

Contact

SUMMER 2022

BY CARLA WIESE, *Missouri PTA President*

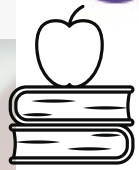
Can you believe it is August? It feels like yesterday we were returning from the National PTA Convention and Legislative Conference. I had the pleasure to represent each of you for both events. Our group was a part of the annual Hill Day visits where we advocated for sensible gun control and increased mental health funding among other things. I always find our visits to the Hill exhilarating. Being able to advocate for the students of Missouri on behalf of our PTA units is an honor. This year I got to watch as two new attendees made their first Hill visits. I can remember how nervous I was on my first visit. I could sense the nervousness but then got to watch as they stepped up and spoke up for students. We also had seasoned PTA leaders as part of our delegation, listening to them and knowing how far they have come in their PTA journeys motivates me daily. Attending LegCon and the National PTA Convention always energizes me and prepares me for the work of our organization into the new year. I learn something new every year as I increase my PTA training.

Now it is August and back-to-school season when all our PTA units are excited and ready with goals, programs and work plans to engage the families in our school communities in PTA. We welcome everyone and come together to make the school and community a better place for all kids. We host engaging events, build membership and launch programs to make our PTA the best ever!

However, the best laid plans and programs are only as great as those leading it. What are you doing as a leader to elevate your PTA? Have you attended a PTA training? As an officer the most important thing you can do is to learn about your role and PTA. Missouri PTA offers several opportunities annually for training. The biggest (and in my opinion best) is to attend the Missouri PTA Annual State Convention. I invite you to attend October 21-23 at Camden on the Lakes at the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks. Registration is open now and the cost to attend can be a line item in your PTA budget. You can find more information in this issue of Contact. So whether you are a brand new officer or a seasoned leader you don't want to miss out.

I hope you all have the best start to the school year and to see each of you in October.
Remember we are always here to help!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



New School Year equals New Membership Opportunities

Back to school is right around the corner and now is the perfect time to make definitive plans for growing your PTA Membership! Here are a few helpful tips:

- **Establish your Membership goals:** work with your executive board to set attainable goals for the year (i.e. grow membership by 10%, 100% staff participation, etc). Your PTA Membership should reflect your school community. Make Diversity, Equity and Inclusion part of any **Membership plan**. A PTA Unit is stronger and more effective when it includes ALL voices.
- **Create a compelling Membership theme and campaign:** Why should someone join your PTA? A good Membership campaign will answer that question and communicate the value of your PTA unit. National PTA has created **a toolkit** to help your unit identify your value message with 3 categories (PTA Supports Your Child, PTA Creates Connections, and PTA Amplifies Your Voice). The Missouri PTA Membership theme for this year is, "PTA Together" and, as always, can be used for your unit.

A simple way to boost Membership is to make the joining process as **easy** as possible.

- 1) Have an option to join online. Develop an online membership form (like Google Forms or Smartsheet) and then share your link via social media.
- 2) Set up an online payment option (like Paypal or Square). Make sure you choose a payment platform that is easy to use and has tracking/reporting.
- 3) Create a **QR code** to quickly and easily connect potential members with your membership form. QR codes can be shared on social media or printed on flyers.



Don't Forget! Each month your unit should report your new memberships and remit payment to **MOPTA**. Every unit who reports memberships by August 31st automatically receives the Early Bird Award!

President Monthly Checklist

The role of the unit PTA president can seem like a daunting task. No mistaking, PTA can be a lot of fun. We make new relationships and grow through our experiences. Still the president is running a non-profit and there are days when it might seem hard to keep up with everything.

This monthly checklist is designed to assist you in your planning and obligations throughout the year.

End of School Year/Start of Term

- o Review unit Bylaws, fiscal year dates, and records
- o Become familiar with Missouri PTA and National PTA resources (mopta.org and pta.org)
- o Meet with outgoing president
- o Meet with incoming executive committee
 - o Develop preliminary calendar
- o Make sure officers are sent to MOPTA
- o Make sure an annual financial review committee is in place
- o Recruit committee volunteers
- o Thrive/E-learning –PTA Basics, Local Unit President & Parliamentary
- o See if eligible for awards (due Aug 31)
- o Make sure to follow MOPTA and NPTA social media

June/July

- o Meet with Principal
- o Hold a summer meeting with Executive board
 - o Finalize calendar
 - o Go over budget if it was not previously adopted
 - o Review meeting process (agenda/voting/motions)
 - o Make sure Financial end of year report is finished (outgoing treasurer)
 - o Make annual review committee is underway (after end of Fiscal Year)
 - o Annual review, complete file 990 (best if outgoing treasurer)
 - o Make a membership campaign plan
 - o Form a bylaws committee if needed
 - o Plan Back-to-School activities
 - o Plan to launch the Reflections program
- o Thrive/E-learning course – Board Basics, Local unit Treasurer & Preventing Theft in your PTA
- o Make sure communication resources are updated (Social Media, website, email lists)
- o Register for the National PTA Back-to-School kit
- o Make sure the unit has insurance

August

- o Host a Back to School event
- o Kick off membership campaign
- o Hold General Meeting
 - o Report of the annual review committee
 - o Report End of Year Financial report
 - o Report on filing of 990
 - o Present budget and vote (if not previously done)
 - o Explain the importance of membership
 - o Explain how the PTA will communicate with members
 - o Committee chairs introduce committee
 - o Outline goals
 - o Amend bylaws, if needed
- o Thrive/E-learning course – Membership basics & Reflections Leaders Training
- o Part of a council – attend or designate individual to represent
- o Attend regional or local PTA trainings
- o Send out *Contact* to membership list
- o Fill out applications for awards due Aug. 31
 - o Outstanding Council Newsletter Award
 - o Outstanding Unit Newsletter Award
 - o Gold Seal Award
 - o Blue Seal Award
 - o Council Achievement Award
 - o Outstanding Unit Website Award
 - o Outstanding Council Website Award
 - o Male Engagement Awards
 - o Health Wellness and Safety Education Award
 - o Parent Education & Engagement Awards
- o Fill out applications for individual and membership awards
 - o Student Safety Award
 - o Advocacy Through Legislation - individual and unit/council
 - o Leaders Project
 - o Advanced Leaders Project

September

- o Hold general membership meeting
- o Send in convention registrations
- o Send out *Contact* to membership list
- o Send in monthly membership dues

September (cont)

- o Apply for awards – Due September 1st
- o Send in End of Year Financial report, Annual Review and copy of 990 (due 12/1)
- o Thrive/E-learning – Quick Guide to Taking & Approving Minutes
- o Kick off Reflections
- o Hold Executive Board meeting

October

- o Attend the Missouri PTA Convention
- o Send in dues
- o Look over awards – see if on track
- o Plan for next general meeting
 - o consider hosting a program or event
 - o recognize Reflection winners
- o Ongoing communication with Exec Board
- o Send out *Contact* to membership list
- o Thrive/E-learning – Effective Advocacy For Your Child
- o Keep communication avenues current (social media, website, newsletters)
- o Send out *Contact* to membership list
- o Share MOPTA social media posts

November

- o Send in dues
- o Send in End of year financial report, annual review report, copy of 990 IRS submission (due 12/1)
- o Send out *Contact* to membership list
- o Hold a General meeting
 - o Plan an event or program
 - o Give a treasurer's report
 - o Recognize Reflection winners
 - o Address any bylaws changes and send amendments to the state
 - o Elect the nominating committee (check bylaws)

December

- o Send in dues
- o Thrive/E-learning – Quick Guide to Budget Basics
- o Plan membership drive for parents
- o Send out *Contact* to membership list
- o End of Year Financial report, 990 submission copy and annual review form due to state office 12/1
- o Upload Reflections entries
- o Share legislative information

January

- o Promote membership drive
- o JC/DC sign up drive
- o Voter registration drive for April election

January (cont)

- o Pass along JC/DC alerts
- o Send out *Contact* to membership list
- o Committees reports for finished work
- o General membership meeting (if didn't hold one in Nov/Dec)

February

- o Send in dues
- o Plan to apply for membership awards – due March 1st
- o Check on nominating committee
- o Hold a Founder's Day event
- o Honor volunteers with the Missouri Distinguished Service Award
- o Send out JC/DC alerts
- o Send out *Contact* to membership list
- o Prepare for March meeting
- o Review guidelines for holding elections

March

- o Send in dues
- o Send out *Contact* to membership list
- o Hold a general meeting – plan an event to bring them in
 - o ELECTIONS – send in officers by 3/31
 - o Address any bylaws changes you might need
- o School board and bond issues
 - o Hold a candidate forum
 - o Consider supporting bond issues
- o Form a budget committee

April/May

- o Send in any dues
- o Send out *Contact* to membership list
- o Have committee's turn in final reports and procedure books
- o Executive board review committee reports and select financial review committee
- o Hold a general meeting – plan an event
 - o Pass budget for next year
 - o Officer induction
 - o Report on accomplishments from the year
 - o Send out a survey
- o Thank all volunteers!

National PTA Commends Movement on a Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill

ALEXANDRIA, Va., (July 29, 2022)—This week, the U.S. House of Representatives' Education & Labor Committee passed the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act, which would reauthorize and strengthen federal child nutrition programs. National PTA President Anna King issued the following statement on the bill:

“National PTA and PTA members nationwide have long advocated to ensure all children have access to critical nutritious food options. Healthy children learn better and are more productive—both in and out of the classroom—and providing all of our nation’s youth with healthy food options and nutrition education is key to their long-term health, well-being and success. Our association applauds the House Education & Labor Committee for passing the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act and moving it onto the full House of Representatives for consideration. Reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs is long overdue, and school districts across the nation have served all students to the best of their ability amidst the pandemic. This bill is a significant step in addressing and ending child hunger, providing much needed resources to school nutrition departments, and improving the health of our nation’s youth.

“The Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act would:

- Provide to families:
 - An ability to qualify for free school meals if the family already participates in Medicaid;
 - A permanent Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) program that would offer \$75 per month per child to cover the cost of food over the summer months when children lose access to free or reduced-price school meals; and
 - An expanded eligibility of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program to cover children up to age 6.

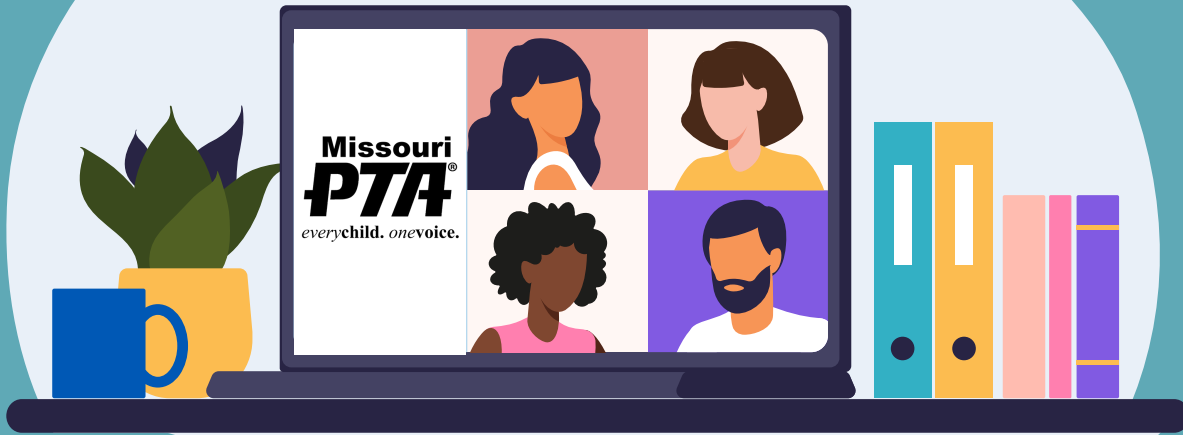
[Click here to keep reading here to see what this bill would provide to school districts, states and U.S. Department of Agriculture and more of National PTA's Anna King's comments.](#)

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IT'S TIME

to submit 2022-23 officers!

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR OFFICERS TO MOPTA



Awards

Check out Missouri PTA's website for newly updated awards forms. [Click here](#) for individual award forms. To access the unit/council award forms or unit membership award forms, [login to the PTA Members Only portion of our website by clicking here](#). You will need your unit's username and password. If this is unknown to you, please contact our office to reset credentials.

Deadline to submit award forms is August 31 to be recognized at the upcoming Missouri PTA Convention in October.

NATIONAL PTA HILL DAY EXPERIENCE

JUNE 14 – 15, 2022

HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR EVERY CHILD!

BY PAULA MCKINNEY, *Missouri PTA VP of Legislation & Advocacy*

I was thrilled to be able to attend the National PTA Legislative Conference Hill Day Experience with my fellow advocates to use our powerful voices to take action for every child held in Washington D.C. This was my first trip ever to our Nation's Capital. It was powerful to walk the halls where many advocates have been.

National PTA's Government Affairs team and the Legislative Committee provided prep meetings before the conference, to help the advocates be prepared for Hill Day meetings.

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

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

- Youth Mental Health
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization
- Community Safety & Youth Violence Prevention

MOPTA was able to thank Senator Blunt on his work on the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. This legislation is a significant step forward in addressing the school safety and gun violence epidemic our country has endured for far too long.

PTA Members across the country have played a critical role in advocating for common sense solutions to gun violence. This remains a top priority for the National PTA and Missouri PTA to prevent and eliminate gun violence, promote the safety and well-being of all children, and ensure every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Advocacy is the most important role of PTA. Being able to meet face to face with our members of congress is powerful. This was a wonderful opportunity to share what priorities are important to Missouri children and families.



A Mindful Minute

BY JESSICA BROADWAY

Programs & Resource Development

a monthly reminder to take a minute

As summer is winding down and you are forecasting the school year ahead, one thing to keep in mind is to **set aside time to nurture connections**. The 2021-2022 school year felt a lot like practicing how to work together again; from PTA boards and school boards to the inner workings of the teacher, parent, student relationship.

As the 2022-23 school year is preparing to kick off, I want to encourage each unit President to make **connecting** part of their checklist this year. Some do it well, others need to have it scheduled so it doesn't get overlooked. However you work in time to connect with your teams, MAKE it happen.

If this is something you are naturally good at, I'd love to hear some of your favorite ways to nurture connections in your schools. If you need some ideas to get you started, these are two of my favorite, tried and true ones to get you started:

1. **Sip and Solve** - *Invite your PTA team to get together for coffee to positively discuss ways to engage more families this year.*
2. **Texting** - *Texting can feel very impersonal at times. At times, a quick text to let someone know you thought of them or hope they have a good day is far more effective than the intention (but maybe not following through) to call, send a note, check in. Doing wins more points than thinking.*

OPEN POSITIONS

Join a dynamic team of passionate advocates!

- **IT Manager**
- **Reflections Chair**
- **Student Involvement Chair**
- **Bylaws & Procedures Chair**

[Learn more about the positions at mopta.org](https://mopta.org)



**RIDING THE WAVES
TO PTA SUCCESS**

Save the Date!

2022 MOPTA CONVENTION

**REGISTRATION
OPEN**

OCTOBER 21-23, 2022

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

Back to School

CHILD INTRO TIP

Helpful tip from a member of Missouri PTA Exec Team

I love introducing my neurodiverse kiddos to their new teachers with these face pages. But I have friends that use this template for their neurotypical kids, too! I encourage teachers to share this page with school professionals (specials teachers, substitutes, administration, etc) that also work with my kids. This resource has been valuable not just as a get-to-know-you for the beginning of the school year, but I've heard positive feedback from teachers that they have utilized this document to help empower my kids during the school day throughout the school year. If my kiddo is escalating or having a sensory meltdown, there are conversation pieces to ground them. If they are having a bad day, there are many ideas for things that they love and activities that bring a smile to their face. If an academic concept is not clicking, teachers have found inspiring ways to reach out to my kiddos that I couldn't even dream and make a real connection with them. This one document has helped us make a positive difference in the daily life of my kids and I'm happy I get to share the template with others!

[Click the photo for the editable template on Cavana](#)



TEACH ME TO SOAR AND I WILL. -KELLEE HAMPTON

BUNNY GIRL

VISION STATEMENT

We envision Bunny Girl rocking her 6th grade year through exploration, adventures, and building stability for her middle school years.

I LOVE:

- READING
- MY FAMILY
- CRAFTING

- ANIMALS
- MISS KELLY
- COOKING
- GAMES
- MAGIC TRICKS

Strengths

- Quick Learner
- Advanced Reader
- Stellar Vocabulary
- Great Performer

- Logical
- Methodical
- Curious and Brave
- Creative & Inventive

What works for me

- Patience and kind responses
- Fresh starts
- Routine w/ few changes
- Transition warnings
- Using my headphones & books to recover
- A friend to join me for hallway travels
- Therapy and 1:1 Adult time

What doesn't work for me

- Overstimulating environments
- Sharing my space
- Unsupervised internet access
- Constant correction
- "Baby" talk or Parent-ese
- Quick or unexpected changes

I am working on:

- SELF REGULATION
- FOLLOWING RULES
- SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS
- SAFE CHOICES
- THINKING BEFORE REACTING

I ASKED EVERYONE “WHY PTA?” AT #PTACON2022

BY KRISTINA WILMOTH
VP of Communications

This year, flying into Washington DC reminded me of returning to high school in a dream. Everything felt familiar but also felt a bit “off” at the same time. Convention attendees stayed at an amazing hotel in Maryland, giving us access to a part of the area I’ve never visited before. Between sessions, it was easy to step outside or walk to a restaurant which gave me more opportunities to approach fellow convention attendees and ask them my burning question, “Why PTA?”

The motivation behind my simple question is not to convince myself of PTA’s benefits or purpose. I’m 100% PTA sold! I’m a t-shirt-wearing, Facebook-post-sharing, Avery-business-card-carrying PTA advocate. But now, I find myself on a mission to answer questions like: Why PTA instead of PTO? Why PTA...

- when a dad is advocating for an IEP?
- when I’m helping a single mom find housing and food while her kids are in school?
- membership drive for a school population that is 98% free/reduced school lunches?
- for the community focused on health initiatives?
- when our children are marching against gun violence?
- for well-resourced schools that want to reach out to help their community?
- Why bring up PTA to a family who is worried about basic needs—those things like housing, food, etc. Things located at the bottom of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs?

Why PTA?

Because all of these issues filter through PTA’s mission and values. That’s the answer I heard, over and over during the convention when I asked fellow attendees, presenters, and leaders. In different voices they answered me in their own words but with the same message. PTA has resolutions available to support these platforms because through the years, advocates just like you and I have brought these issues to PTA. We have stood up for the families in need, the communities in chaos, and the schools making a difference. We have spoke up as an organization that cares about these important issues and these emerging patterns.

***As an organization, we agreed together that we are here to advocate for:
Every child
With
One voice!***

***We support you.
We are PTA.
And that is why.***

Do you know our mission and values? I challenge you to learn and memorize it with me. Let’s all stand in confidence and filter our advocacy through this each day! 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.

PTA Values:
Commitment Collaboration
Diversity Respect
Accountability

One Day on the Hill

BY LAYLA BARBUR

Social Media Chair

This year PTA celebrated 125 years of advocating for children, so what better way to commemorate this milestone than by traveling to our Nation's capital to do just that, meet with lawmakers to advocate on behalf of every child. The National PTA Anniversary was held in National Harbor, MD where it kicked off with Capitol Hill Day. Representatives from all over the country met to address pressing issues facing our children today. These topics included Youth Mental Health, Community Safety and Youth Violence Prevention, Child Nutrition Reauthorization and Federal Funding.

I made the personal choice to attend for several reasons. I felt strongly about each of these asks, especially after seeing firsthand, the toll these past few years had on our children, physically and mentally. I also wanted to become more engaged in our political process and learn more about how we can make a difference, or even if we could make a difference. I joined other advocates from the Missouri State PTA, including Missouri PTA President Carla Wiese, President-Elect Christine Kent, Vice President & Director of Legislation Paula McKinney, Advocacy Chair Virginia Pennington, and past Missouri State PTA President and member of the National PTA Elections Committee Donna Petiford. The six of us came together to meet with our state representatives and do what we try to do every day... advocate for our children.

Paula secured a meeting with Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer as well as with aides for Rep. Jason Smith, Rep. Vicky Hartzler, Rep. Billy Long, Sen. Roy Blunt and Sen. Josh Hawley. I learned some incredible lessons during that one day on the Hill. I learned that no matter how comfortable you think your shoes are, when it's that hot and you walk that much, there is no such thing as comfortable. I learned that no matter where you stand politically, or how you may differ, you can still have meaningful and productive conversations when it comes to our children, I learned that you can never be too prepared for those

conversations and while you are there to educate, you can't help but also be educated.... And most importantly I learned that despite the odds, you can make a difference. Especially when life has a way of emphasizing your message.

As we spoke to our state representatives about the importance of child safety and gun prevention in Missouri schools, the threat of a mass shooting caused Blue Springs and several other area school districts to shut down. By the time we reached Roy Blunt's office, his aide had already heard. We went in that day with personal examples and statistics to make our arguments more relatable and more compelling, but even that was a bit too relevant for comfort. Yet, they listened when we pointed out that not every school in our state has been retrofitted with double security doors, how bonds are still being passed to make these facilities safer. They listened when we pointed out how those safety measures won't keep out students, students who may have access to weapons they shouldn't. They listened when we talked about the relationship between Community Safety, Youth Violence Prevention and Mental Health, and they were especially interested to learn about the pilot program initiated by University of Missouri and being formed by a collaborative group of stakeholders from around the state, including Carla Wiese from Missouri State PTA representing the voice of parents. The program is designed to address the shortage of counselors in Missouri schools by partnering with medical providers to provide diagnostics and other resources. Everyone we spoke with about this program wanted to learn more.

Lastly, we focused on Child Nutrition Reauthorization. As someone who has spent years helping to fight food insecurity through the Kansas City Zombie Walk for Hunger, I volunteered to put together talking points. This was especially easy considering we knew school meals would no longer be free for families, beginning with summer school, however, we also learned one week prior

to Hill Day that the board had voted to increase the cost of school meals due to the rising price of food. I knew many families were still struggling from lost jobs and pay cuts due to the pandemic, that many families may not qualify for free and reduced lunches but would have to choose between healthy meals or transportation.

I was also able to share that for many children, school meals are their best, and sometimes only, opportunity to eat a healthy, well-balanced meal. Food insecurity and the need for child nutrition programs have only grown during the pandemic. According to Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research, in January 2021, an estimated 27.8% of adults living with children experienced food insecurity. In Missouri, nearly 20% of school age children are currently dealing with food insecurity. Once again, they listened.

We left that day hot, sweaty, tired, but above all else, proud of what we had accomplished during those meetings. But even better than that was how we felt as the conversations we all had, state by state, began to make a difference. One week after Hill Day, Congress passed Bipartisan Gun legislation which was co-sponsored by 10 republicans including Missouri Senator Roy Blunt. Most recently, the U.S. House of Representatives' Education & Labor Committee passed the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act, which would reauthorize and strengthen federal child nutrition programs, which among other things has funding to help cover the cost of food over the summer months when children lose access to free or reduced-price school meals.

The work is far from over. We still have a lot to do to make our schools safer, to make healthy food more accessible and to help our children when they are struggling. But together, our voice can make a difference, for every child.

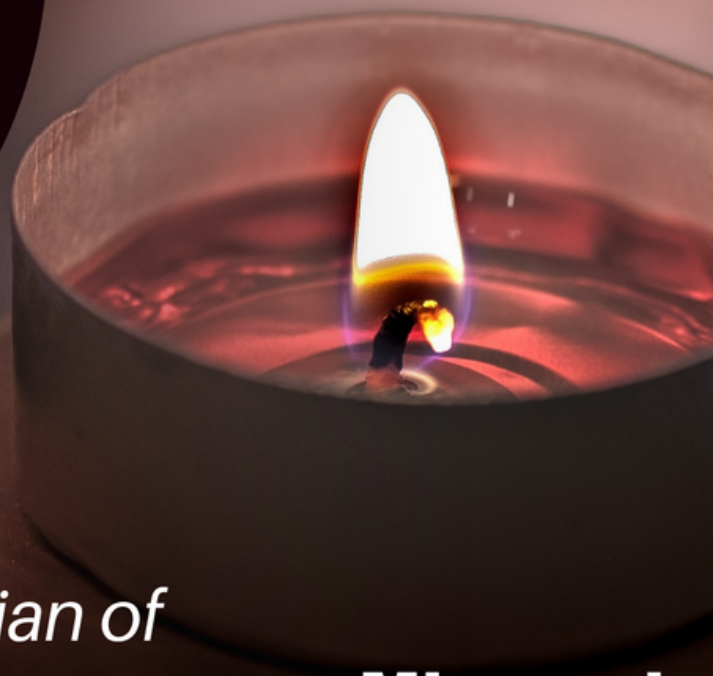
In loving memory of

Dr. Leonard Young



1950 - 2022

*Respected Parliamentarian of
Missouri PTA for many years*



**Missouri
PTA[®]**
everychild. onevoice.