 words - Loyal, Outgoing, Fun, Protective

Something interesting you've done this year- Well this year has been interesting enough on it's own! But, I went to Leg Con which was amazing!

Together we can make a difference. By simply joining PTA you are saying that you stand by the side of all children everywhere and advocate for them. Not all children have that loving home environment so when we can come together for the betterment of them, we are doing something right.
Missouri PTA works year round to make things happen, we are so passionate about the mission of PTA. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.
I have been involved in PTA for over 19 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 continue to be involved locally by serving as Area VP for the Council this year. I currently serve as Missouri PTA Vice President and Director of Programs. I have also served as Vice President and Director of Field Services, 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 sharing programs and grant opportunities. On one hand, moving to the Treasurer position will be a challenge for me as it will require me to step out of my comfort zone to tackle the task of meeting the needs of Missouri PTA with a limited budget. On the other hand, I will also enjoy working directly with all the unit Treasurers across the state. The greatest asset of Missouri PTA is our unit leaders. I believe that all units can thrive and grow with strong support and effective training for leaders.

Favorites:
Food/Drink – Cheeseburger & Fries with Coke Zero
Season - Spring, I love to see the trees turn green and the flowers start to bloom. It is a reminder for me that I can start fresh as well.
Entertainment – I have been binge watching way too much of anything that keeps me away from the news.
Activities/Hobbies – anything that takes me outside.
Quote - “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”. Margaret Mead
Describe yourself in 3-5 words – thoughtful, kind, mother
Years Involved in Board of Managers - 4 years
Current MOPTA Board of Managers Position - VP of Membership
What position are you nominated for? VP of Programs
Unit/Council, Region and Years Involved – I have served previously at Christian Ott Elementary PTA, Bingham Middle School PTSA, William Chrisman PTSA, Randall Elementary PTA, Procter Elementary PTA and Independence Council PTA. All in the Three Trails Region for the past 21 years.
What are your strengths - What makes you stand out? I am a detail oriented individual. I believe if you are going to do a job you should give 110% effort. I am an effective leader and believe everyone should have the opportunity to learn leadership skills and how to make a difference in the lives of others.
Why are you involved in PTA? I am involved in PTA because I believe in advocating for ALL children. PTA is the largest child advocacy association in the country. I am still involved for the children that I work with daily and for my grandchildren’s future.
Why are you a leader? I am a leader because I feel like it's something that I've been called to or what type of leader are you? I believe in leading others by example and uplifting the strengths I see in those around me.
What is the biggest opportunity for Missouri PTA in your area? I don’t think this is necessarily just in my area, but all throughout Missouri. I feel that we must focus on retention of members, educating our members on the benefits of PTA and getting across the mission of PTA.
What are you learning this year?
What is a goal you have this year? My goal is to help increase the number of units applying for the different programs offered by PTA. To educate units to what is available and helping them build community within their schools.

Favorites:
Food/Drink Dr. Pepper and Pot Roast/Mashed Potatoes
Season Summer
Entertainment (Book, Movie, TV, Band, Music) I love to read psychological thrillers, I love crime tv shows. My favorite tv show is probably Outlander. I listen to all genres of music.
Activities/Hobbies I love to read, watch tv, play with my grandchildren.
Quote You were born with the ability to change someone’s life, don’t ever waste it.
Describe yourself in 3-5 words Caring, supportive, and patient
Something interesting you’ve done this year I began 2020 with a goal of running a 5k each month during the year. I want to run a half marathon before my 50th birthday in May 2021.
Your Name – Steven Cook
Years Involved in Board of Managers – over 4 years
Current MoPTA Board of Managers Position & Years Involved in Board of Managers – Diversity Outreach & Engagement Chair

What position are you nominated for? Vice President & Director of Membership
What does your position do? Build membership, inform members of benefits

Unit/Council, Region & Years Involved – 13 yrs and more
What are your strengths - What makes you stand out? Honesty, commitment, integrity, loyalty, hard-working

Why are you involved in PTA? I see the need for parent and teacher involvement to help ALL children be successful.
Why are you a leader? or what type of leader are you? Go getter, team player, family-oriented

What is the biggest opportunity for Missouri PTA in your area? Retaining and building membership throughout the state
What are you learning this year? Moving into a new role and learning how to involve everyone in membership growth

What is a goal you have this year? Retain and build memberships
What is a proud accomplishment? Helping to raise a wonderful daughter, who received a full ride to her dream college

Favorites:
Food/Drink  Sweet Tea, water
Season  Spring
Entertainment (Book, Movie, TV, Band, Music) MARIAH! WONDER WOMAN!
Activities/Hobbies  Watching movies
Quote “Now I know, that only love can truly save the world. So I stay, I fight, and I give, for the world I know can be.”

Something interesting you've done this year - planned for online learning for the library
Years Involved in Board of Managers - 6 years  
Current MOPTA Board of Managers Position - VP of Legislation and Advocacy  
What position are you nominated for? VP of Communication  
Unit– Weaver Elementary and Central High PTSA  
What are your strengths - What makes you stand out? I am a detail manager with a passion for vision and overall process. I enjoy being the person that fills in the gap in real time. I am able to handle multiple projects at one time and I'm experienced in communication and in human services.  
Why are you involved in PTA? After receiving my Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, I had a mentor look over my resume and she asked me point-blank, why isn't PTA on here? I said, "I have 2 young children, I don't have time for that!" She answered back, "You need to MAKE time." I've made time ever since. I am now mom of 8 children and after achieving my Master's Degree, I love when new graduates ask me to go over their resume and I get to ask them, "why isn't PTA on here?" When they say, "I don't have kids" or "I don't have time." I answer, "It's vital you advocate, you must MAKE time." We must advocate for ALL children. Not just mine or your children.  
Why are you a leader? I was labeled "bossy" as an only child growing up. When I see a child exhibiting leadership at a young age and someone (usually an adult) gets after them for being "too bossy", I challenge them to hone in on leadership skills and teaching those children how to lead others with compassion and integrity. I yearn to continue to lead by serving others and showing others they can do the same.  
What is the biggest opportunity for Missouri PTA in your area? PTA is an advocacy organization and we MUST share that advocacy message! Let's use our tools, let's repeat the message, let's never miss an opportunity to speak up for ALL children.  
What is a goal you have this year? Missouri PTA Communication Department will work with the Legislative Department to put out relevant and timely calls to action to mobilize our membership to speak up and act! We will also work with Membership Department to increase our membership and engagement! This is our time!  
Favorites:  
Food/Drink Coffee Coffee Coffee and Water  
Season Summer...I hate being cold.  
Entertainment (Book, Movie, TV, Band, Music) I read non-fiction books on marketing, nonprofit leadership, communication, children's mental health, advocacy, and special needs/parenting. I don't watch TV but I frequently fall asleep to I Love Lucy, The Office, or Keeping Up Appearances episodes on my iPad  
Activities/Hobbies Sitting on my porch, creating content for non profits, movie night at home with my family  
Describe yourself in 3-5 words Organized, Creative, Educated  
Something interesting you've done this year My husband and I are building a 7-bedroom home for us and our 8 children!
Jerald Jones, Owner of the Dallas Cowboys

"THIS IS A UNIQUE TIME. It can be an exciting time. It’s one that I really do want to be able to say, ‘Man, I was a part of something very different and very special. That 2020, what a time to remember and boy, did we do some good.’ That’s what I’d hope to say in the future."

Jerry Jones, Owner of the Dallas Cowboys
Let's Celebrate!
Early Bird AWARD

Units that turned in membership by August 31, 2019

- Barrington Elementary PTA
- Barry Middle School PTSA
- Blackburn Elementary PTA
- Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
- Boone Trail Elementary PTA
- Cherokee Middle School PTSA
- Christian Ott Elementary PTA
- Conn-West Elementary PTA
- Creekmoor Elementary PTA
- Daniel Young Elementary PTA
- David Harrison Elementary PTA
- Eastwood Hills Elementary PTA
- Epic Elementary PTA
- Espy PTA
- Fox Hill PTA
- Glendale Elementary PTA
- Greenwood Elementary PTA
- Hawthorn Elementary PTA
Early Bird AWARD

Units that turned in membership by August 31, 2019

Hazelwood Central High School PTSA
Hazelwood Central Middle School PTSA
Hazelwood East Middle School PTSA
Hazelwood East Senior High PTSA
Hazelwood Northwest Middle School PTSA
Hazelwood West High School PTSA
Hickory Hills Elementary PTA
Hickory Hills Middle School PTSA
Hopewell Elementary PTA
Horace Mann PTA (Springfield)
James Bridger Middle School PTSA
James Lewis Elementary PTA
James Walker Elementary PTA
Jamestown Elementary PTA
Larimore Elementary PTA
Lawson Elementary School PTA
Lee's Summitt High School PTSA
Lee's Sumitt West PTSA
Early Bird AWARD

Units that turned in membership by August 31, 2019

Linden West Elementary PTA
Longview Farm Elementary PTA
Maplewood Elementary PTA
Mark Twain Elementary PTA (St. Joseph)
Matthews Elementary PTA (Grain Valley)
McBride Elementary PTA
Mill Creek Elementary PTA (Columbia)
Ozark North Elementary PTA
Park Hill High School PTSA
Park Hill Plaza Middle School PTSA
Prairie View Elementary PTA (Lee's Summitt)
Procter Elementary PTA
Early Bird AWARD
Units that turned in membership by August 31, 2019

Randall PTA
Raymore Peculiar South Middle School PTSA
Raytown South High School PTSA
Robinson Elementary School PTA
Ruth Oliver Walker Elementary PTA
Shoal Creek Elementary PTA
Stonegate Elementary PTA
Sunset Valley Elementary PTA
Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
Truman Patriots Club PTSA
Twillman Elementary PTA
Wanda Gray PTA
CONGRATULATIONS!
We would like to congratulate all of our units that achieved membership goals in the 2019 - 2020 year.

GOLD AWARD
100% membership increase over previous year

Central High School PTSA (Springfield)
Potosi Elementary PTA
Procter Elementary PTA
Silver AWARD

50% membership increase over previous year

Central High School PTSA (Springfield)
Potosi Elementary PTA
Procter Elementary PTA
Ruth Oliver Walker PTA

BRONZE AWARD

20% membership increase over previous year

Alfred L. Renner Elementary
Central High School PTSA (Springfield)
Daniel Young Elementary PTA
Garrett Elementary PTA
Parkwood Elementary PTA
Potosi Elementary PTA
Procter Elementary PTA
Ruth Oliver Walker PTA
Southwood Elementary PTA
PRESIDENT'S AWARD
Matched or increased membership over previous year by October 31st

Alfred L. Renner Elementary
Central High School PTSA (Springfield)
Daniel Young Elementary PTA
Garrett Elementary PTA
Parkwood Elementary PTA
Potosi Elementary PTA

HONOR ROLL
Matched or increased membership over previous year by March 1st

Alfred L. Renner Elementary
Central High School PTSA (Springfield)
Crestview Elementary PTA
Daniel Young Elementary PTA
Garrett Elementary PTA
Mark Twain Elementary PTA (St. Joseph)
HONOR ROLL
Matched or increased membership over previous year by March 1st

Ott Elementary PTA
Parkwood Elementary PTA
Potosi Elementary PTA
Procter Elementary PTA
Ruth Oliver Walker Elementary PTA
Southwood Elementary PTA

100% Faculty Award
All full time certified staff are members.

Crestview Elementary PTA
Garrett Elementary PTA
Korte Elementary PTA
Mark Twain Elementary PTA (St. Joseph)
Ott Elementary PTA
Park Hill High School PTSA
Diamond Faculty Award

All full time staff are members
(including custodians, food services, etc.)

Crestview Elementary PTA
Garrett Elementary PTA
Mark Twain Elementary PTA (St. Joseph)
Ott Elementary PTA
Park Hill High School PTSA
Procter Elementary PTA

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Matched or increased membership over previous year by October 31st

Potosi Elementary PTA
Procter Elementary PTA
Ruth Oliver Walker Elementary PTA
Southwood Elementary PTA
Student Membership Award
20% increase in membership over previous year of student memberships

Central High School PTSA (Springfield)
Mark Twain Elementary PTA (St. Joseph)
Postosi Elementary PTA

100% Faculty Award
All full time certified staff are members.

Pathfinder PTA
Procter Elementary PTA
Ruth Oliver Walker Elementary PTA
Southwood Elementary PTA
Diamond Faculty Award

All full time staff are members (including custodians, food services, etc.)

Ruth Oliver Walker Elementary PTA
Southwood Elementary PTA

Parent Education and Engagement Award Winner

Hazelwood Central High School
Hazelwood, Mo
Business Partnership Award

20% increase over previous year of business memberships

Barry Middle School PTSA
Blackburn Elementary PTA
Central High School PTSA (Springfield)
Cherokee Middle School PTSA
Daniel Young Elementary PTA
Garrett Elementary PTA
Mark Twain PTA (St. Joseph)
Parkwood Elementary PTA
Potosi Elementary PTA
Ruth Oliver Elementary PTA
Southwood Elementary PTA
Blue Seal Award
Hazelwood Central High School PTSA
Pathfinder PTA
Ruth Oliver Walker Elementary PTA

Gold Seal Award
Hazelwood Central High School PTSA
Council Website Award
Hazelwood Council PTA

Unit Newsletter Award
Pathfinder PTA
Unit Website Award

Pathfinder PTA

Congratulations!