

# Contact

SPRING 2023

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# Realistic Goals

BY CARLA WIESE, *Missouri PTA President*

I have answered many calls and emails about the lack of volunteers this year among our PTAs. I know for many PTAs this is another year of rebuilding and reenergizing your PTA. What has worked in the past may no longer be feasible, and it is ok to evaluate and set realistic goals for your PTA.

I liken your PTA to a marathon. When the race begins there are a lot of bystanders, all excited and happily cheering the racers on. The starting gun sounds, the race progresses, and inevitably the crowd cheering the racers gradually becomes smaller. Racers begin to tire as they near the midpoint where a crowd again gathers to cheer the racers on. The racers are invigorated by the enthusiasm and cheers and quickly race toward the finish.

As the finish line approaches, the crowds begin to become smaller again and the racers begin to feel exhausted. The racers are tired and focused on finishing the race. Some even question why they are racing and may drop out. There is another crowd gathered at the finish to cheer for the race well run and the satisfaction of completing the race. How would the racers feel if they had a marathon with only bystanders supporting them for the first few miles? What if the race had no cheering crowds because of the weather? Would the lack of bystanders diminish the likelihood of any signing up for another race?

I share this anecdote because the PTA year is much like a marathon. As officers, the year begins with much enthusiasm and volunteers. As the year progresses volunteers become more difficult to find but often PTAs are afraid to shorten their race because of what has historically been done. Officers are stretched thin and often feel unappreciated. Our PTA race had COVID tossed in and now many of you are struggling. It is ok, and often necessary, to decrease the amount of things your PTA does. If you become too exhausted to finish the race and there are no volunteers to lend a hand, are benefiting your school? Set realistic goals with the volunteers you have. Not only will your PTA be more successful but you will have an easier time finding and retaining officers. As you build your volunteer base you can then begin to increase programs. Remember it is not quantity but quality. PTA operates best when it is not a chore but something you look forward to being a part of.

**Never be afraid to ask for help and don't give up!**

# 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 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 and read the Procedures for Bylaws Review.
- Request a copy of the Suggested Unit bylaws from the office or your Regional Director. If you do not have a copy of your bylaws we can provide you with a copy.
- Open both documents and view them side by side if possible so you can easily compare the two.
- Automatic amendments (designated with the # 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.*

# **NATIONAL PTA HAS PROPOSED A DUES RATE INCREASE**

## **WHAT IS IT?**

The National PTA Board of Directors voted in December 2022 to propose a **\$4.00** dues rate, which is a **\$1.75** adjustment.

## **WHO DOES IT AFFECT?**

**ALL** units will be affected. If the dues rate increase passes, it will go into effect for the **2023-24 school year**. MOPTA dues will remain the same.

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Send comments or suggestions for the modified dues rate to **[ProposedDuesRate@pta.org](mailto:ProposedDuesRate@pta.org)** before **May 17, 2023**.

To vote on this matter, plan to attend the **National PTA virtual convention** in **June 2023**.

## **HOW CAN YOU LEARN MORE?**

Read the **[FAQ](#)** page or contact National PTA by email at **[ProposedDuesRate@PTA.org](mailto:ProposedDuesRate@PTA.org)**



## 2023 Legislative Platform

PTA defines advocacy as the act of supporting and speaking on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children. Advocacy stands alone as the most important job of the PTA.

### MISSOURI PTA SUPPORTS:

#### YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Legislation to address the current youth mental health crisis, inclusive of coordinated, comprehensive, culturally competent and effective mental and behavioral health services in the school setting and invest in Missouri's future.

Legislation that supports increased access to mental health services for children. This includes increases in funding due to the mental health crisis created by COVID and the hiring of additional therapists and counselors within the school districts.

Legislation that would protect children and youth from being discriminated against based on race, religion or sexual orientation.

Legislation to strengthen laws designed to protect minors from abuse and increase funding for programs and services aimed at the prevention of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment.

#### DATA PRIVACY

Legislation that will safeguard the educational and personal records of students with special emphasis on data privacy and security.

#### COMMUNITY SAFETY AND YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Legislation that ensures our children are protected from harm and support schools in their efforts to create safe and welcoming spaces for every child to enhance development, growth and safety for all of Missouri's students.

Legislation for Juvenile Justice Reform supporting community-based alternatives, implementation of policies to reduce ethnic and socioeconomic disparities within the system, and ensuring juvenile offenders are seen by a juvenile judge and housed in appropriate facilities.

#### CHILD HEALTH & NUTRITION

Legislation to protect child well-being through access to federal and state nutrition programs, nutrient-rich food, and education focused on healthy habits.

Legislation to address the manufacturing of and ingredients in e-cigarettes and other ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) as well as to prohibit the advertising, marketing and sale of e-cigarettes and other ENDS, to youth (18 years or younger) and to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes and other ENDS in public places and on school grounds.

# JOIN US FOR REGIONAL

Missouri  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild. onevoice.*

## *Conference & Reflections Showcase*



## APRIL 15, 2023

Kansas City, MO

# Congratulations to the 2022-2023 "Show Your Voice" State Reflections Program Winners!

*A complete list of winners can be found [here](#)*

## Dance Choreography

Emilyne Jordan, Sunny Pointe Elementary  
Ella Barnett, Chapel Lakes  
Araya Harden, Moreland Ridge Middle School  
Sherry Shen, Hickman High School

## Film Production

Liam Cummings, Chapel Lakes  
Aiden Noel, EPIC Elementary  
Zach Saucier, Delta Woods Middle School  
Sarah Won, Hickman High School  
Kaleb Brooks, Cordill-Mason Elementary

## Music Composition

Margot Kaiser, Voy Spears Jr. Elementary  
Collins Bushell, Chapel Lakes  
Isaac Faust, New Mark  
Augustus Lookingbill, Hickman High School

## Photography

August Hystead, George S. Bryant  
Haven Manuel, Mason Elementary  
Ellie Ciolek, Delta Woods Middle School  
Brooke Bess, Rock Bridge HS  
Sophia Saunders, Delta Woods Middle School

## Visual Arts

Adalyn Goodwin, Lucy Franklin Elementary  
Nora Lair, Chapel Lakes  
Sophia Chang, Central High School  
Keren Ding, Central High School

## Literature

Primary– Emily Lievsay, James Walker Elementary  
Rachel Brawley, Wanda Gray Elementary  
Claire Keeton, Delta Woods Middle School  
Kathryn Myers, Hickman High School  
Bodie Barker, Cordill-Mason Elementary



PTAs will activate Earth Day activities on Saturday, **April 22, 2023**, and build a better environment in their local community and have fun! Your PTA Day of Service project can be an Earth Day event already being planned or something new. What's most important is that the event is meaningful to your PTA community.

**Your service project should focus on the theme: A Better Environment**

Click [here](#) for more information or to register your unit for the PTA Day of Service.

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