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Here Comes the Sun

FROM MOPTA PRESIDENT

BY CARLA WIESE

Spring is finally here, I love to watch my yard emerge from its long winter nap. New leaves begin to bud and flowers bloom. It makes me feel full of excitement with the promise of spring breezes and summer vacations. This year the world feels like it is spring as we begin to emerge from our long struggle with COVID. The sun is beginning to shine as vaccines begin and the world opens its doors to gatherings and schools emerge from lock downs. After the past year I am ready to shed the difficulties we have all experienced and be able to see smiles and get back to the fun of PTA!

PTA is much like a flower garden that needs attention in the spring. New and returning officers are being elected. These officers, like flowers, need to be nourished. What are you doing to nourish, train and equip them with the necessary tools and resources to ensure a great 2021-2022? Training is vital to the success of your PTA.

Missouri PTA Convention 2021 (in person) is coming October 1-3, 2021. Did you know you can add Convention to your annual budget? Not only will officers receive important training they will also be able to network and learn from other PTA units. Your officers should never feel like they are alone, be the mentor to your successor, your knowledge is priceless. Happy Spring Missouri PTA and thank you for being a leader during a difficult year. I have seen your struggles and joined in your frustrations but better days are coming.

July 1st start your new membership drive inviting even more flowers to your garden. Make plans for an incredible year and let me know how Missouri PTA can help. I am ready to join you in the sun and see your beautiful PTA garden.

**JOIN
IN!**

**CLICK THE LINK TO
REGISTER IN
ADVANCE FOR THIS
MEETING.**



Last ZIM! Don't miss out!

**ZOOMING INTO
MEMBERSHIP**

**Thursday April 29th
at 6:30 PM**

**After registering, you will
receive a confirmation email
containing information about
joining the meeting.**



National PTA LegCon Live 2021

ADVOCACY, TRAINING, NETWORKING, MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS & MORE!

BY PAULA MCKINNEY

Vice President of Legislation and Advocacy

I was thrilled to be able to attend the first-ever virtual National PTA Legislative Conference with my fellow advocates to use our powerful voices to take action for every child. National PTA's Government affairs team and the Legislative Committee provided virtual prep meetings before the conference, to help the advocates be prepared for virtual Hill Day meetings.

During the virtual conference, we were able to grow our advocacy skills, explore National PTA's legislative priorities for the 117th Congress and virtually meet with Missouri State representatives.

During the virtual meetings with Missouri state representatives, our advocacy team was able to share National PTA's asks -

- Make meaningful, robust investments in education in the next COVID relief package
- Include schools in any comprehensive infrastructure package
- Improve the federal school meal program through Child Nutrition Reauthorization
- Support policies that protect all students, including students from historically marginalized populations and communities

Right before LegCon began the COVID relief package passed. We were able to thank our representatives for their work on passing this package.

Missouri PTA was also able to ask our state representatives for increased funding for mental health services in primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools. States are trying to offer mental health services in schools, however, finding the funds from increasing smaller pools of tax dollars is hard and should be a priority for Congress. The pandemic has highlighted what we already knew. Our youth are struggling and we are failing them. They are facing isolation from their peers, new learning methods, and the fear of what happens next. The members of congress that we met with were very receptive to the increased funding for mental health services.

An important advocacy tip I learned from the conference is to follow up with the members of Congress that we were able to meet with. Sending them a thank you email will help continue to build the relationship that was started with the meetings. Reminding them of the priorities that were discussed and letting them know Missouri PTA is a resource for them on issues impacting parents, children, and families in Missouri.

April is...

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

10 SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Missouri PTA • Follow

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

1 Teach your child body safety from 2.5 years old.

2 Talk to other families about the importance of teaching their children body safety.

3 Ask you child's school if they teach body safety. If not, advocate for it!

Share

Missouri PTA
everychild, onvoice.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org) has resources for tips on supporting children who have disclosed abuse and resources for help.

Here For You.

Call Chat

Free. Confidential. 24/7.

Supporting your children

The Hotline / jason



WE NEED YOU!

Missouri PTA is looking for new additions to the Board of Managers! We are actively seeking to fill these roles, but we are always in need of more volunteers in a variety of areas.

Reflections Chair

– Promotes the Reflections program at the state level. Serves as a liaison between the local PTA unit and the national PTA Reflections Department. Is responsible for updating the state Reflections information annually, organizing the judging of state Reflections entries and hosting the state Reflections Student Showcase.

Regional Director

– Proactively interacts with Regional Units and Councils by monthly phone calls, emails, or newsletters. Coordinates the work in the Regions and assists in the organization of new units and councils. Assist with Regional training in areas where there are no Councils and assist Councils with their Schools of Information. Attends Council meetings. Attends Unit meetings as necessary.

Advocacy Chair

– Promotes and encourages advocacy efforts related to general health, wellness, and safety. Works with outside agencies to connect PTA with education health-related opportunities.

If you are interested, please click below to fill out a Talent Bank Interest Form. Share with your units and other PTA members who may be interested!



Would you like to be a part of the Missouri PTA Team?

 Missouri PTA / MOPTACommunications

listen, educate, advocate

THANK YOU TO SPRINGFIELD COUNCIL
OF PTAS FOR SHARING!



Listen, Educate and Advocate
Springfield Council of PTAs • [Follow](#)


Share



STEM Grant Applications Are Open!

Application deadline:
April 23rd

Apply online at:
<https://forms.gle/8kzKHDkrFfeetaXh7>

Missouri
PTA[®]
everychild. onevoice.





Check out April's Legislative Report in it's entirety by clicking here

WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

for future issues of Contact

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS OR ARTICLES ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:

Advocacy & Legislation

Health & Wellness

Best Practices

Communications

Membership

Engagement

College Readiness

Programs

Social Media

This list is not all-inclusive; if it's PTA: we're interested!

EMAIL: FELICIAB@MOPTA.ORG



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