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Let's Talk DIVERSITY

Did you know that the National PTA has a Diversity and Inclusion Policy? It's listed below in its entirety. Please take the time to read it and become familiar with the different aspects. The understanding of the policy can help your unit grow and become a more successful unit.

You can also find it by [clicking here](#)

“
The National Congress of Mothers, irrespective of creed, color or condition, stands for all parenthood, childhood, homehood.
 – Alice McLellan Birney, 1898
 Cofounder of National PTA
 ”

Those words, true in 1898, are even truer today. PTAs everywhere must understand and embrace the uniqueness of all individuals, appreciating that each contributes a diversity of views, experiences, cultural heritage/traditions, skills/abilities, values, and preferences.

When PTAs respect differences yet acknowledge shared commonalities uniting their communities, and then develop meaningful priorities based upon their knowledge, they genuinely represent their communities. When PTAs represent their communities, they gain strength and effectiveness through increased volunteer and resource support.

The recognition of diversity within organizations is valuing differences and similarities in people through actions and accountability.

These differences and similarities include age, ethnicity, language and culture, economic status, educational background, gender, geographic location, marital status, mental ability, national origin, organizational position and tenure, parental status, physical ability, political philosophy, race, religion, sexual orientation, and work experience.

Therefore PTAs at every level must:

- Openly assess beliefs and practices to assure inclusiveness and guard against discrimination;
- Make every effort to create a PTA board and membership that is inclusive and reflective of its community;
- Encourage that all PTA activities at the school be planned by a committee which is representative of the population;
- Foster programs and practices that eliminate bias, prejudice and misunderstanding within their communities;
- Become acquainted with the leaders of the many diverse groups in the community and collaborate with them to increase parent, family and community involvement;
- Educate its leaders and members to the needs, cultural beliefs, traditions and family structures of the population they serve; and
- Propose change wherever discriminatory practices are perceived.

PTA values and appreciates diversity, which enriches and strengthens the structure of our society within our state and nation.

†This policy should be used in its entirety with no portion quoted out of context.

cont. Let's Talk
DIVERSITY



This Award recognizes PTAs that best demonstrate outstanding achievement in the areas of diversity and inclusion, as well as efforts to end discriminatory practices. This award will be presented to one state PTA, one district/ council/region PTA and one local PTA at the 2021 National PTA Convention & Expo in June. Share how your PTA has championed diversity & inclusion for a chance to WIN \$1,000! Reflect on what your unit has achieved and apply. **Deadline is March 14, 2021.**

Click photo for more information!

ACTIVITIES TO HELP REACH YOUR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION GOALS:

- Learn more about your school community (Don't assume anything)
- Gather school demographics from DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education)
- Ask questions about cultures, languages and previous involvement
- Translate meeting materials, if needed
- Reach out to minority populations for all school events not just multicultural events
- Build trust and relationships
- Ask questions about your community needs
- Explore various ways to communicate with your community
- Partner with local organizations that represent underrepresented groups
- Solicit ideas for events from all....

[More ideas can be found at PTA.org](https://www.pta.org)

WHY PTA?

PTA GIVES PARENTS A UNITED

AND POWERFUL VOICE,

A SEAT AT THE

DECISIONMAKING TABLE

AND THE TOOLS

TO INFLUENCE CHANGE THAT WILL

BETTER THE LIVES OF ALL CHILDREN.

...THE ABILITY TO SPEAK FOR

EVERY CHILD WITH ONE VOICE

IS THE POWER OF PTA.

Membership Matters

BY STEVEN COOK, VP & Director of Membership Services
 stevenc@mopta.org or membership@mopta.org

PTA membership drives never stop. What did I say? Really that is true. You can have anyone join your amazing PTA anytime all the way up to the end of your fiscal year. That is ALL YEAR LONG! So ask everyone! Anyone can be a member.



So...

Ask **parents of students** that attend that school.

Ask **family members** of students who attend that school.

Ask any **community member or business**.

Ask any **employee** of that district.

ASK ASK ASK!



Events...

Virtual or hybrid or in-person... well you can still hold events!

- Reading night with special readers
- Read in your PJs night
- Dance night
- Walk in the park
- "Make your Campus Beautiful" day



All these can and have been done.

REMEMBER social distancing and wear your mask!



Make a Goal

How many members do you want to have by the end of the year? Then take that amount and make a monthly goal of how many members you would need to add each month to reach your goal. Our state goal is 40,000 members by the end of this fiscal year. Help us achieve that goal by setting and **achieving** your own goals.

Remember we are in this together and ask any and everyone to join!
 Even me (not kidding)!

Promote...

- **Online posts** with ways to join your PTA unit
- **Phone calls** to people welcoming them to a new year and **challenge them** to have someone join with them
- **Emails** to past members, new members, anyone with updates and ideas from your PTA unit
- Keep it fresh, keep thinking, keep collaborating, keep pushing for new members!



HOW DOES A BILL BECOME A LAW?

We have been asked how a bill becomes a law. Here is an easy breakdown of the process:

1. Bills (or Resolutions*) are sponsored (introduced) by Senators or House Representatives. The process begins once the bill is filed with the Secretary of State. All action on each bill takes place between the start of the session (January 6th) and the end (May 14th). These bills are often adaptations of State Statutes and do not require a vote of the public.
2. Bills once filed are read twice on the floor of the House or Senate.
3. Upon the second reading the bill is assigned to a committee. The bill will then have a public hearing that allows individuals to testify in favor or in opposition to the bill.
4. During committee the bill may be passed as it is written or amended (or ignored and the bill dies in committee).
5. The bill, if passed by committee, is read for a third and final time on the floor. A roll call vote is then held.
6. If the bill is passed it heads to the other chamber for review in much the same way.
7. If the bill is passed in a different form the two houses will convene a committee to try and negotiate a final wording of the bill. If no compromise can be made the bill dies. However, if a compromise is made it is then voted on by both chambers.
8. If both chambers have approved the bill, then it heads to the governor's desk for his signature of approval or veto.
9. If the bill is vetoed then a vote of 2/3 of both houses can override the veto.

**Resolutions can also be introduced into the House or Senate or jointly. The resolutions become amendments to the Missouri Constitution and if adopted are voted on by Missouri voters.*



- Regularly attend PTA Meetings
- Attend school board meetings
 - Join JC/DC
- Register to vote and vote
- Hold a candidate forum
- Contact legislators when action alerts are published
- Meet candidates for office and ask questions

You Can (and should) Still Make COMMUNICATION GOALS (even during a pandemic...)

BY KRISTINA WILMOTH
 VP of Communication
 kristinaw@mopta.org

I have units and leaders talk about how they feel pressured to prioritize their school and community needs at this time and it doesn't feel like the right time to talk about communication goals, objectives, or social media statistics.

I disagree. My advice is to simplify your communication strategy, but now is not the time to be shouting from the rooftop without a plan in place. Here is where I start...

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.

That is our purpose as an organization and as individual advocates. But do all of our members know that mission? How about our principals? Do the teachers and staff in our schools know the mission that we filter all our work through?

Your #1 goal and communication strategy should always center around **sharing your purpose** setting a clear and firm foundation to build on, no matter what is happening around us!

Even if it's drawn out with Sharpies® and Sticky Notes® (that's my favorite way to brainstorm), make a communication plan complete with SMART goals (see below).

Use tools on social media analytics, newsletter feedback, and your membership goals to guide you. Don't worry about making the "right" goals the first time. If the goal needs to be edited, you can do that, too! But if you don't write it down and share it with your team, how will you know when you can celebrate reaching the finish line?

During this time of uncertainty and unrest, we crave humanity and connectedness. We wish for simpler times and happier moments so when folks share those stories on social media or the news today, I find myself thinking, "There's hope! I love stories like this!" When I find out about a school that is holding a fundraiser to buy microphones for a teacher who has trouble taking through a mask, I find myself excited, "I love giving intentionally like this! I'm so grateful they shared this story!" Don't hold back these needs and stories. Share your stories of PTA mission in action and make sure you tag @MissouriPTA so we can share your moments, too!

We are doing the best with what we have. I'm thankful to be part of a group of dedicated volunteers who give of their time so selflessly to make sure every child has the chance to reach their full potential. Keep it up, advocates! This is just the beginning.



Thank You MARY FLATT!



We would like to recognize and thank Mary Flatt for her three years of employment with Missouri PTA. Many of you knew her as the friendly voice on the other side of the phone. Her knowledge and passion for PTA made her a valuable member of our team. We all wish her well with her latest endeavor and know she will continue to be a great advocate for Missouri PTA.

Mary, you will be missed!

We have a new mailing address!

Please send any correspondence, payments etc. to:



2021 Healthy Habits & New Year's Resolutions

Help minimize the spread of germs this new year

Even though the calendar has turned to a new year, COVID-19 is still a presence in our lives, and practicing healthy habits is as important as ever. This year, choose New Year's resolutions that will help minimize the spread of illness-causing germs. Lysol and National Parent Teacher Association recommend the following resolutions that the entire family can follow in 2021:

- ***Wash your hands often:** Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself from getting sick. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and remember to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails. Always wash your hands before touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- ***Cover coughs and sneezes:** Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Use the inside of your elbow if you do not have a tissue available. It is also important to wash your hands right after your cough, sneeze, or blow your nose.
- ***Avoid touching your face:** Infection occurs when germs enter the body, increase in number, and cause a reaction to the body. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

If your children are learning in-person, encourage your school to utilize Lysol Welcome Back Packs, so New Year's resolution tips are not forgotten at school. Welcome Back Packs are available for educators nationwide to download and print. They include fun and educational resources such as informative posters, fun activities, useful stickers templates, and engaging lesson plans that encourage healthy habits such as handwashing, social distancing, and wearing masks.

For more information on healthy habits and to download the Welcome Back Packs, please visit [Lysol.com/HERE](https://www.lysol.com/HERE).





LEADERSHIP SERIES



SEEING Your People

Raising awareness of the impact of grief
and how to recognize loss

January 21st
10:00 am or
7:00 pm

Click to register

10:00

Click to register

07:00

MOPTA's Scholarship Information

Do you know a high school senior who is considering a career in teaching? Missouri PTA offers Teacher Education Scholarships for graduating High School Seniors; each scholarship provides a stipend of \$500 per year up to a maximum of \$2,000.

To be eligible for this award, applicants must:

1. Be a graduate of or graduating from an accredited Missouri public high school in a school district with at least one PTA/PTSA unit in good standing.
2. Have a higher than average scholastic standing.
3. Have an outstanding potential aptitude for teaching, good character, and personality.
4. Show financial need.
5. Enroll in a college or university in Missouri to obtain a Bachelors/Masters Degree or a community college in Missouri to obtain an Associates of the Arts in Teaching Degree to begin their preparation for teaching.
6. For each two (2) years of assistance, the recipient must teach for one year in a Missouri public elementary or secondary school (or work in some other capacity as a certified educator).

Scholarship applications are available on the Missouri PTA website but must be submitted through the school counselor (only one application is accepted per school). Application deadline is determined by each school prior to Feb. 15. For more information visit www.mopta.org

YOUR PTA CAN SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Missouri PTA scholarship fund receives continuing financial support from contributions made by PTAs throughout Missouri as well as through individual gifts and memorials. The fund receives additional support from one-half the proceeds of the Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award. Please consider establishing a line item in your annual budget to help ensure that outstanding young people pursue their dreams of becoming Missouri Public School teachers.

TIME TO NOMINATE

Officers for the 2021-2022 school year are due to be submitted to Missouri PTA by March 31 of each year. That means it is time to get your nominating committee together. Check out this social media flyer created by the Raytown PTA Council (see right) for ideas!

MOPTA's suggested unit/council bylaws outline some suggestions for nominating committees but check your unit's bylaws for your specific guidelines. However, the following part of the bylaws is hashtagged, which means it can't be changed and is the same for all units and councils.

MOPTA's Unit and Council Bylaws
Section 8. Nominating committee:
#a. The nominating committee shall be elected annually.

If you have questions, please reach to President Carla Wiese at carlaw@mopta.org or Christine Kent at christinek@mopta.org.



JOIN THE TEAM
NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

for the
2021-2022 PTA Council

Who are we and what do we do?

- A group of involved parents and a liaison between parents & Raytown School District Administration
- We help and train local PTA's in District
- Provide three Scholarships to Raytown Seniors
- Provide informational Unit Meetings - open to ALL families in the District
- Plan, organize and provide STEM in the Gym

It's a great way to get involved!
Know what's going on in the district!

President: coordinate and guide meetings – liaison with MO state – offer training to units
Vice President: ideally 2 people: 1st help plan programs and STEM - 2nd help plan fundraising
Secretary: meeting minutes – correspondence with & keep roster of local PTA unit – submit officers form
Treasurer: all financial record keeping – submit MO state paperwork – submit IRS tax form – submit dues

Sign up TODAY!
3 easy ways to sign-up Google Forms, Sign up genius or email

Check out MOPTA's new Calendar feature found on the right side of our homepage!



It can be integrated with your existing Google calendar and has loads of amazing resources and reminders to help your unit be successful.



Missouri PTA
every child. one voice.

JOIN OUR BOARD OF MANAGERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO FILL OUT TALENT BANKS FOR OPEN POSITIONS!