

# Contact

FEBRUARY 2022

## Black History Month

BY TOI ALLEN

Missouri PTA Diversity Outreach  
& Engagement Chair

The image on the right side of this page will take you to a recent *Notes from the Backpack* by National PTA with Dr. Shawn. I like this podcast because he makes clear suggestions of how to support our kiddos, parents and teachers of Color by being **intentional** with maintaining a listening ear and educating heart.

**It was suggested for us all to have more Courageous conversations.** We encourage our UNITS to support students, parents, teachers of Color by engaging each other in this way.

- Have a conversation that will open up a way for our kiddos, parents and teachers to embrace their cultural identities. This will be key.
- Have conversations that will find ways to embrace students of Color and ALL cultures on a everyday basis and not just for one day or one month.

Let's frame this month by clearly communicating the importance of listening to students cultural experiences and allow them to provide their life experience as a cultural lesson.

Maybe by doing a listening challenge and then sharing those challenge experiences and lessons from a lens of which it was experienced in age appropriate ways. Listening provides an effort that shows support and an avenue of how to help if needed.

**Look for more tips on Diversity Engagement, Inclusion and features focused on our Black community in the following pages.**

Our Guest: Dr. Shawn Jones

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:  
**Supporting Students of Color**

National PTA  
everychild. onevoice.

# diversity, equity & inclusion



**JAN HARP  
DOMENE  
AWARD GRANT  
APPLICATIONS  
APPLICATIONS  
OPEN IN  
MARCH 2022**



## **GO BEYOND ONE-TIME EVENTS ABOUT DIVERSITY**

Issues of diversity, equity and inclusion should be topics for ongoing discussion. While PTAs can begin to improve their diversity, equity and inclusion efforts with a specific event or series of events, like a multicultural night or a social justice book club, the ultimate goal should be to naturally embed these conversations and initiatives into everyday life.

[Read more about how one unit did just that and so much more to earn them the Jan Harp Doeme Award in 2019 by clicking here](#)

# diversity, equity & inclusion

## HOW TO WELCOME DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES INTO YOUR PTA

The following is a BRIEF summary from the Center for Family Engagement article. There are many more amazing pieces to this article that are not shared here. [Please click here to read the article in full.](#)

### 1. Learn more about the community your PTA is serving

- DON'T assume you know what is happening
- DO ask questions to understand

### 2. Avoid tokenism

- DON'T ask a parent to be the lead of a subgroup simply because they belong to it
- DO reach out to minority populations within your school for all events

### 3. Build trust

- DON'T assume you are in a position of trust just because you are a PTA leader
- DO work on building a meaningful relationship with stakeholders and families

### 4. Cater to the needs of the community

- DO ask questions to understand their needs
- DON'T approach families about the benefits of PTA without knowing their needs

### 5. Find alternative meeting locations

- DON'T assume that the school is the most convenient place to meet. There may be fear, discomfort or lack of trust in going to the school
- DO offer families alternative options



A National PTA® Initiative  
The Center for Family Engagement®

*In case you missed it...*  
[Click here to see](#)  
[January's](#)  
[CONTACT](#)

# Change in Leadership?

## CHECK OUT THESE UNIQUE TIPS

BY FELICIA BERGAN, *Missouri PTA CONTACT* Editor

It's nominations and election time for PTAs across the state! As units and councils prepare for the next school year, I am reminded of a few key things I have learned during my PTA career that I hope to share with everyone. Personally, I am a leader in so many ways that it can be hard to let others take charge sometimes. That is why I found myself President of my local unit at the end of my first year in PTA. After 3 years, I was up against the term limit set by our bylaws (3 consecutive years in the same office). Our unit, like many others, didn't have much participation outside of our Board and I worried that no one else would be willing to step up since I had run unopposed each year. I didn't want to step out of the President role because I felt like I was doing a lot of good work to repair relationships that had been neglected or damaged before me. Others could see that I didn't want to leave my role either.

### DON'T CHANGE YOUR BYLAWS TO SUIT YOU

Tip #1

Bylaws need revisions from time to time and they should fit the work of your unit/council. Bylaws are much bigger than one personal situation. Sometimes we find ourselves thinking "if I don't do it, no one else will." In some cases, you may be right. There are things I did that others haven't done since me, but something much more amazing has happened. Those who have filled the roles after me have created something new, different and mostly better.

Tip #2

### DON'T GET COMPLACENT

When I first joined PTA I heard the same thing over and over again: *That is the way we have always done it.* What a way to alienate newbies! There were moments when I felt like I shouldn't be a part of this if it was always going to be done in a way that I didn't know or understand and could have no say in. But new people come with new ideas and we want to honor those! The ideas aren't always successful, but how do you know what won't work if you never try it.

### DO WHAT WORKS

If you have hosted a very successful Fun Run for the last 3 years that is well-executed and profitable, you don't have to scrap that event to avoid complacency.

Maybe you can change the theme or type of Run or the location, but keep the heart of the event that makes it so successful the same.

Tip #3

### KEEP GOOD RECORDS AND SHARE THEM

Most leaders keep notes about events, fundraisers and programs so they can host it effectively. That is not your private information and I hope you make a version that can be shared with other board members both during your term and after you have moved on from the organization. My first year as President, I was given a super helpful "procedure binder" with things like historical budgets, bylaws and membership records in it. What I wasn't given was any notes about the HUGE Carnival fundraiser event I was supposed to be Chair of later that year, which had existed at our school for a decade. As a result of not passing on important information about this event, there were some things I didn't know about and so they were lost to the years past, like decorations that apparently take up residence in our PTA shed.

Tip #4

My goal in PTA, and in my life, is to make something that out-survives me. I want to visit Matthews when my grandkids are in school there and see that their PTA is still going strong with an incredible all-staff appreciation plan and a Carnival that people from all over the community attend. PTA is not about me or 'my legacy' but about these children and all the ones who will come after them. Keep that mindset and you will always make the best choices.

# Capitol Chatter



Your Guide to the 2022 Legislative Session

## HB2532 (SUPPORT)

Missouri PTA supports legislation that requires that schools install high-quality filters to assure children aren't drinking water contaminated by lead, which can leak into the water from lead pipes. This legislation would require schools to test after the installation and ensure the water has less than one part per billion of lead.

## HB1814 (OPPOSE)

Missouri PTA advocates for all children and for the improvement of public education. It believes that any changes in school structure or funding should be measured by the likely outcomes for all children in accord with the obligation to prepare all children to become effective, productive adult citizens.

## HB2428 (SUPPORT)

Missouri PTA supports the implementation of diverse and inclusive curricula in all public schools statewide. Missouri PTA is committed to the creation of innovative curricula and the necessary accompanying professional development that support culturally and linguistically-responsive teaching and learning so that the history of all students—including but not limited to African American, Latino(a), Native American, Asian and LGBTQ groups—is accurately represented and taught.

## HB 1755, 1995, 1858, 2068, 2195, and 2294 (OPPOSE)

Missouri PTA opposes parent groups that establish the parents' bill of rights. While we fully support parent's rights, these bills are an attempt to undermine public education and tie the hands of parents who trust educators to do their job. These bills would create a safety concern in our schools. We believe these bills are not in the best interest of parents, students, teachers, or the educational process.

## SB713 (SUPPORT)

Missouri PTA advocates to eliminate distracted driving-related injuries and deaths on Missouri roadways through policy, education, and collaboration. Handheld devices delay reaction time as much as having a blood alcohol level of 0.08%.

## STAY UP TO DATE

BY JOINING MOPTA'S JC/DC NETWORK  
YOU WILL RECIEVE EMAIL ALERTS ABOUT IMPORTANT  
PROPOSED MISSOURI LEGISLATION

[WWW.MOPTA.ORG/CATEGORY/ADVOCACY](http://WWW.MOPTA.ORG/CATEGORY/ADVOCACY)

[HTTPS://MOPTA.ORG/ADVOCACY/CAPITAL-CHATTER-BILLS-WE-ARE-WATCHING/](https://MOPTA.ORG/ADVOCACY/CAPITAL-CHATTER-BILLS-WE-ARE-WATCHING/)

# Helpful Tips FOR UPDATING YOUR BYLAWS

BY CARLA WIESE, *Missouri PTA President*

**One of the requirements to be a Unit in Good Standing is to have up-to-date bylaws. To some it might seem overwhelming, but here are some tips to make reviewing or creating bylaws an easier process.**

- Bylaws are renewed (reviewed) every three years. The date is three years from your last approval date which is stamped on the last page of your current bylaws.
- Form a bylaws committee.
- Request a copy of the latest Suggested Unit Bylaws from the MOPTA office or your Regional Director. MOPTA keeps copies of all bylaws on file, if you need a copy.
- To more easily compare, open both documents and view side by side, if possible.
- Automatic amendments (designated with # symbol) are required portions of the bylaws and must be verbatim, including any # symbols.
- The term “local PTA” is a general term that is used throughout the bylaws which covers both PTA and PTSA; do not substitute “local PTSA” in the required portions.
- Wording that requires modification is in **(red, bold)** type.
- In place of “**local PTA name**”, use the full name of your PTA (ex: John Kennedy PTSA). *Do not use a nickname or shorten version (ex: JK PTA).*
- Do not use abbreviations or nicknames for your PTA at any time in your bylaws. Use “PTA” or “PTSA” as appropriate.
- Once your bylaws committee has finished the review, the bylaws will be presented to your general membership for approval. A quorum must be present to vote.
- Remove the underline, **bold**, and **color**, if any, from your bylaws. *Some information in italics is instructional only and should be deleted from your final copy.*
- Bylaws are effective after you receive approval from state.

***Bylaws do not have to be difficult, we are here to help!***

## Bylaws Committee—

Fill in PTA name and region. List the bylaws committee chair and members. Signatures are not required to the state, typed names are acceptable. Note the date the unit voted approval of any changes to the bylaws.

## Index—

This page is for your reference and page numbers will probably need to be adjusted as you make changes.

## **QUICK GLANCE**

### Cover Sheet—

Fill out all areas. It is the only means we have to know who to contact if there are questions.

### Submission—

Bylaws should be saved and submitted as a .doc file. Submit bylaws for approval by emailing an electronic copy of the bylaws and the cover sheet to [bylaws@mopta.org](mailto:bylaws@mopta.org).

## Corrections—

Bylaws will be reviewed for required # amendments, conflicts and “common sense.” If your bylaws are returned for corrections, you will have 30 days to make any corrections. Your PTA will have temporary “good standing” during this time.

*Corrections should be resubmitted electronically by email with subject line - (Unit Name) Bylaws resubmitted.*

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



## WHY DIVERSITY IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIP?

- When PTA units represent their communities, they gain strength and effectiveness through increased volunteer and resource support.
- Your PTA membership should reflect the diversity of the community you serve.

## THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

*Membership really is a year-round endeavor. Read ahead for some tips that can help your PTA unit continue its membership momentum!*

•**make it easy:** if your unit doesn't have an online membership sign up yet go ahead and [set one up](#). Include your membership link on all of your communications, or even better, a simple [QR code](#).

•**ask everyone:** anyone can join PTA! Parents, grandparents, teachers, community members, etc. Create an *Every Member Gets a Member* challenge. Ask your current members to each share PTA with someone else to sign up a new member.

•**Set goals and show your progress:** keep membership campaign visuals (like a thermometer) in a prominent place within your school and plot your progress. Or plant a garden with a flower bulb for each member and watch it flourish.

•**Use your resources:** creating fliers that highlight your PTA and the programs it sponsors are important, but no need to start from scratch. National PTA has an entire [Membership toolkit](#) with graphics and fliers that can be tailored for your PTA unit.

***Need more ideas? Visit [this link](#) for 125 Ways to Increase Membership from National PTA.***



PTA is committed to helping our units to build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive PTA. Click on these links for more info:

[Leadership Tips and Tools](#)

[Supporting Multicultural Membership Growth](#)

[LGBTQ Community Inclusivity in PTA](#)

# Congratulations to the "We Can Do This" Campaign Grant Recipient:

Ruth Oliver Walker  
Elementary PTA



## *Congratulations!*

*2021 – 2022 STEM + Families Science Festival Grant Recipients  
Sponsored by Bayer Fund*

JURY ELEMENTARY PTA  
BARRINGTON ELEMENTARY PTA  
RUTH OLIVER WALKER  
ELEMENTARY PTA





# MOPTA loves MEMBERSHIP

*Help us pay it forward!*

## Every Member Gets a Member

*for the week of*  
**February 14 - 28**



*The unit that has the highest increase in membership for Feb. 14-28 will win \$100 PTA Shop gift certificate. Memberships must be reported to MOPTA by March 1st.*

**RIDING THE WAVES  
TO PTA SUCCESS**

# Save the Date!

**2022 MOPTA CONVENTION**

**OCTOBER 21-23, 2022**

**CAMDEN ON THE LAKE  
LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO**

# A Mindful Minute

BY JESSICA BROADWAY

*Programs & Resource Development*

*a monthly reminder to take a minute*

February is the month to show some love! Everyone is thinking about the parties, no doubt your unit is part of the process of sharing the love this month. In all the crazy, I want to remind you in this edition to slow down by creating moments of intentional connection with your leadership team and your membership.

**Note cards are a great way to intentionally connect.** Your February challenge is to send a note to each PTA or school board member, then commit to sending 5 more notes to your membership.

Sending membership notes is a great executive board activity and will increase your engagement with your membership community. You can always do more than 5, however the idea is to intentionally connect. If you incorporate this idea with your team you can all easily work through the entire membership community in a few months. Imagine the impact connecting with each member would create in your unit. Keep your eyes open for other ways you can connect this month. It will be worth it.

**01 FEBRUARY - 01 MARCH**



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**YESTERDAY - TODAY - TOMMOROW**

# It's school board election season!

Remember, PTAs cannot endorse any candidate for office!

Units and Councils can host candidate forums inviting all candidates to attend

Why?

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- PTA is a 501(c)(3) organization. 501(c)(3) organizations may not support or oppose any candidate for public office. This means PTAs may not endorse candidates, rate candidates, contribute to candidates, or do anything else that might be seen as promoting or diminishing to a candidate
- PTA is a non profit organization, violating the rules could cause your organization to lose your 501 status. If in doubt, contact Missouri PTA

Now more than ever, we need to be able to offer each other grace.

Grace for having different opinions.  
Grace for not always knowing the answer.  
Grace for making mistakes.  
Grace as we learn to do better.  
Grace for doing the best we can.

That's how we get through tough times like these—by lifting each other up, forgiving each other's humanness, and loving each other even when it's hard.

HER VIEW FROM HOME

tinybuddha.com





# CYBER SAFETY

0:04 / 2:09

Scroll for details



## Internet Safety for Kids



*Never give out personal information including name, address, phone number, school name, photos, or passwords.*

Talk to your parents and teachers if you feel uncomfortable with what you see on the internet.

*Be polite and respectful of others online. Never send a message you would not say face-to-face.*



Never meet your online friend alone. Make sure you are with your parents or a trusted adult.



*When chatting online, use a nickname that does not reveal anything about you or your identity.*



Learn more at

[pta.org: smarttalk](http://pta.org: smarttalk)

QUOTES OF THE DAY



Whatever you do, do it well. Do it so well that when people see you do it, they will want to come back and see you do it again and they will want to bring others and show them how well you do what you do.

- WALT DISNEY

QUOTES OF THE DAY

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