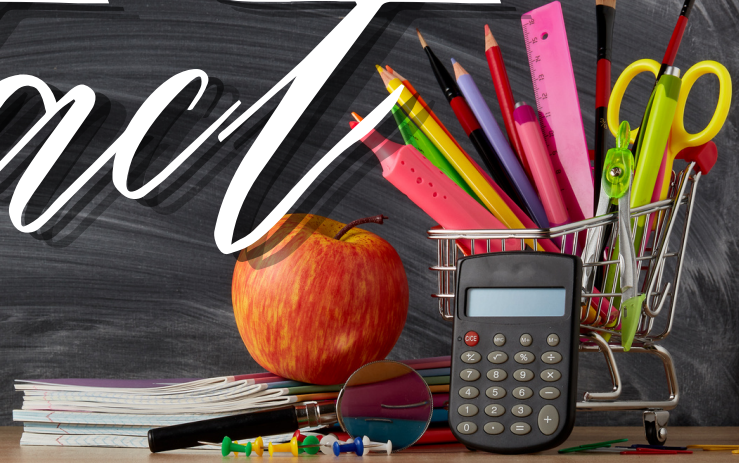


# Contact

AUGUST 2023



## BACK TO SCHOOL

In this Issue

- Kindness Matters
- Convention Registration
- Do's and Dont's for PTA Leaders
- Legislative Platform
- Convention Sneak Peek
- Membership

...and more!



# *Kindness Matters*

*Carla Wiese*

**If you are like me you send your children off to school with the reminder to be kind. You encourage them to offer a new student a seat at their lunch table, words of encouragement, or even a simple smile. You hope they will be kind and friends with everyone. You teach and train your children but your actions speak louder than words. Are you practicing what you ask?**

**As PTA leaders, you are in a unique position. You are the face of PTA and an ambassador for your school. How did you feel the first time you walked into your school? I remember feeling very apprehensive wondering if I would fit in with the other parents. Would they all ignore me because they knew each other? But I was very fortunate. I walked into the room and was met with a huge smile and a warm welcome. I was hooked and soon had a new group of friends.**

**I carried those feelings forward into my presidency with the desire to make everyone feel valued and an integral part of PTA. I challenge myself to try and speak with everyone in the room. I know now more than ever how precious our volunteers and members are.**

**My challenge to you this month is to put on your brightest smile and promote your PTA while encouraging your officers and members. The key to building a successful PTA is securing its longevity through growing your membership. The easiest thing you can do is be welcoming and interact with your members. Whether they are first-time or long-time members, both are equally important. Thank them for attending and invite them back. Your kind words will leave a lasting impression and, who knows, a future president could be sitting in your audience.**

# Health Tips for the Back to School Rush

1

*Prioritize sleep, exercise, and nutrition.*

These 3 basics are the foundation for a healthy body.

2

*Practice good hygiene* by washing your hands, covering your coughs, and keeping your hands out of the eyes, nose, and mouth.

3

*Talk to kids about safety rules* including online safety and getting to and from school safely.

4

*Talk to kids about safety rules* including online safety and getting to and from school safely.

5

*Stay home if you feel sick.* This is the best way to help others around you stay healthy.

# CONVENTION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

TO

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

Registration  
**NOW OPEN**



**CLICK HERE** 

[to register at mopta.org](https://mopta.org)

GET A SNEAK PEEK AT SOME OF OUR

CONVENTION SPEAKERS AT THE END OF THIS ISSUE!



# 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.



it's **BTS** time!

is your

**PTA**

**READY?**

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



IT'S GO-TIME FOR PTA MEMBERSHIP, IS YOUR UNIT READY FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL? [CLICK HERE](#) TO CHECK OUT THIS ONE VOICE BLOG POST FROM NATIONAL PTA, IT'S FULL OF GREAT IDEAS AND HELPFUL LINKS TO START YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIP STRONG!

DON'T FORGET TO REPORT THOSE MEMBERSHIPS TO MISSOURI PTA, IT'S SO SIMPLE. JUST [CLICK HERE](#) FOR ONLINE SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT.



# DOS AND DON'TS FOR PTA LEADERS

## BE ORGANIZED

Practice good record-keeping to be sure your meeting minutes, budget, and other important documents are current and available when needed.

## EXCLUDE NEW MEMBERS

Be sure there are no cliques or "inner circles" within your PTA. Share your contact information with new members when they join PTA, or even better, form a welcoming committee! Engage new members to make them feel a part of the group.

## REINVENT THE WHEEL

There are likely systems in place for running your PTA unit. Use those systems and only change them when they are no longer effective. No need to fix what isn't broken.

## BE REALISTIC

Set goals that you can achieve with the group and budget that you have. Plan ahead and form committees for bigger events and projects. Keep in mind that a small, well-run event leaves a better impression than a big unorganized event.

## SHARE THE LOAD

Trying to do it all can easily lead to burnout. Ask for help if you're feeling overwhelmed. Include an interest survey in your PTA registration form. You likely have someone who is willing to help but isn't sure *how* to help.

## GIVE UP

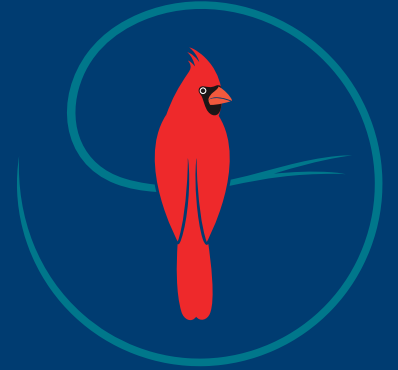
PTA can be hard work but it's well worth it! Remember your "why" for joining and use that as your fuel to keep going.

## GET STUCK IN A RUT

This may seem contradictory to "don't reinvent the wheel" but let's face it - times are changing. Things like QR codes, social media engagement, and online-only fundraisers may help you keep up with the times.

## ASK FOR HELP

Whether you're new to PTA and feeling lost or a seasoned PTA veteran looking for new ways, there are resources to help you! Contact your regional PTA Council or MOPTA for help.

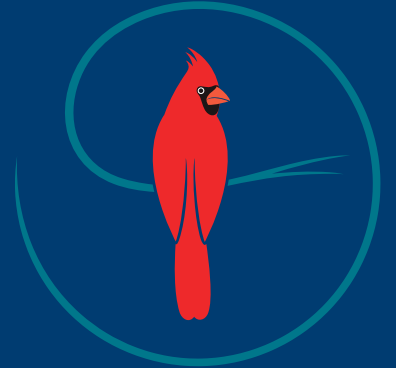


*Keynote Spotlight*

**MELISSA RANDOL, ESQ.**

BUILDING A TEAM WITH YOUR SCHOOL BOARD





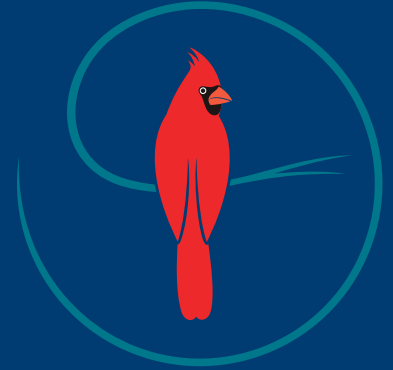
## *Keynote Spotlight*

**SGT. DARRIN HASLAG | BRENDA SCHELL & VAN GODSEY**

MSHP

MISWEST HIDTA

-- DRUG THREAT AWARENESS --



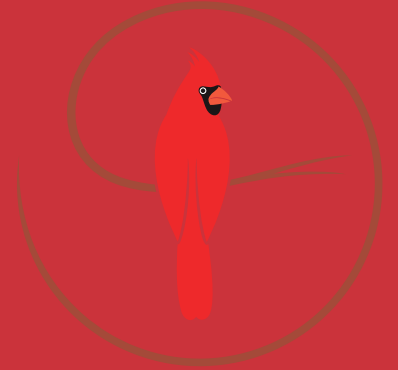
*Keynote Spotlight*

**GLEN MOORE & TERRELL BAKER**

BRIDGING THE GAP:

HOW THE PTA CAN BE AN ADVOCATE FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

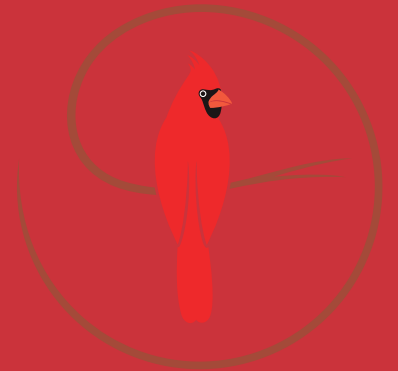




# *Speaker Spotlight*

**CARLA WIESE**

PRESIDENT | BY-LAWS | Q&A

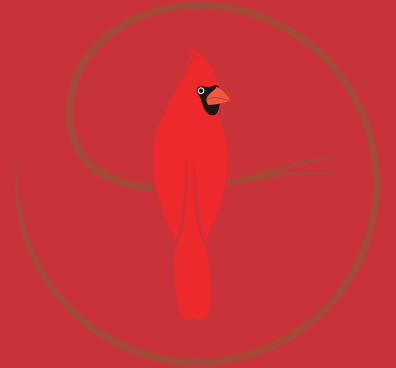


*Speaker Spotlight*

**CHRISTINE KENT**

BUDGET BASICS | TREASURER | Q&A

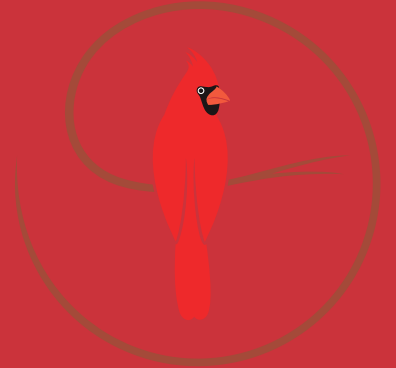




*Workshop Spotlight*

**LORENZO HARRISON**

ALLYSHIP IN YOUR PTA: LETTING GO OF  
OUTDATED LANGUAGE



*Workshop Spotlight*

**LAYLA BARBUR**

GRANTS ANY PTA CAN EASILY  
APPLY FOR... AND GET!