CALL TO CONVENTION ISSUE

The Official Publication of the Pennsylvania PTA
In Memorium

Debbie Munson

I am sad to report that Hattie Louise Lehigh, Past President of Pennsylvania PTA, passed away on April 28, 2022.

Hattie was President from 1984 - 1986. The Theme during her term, was “Children—The Rainbows of Our Future” and was geared to legislation, programs, communications, parent involvement, and increased grassroots communication; with regional leadership team training being initiated. Hattie was a familiar presence at the Saturday banquets during Pennsylvania PTA’s conventions. Hattie and her husband Glenn attended until the past year. They were both very kind, loving people who always had a smile for all they met. When I became President, Hattie sent me a very kind letter of encouragement, expressing her confidence in my ability to do the job. It was very appreciated by me and I still have that letter.

Hattie was a big supporter of legislation for children and was dedicated to Pennsylvania PTA. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Hattie and her family. I know, I for one, will miss her at future conventions.

Hattie’s obituary is below:

Hattie Louise Lehigh, 86, of York died April 28, 2022 surrounded by her loving family at her residence. She was the wife of Glenn F. Lehigh. Glenn and Hattie celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on August 14, 2021. Born August 14, 1935 in West York, she was the daughter of the late Martin W. and Glendine (Gillespie) McCauslin. Hattie was a 1953 graduate of William Penn Senior High School. Hattie was a Teacher's Aide at the elementary schools in the School District of the City of York for many years and served as a Board Member to the School Board. Hattie dedicated her life to not only her family but to any child she met. Volunteering and serving others were her life. She served in many capacities at the local PTA’s in the City Schools. Hattie was the President of the Pennsylvania State PTA from 1984-1986. While serving as President of the State PTA, her theme was "Children—the Rainbows of our future". She was also an honorary member of the National PTA. Hattie was involved in all of her children's activities. When she was not volunteering in the school system, she was found helping her Church. She was currently a member of Otterbein United Methodist Church in Emigsville. She was a Sunday School teacher for over 50 years. Hattie was a member of the United Methodist Women where she was a former President of the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Hattie and Glenn were involved with the Refugee Resettlement Committee through the local United Methodist Churches from 1985-2013. During this time, the Committee sponsored 22 families. In addition to her loving husband, Hattie is survived by her 3 children, Jeffrey Lehigh and his wife, Gloria, Kimberly Bair and her husband, Arnold, and Douglas Lehigh and his wife, Theresa all of York, 10 grandchildren, Brady and Dalton Lehigh, Rebecca Cappetta, Jamye Shah, LeAnn Salari, Brandon and Ashley Bair; Kelsie Bivona, Devin Lehigh, and Ryan Werner; 9 great grandchildren; her sister, Judy Werner and her husband, Robert; and her sister-in-law, Mary Fortney. She was preceded in death by her 2 sisters, Betty Guyer and Barbara McCauslin.

The Official Publication of the Pennsylvania PTA
2022 PTA CAPITOL HILL DAY ASK:
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Because all children should feel safe and welcome at school and in their community!

Congress must pass legislation that:
● Invests in evidence-based community violence intervention strategies
● Requires a waiting period and a comprehensive background check for all individuals prior to purchasing a firearm
● Funds research on gun violence prevention and encourages reporting on school crime and safety
● Prevents discrimination and harmful disciplinary practices in schools
● Encourages gun safety education and the safe storage of firearms

Issue Overview
A person’s exposure to gun violence and other traumatic events in childhood significantly impacts their mental and physical health through adulthood, including being at increased likelihood of abusing drugs and alcohol, suffering from depression, anxiety and posttraumatic stress disorder, failing or having difficulties in school, and becoming involved in the justice system.

Violence, especially by firearm, not only directly impacts individual children, but whole families and whole school communities.

☐ An estimated 46 million American children will be affected by violence, crime, abuse, or psychological trauma in a given year.
☐ Firearms in particular are now the leading cause of death for American children and teens, and youth suicide by firearm has increased 59% over the last decade.
☐ Approximately 3 million American children witness gun violence every year, including the students and families affected by the 875 incidents of gunfire on school grounds that have been recorded in America since 2013. PTA’s Recommendations The time is long overdue for Congress to adopt measures that ensure 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 our nation’s students.

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Note: Views expressed in articles contained in this publication that were submitted by non-PTA affiliates are not necessarily the views of the Pennsylvania PTA.
President’s Message: Summer Time to Prepare for Our Children

Marie Merkel, President

Carpe Diem-Seize the Day!

These are the words that a very good friend and mentor spoke at my installation as State President. We need to follow these words as we go through our lives - don’t let it go, be ready to live it now with immediacy, passion, and gusto. “Live every moment and enjoy life. Always remember to love those in your life and treat others with respect. Be remembered for your smile, the laugh lines around your eyes, and the twinkle deep within.”

Make every day special.

Our Children are our most precious constituents and moving through each day, we should Seize the Day with our children, and what we do for our children as PTA advocates, whether it is through programs in the school, family engagement activities, or meeting with our legislators on important issues affecting all of our children.

Throughout these summer months, I encourage you to prepare for this coming school year by seizing the day and every opportunity to spend time with your children and family. Enjoy these days that are so very precious. In addition to quality time with your family, this is the time to re-energize and prepare for your upcoming school year - through reviewing the responsibilities of your position, board team building, and planning activities that promote our mission of PTA. Together, we will work through the challenges of today’s world and how it affects our children and the educational system as we know it today.

I challenge you all to reach out to your Pennsylvania State Board of Directors with questions and concerns. Our State Board of Directors offers monthly webinars on various topics of leadership and we welcome each of you to be a part of these webinars and discussions. Please contact us at any time through our website at www.papta.org.

PTA’s Mission is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

everychild.onevoice
Hello, my fellow Pennsylvania Leaders and members!

Having just came back from the National PTA’s 125th Convention I am hoping that this is the easiest article that I ever have to write. If you missed out – then you really missed out. Taking many days away from your families or your job might be difficult, so start planning now to attend the Pennsylvania State Convention!! This year will be VIRTUAL, so take part in this year's Convention in your favorite fall pj's.

Mark your calendars now to attend the Pennsylvania State Convention!!!

I had the opportunity to sit in on every workshop that our National President, Anna King presented. They were AWESOME!!

There were a few key points that she really kept driving home. One is something that makes you want to really think about, not only in your leadership in PTA, but in everyday life. But I can guarantee that over 80% of us are guilty. Ready?

**LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND – NOT LISTEN TO RESPOND!!**

How many of us actually do listen to understand and not just to respond? I have found myself just waiting for someone to be done talking, so I can give my opinion on how I see something. Now, I catch myself, not every time, but you have to start somewhere!

**Who can name the six characteristics of an inclusive leadership?**

Don’t worry I couldn’t name them all either. But after this you will.

They are: cognizance, curiosity, cultural intelligence, collaboration, commitment, and courage.

We are all human, and I am sure we all unintentionally have been an non-inclusive leader. Think about it, I know I have.

Now, think of what actions you could have taken to be inclusive. After you have thought about some scenarios, then also think of ways that you are going to make sure that you are an all-inclusive leader. No one wants to be left out. We all have biases, it's every leader’s Achilles’ heel. Not everyone sees the world through the same cultural frame.

Talking about and acknowledging our own personal imperfections is hard, but we have to admit it and change it within ourselves. Hopefully this will make you be aware, have an inclusive mindset, identify ways to engage with others through inclusivity and help to make you a better inclusive leader.
The Importance of Document Retention

Kelly Atkinson, Secretary & Convention Chair

As PTA Secretary, it’s an essential part of our responsibility to ensure that a document retention policy is established and maintained! This may seem like a daunting task but it’s necessary and you will find that it may be extremely useful in the future! Think of a document retention policy simply as a document management policy. It is unwieldy and unrealistic, as well as unnecessary, to think that a nonprofit will keep every single document it generates. Normally, it is fine to clean up your some of your files and documents annually, but let’s consider this scenario: when one individual deletes or destroys a key document, and that document is needed later -- or if the subject matter of the document is under legal investigation and it appears that the organization deleted it as a cover-up – trouble can follow. Adopting a written document retention policy ensures that all members of the leadership team follow consistent guidance about document retention and destruction; and document retention/destruction practices become a regular practice of the PTA.

Here are some easy tips:

- Think of it as simply a record of what types of documents the PTA must retain and for how long.
- Look into your local and state-specific laws on document retention for non-profits.
- Ensure that the policy specifies that the PTA will also adhere to a regular business practice of document retention and destruction according to the schedule referred to in the policy.
- Your document retention policy should apply equally to documents saved in the cloud, on a server, or in a filing cabinet. Any digital documentation retention practices should always have a backup plan (ie separate drive or cloud service).

We are here to help!
If you would like guidance on creating a new or revising a current Documentation Retention Policy for your PTA, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at secretary@papta.org!

There is also a Records Retention List in the Members Only section under the “Forms” tab that has what documents should be saved and for how long.
Debbie Munson, Treasurer

Now that you have a bit of a lull in your PTA duties, it might be a great time to set up procedures for handling your PTA funds, if you don’t have them in place yet. One of the best ways to avoid embezzlement or theft is to have good money handling practices in place. The procedures can be written into the standing rules or as a separate policy. Either one should be approved by the membership and updated as needed.

We all like to believe that our volunteers are all good, honest people, and for the most part they are, but sadly, this isn’t always true. Having these practices in place protects the PTA as well as the treasurer and those who are handling PTA funds.

- The first thing to remember is to have all money come into school in a sealed envelope.
- There should always be at least two non-related people counting the money.
- A cash turned in for events form* should be filled out and signed by those counting the money.
- Money should be turned over to the treasurer for deposit on a daily basis if an event carries over for more than one day.
- Money for each day/event should be taken to the treasurer, counted with the treasurer and a cash turned in form* should be signed by both parties. You should leave with a receipt that shows how much you gave to the treasurer.
- The treasurer should then fill out a deposit slip and deposit the money into the PTA bank account. Night deposits can be set up with your bank if needed.

Money should never be stored at the school or in your car or home. If it is lost or stolen the insurance won’t cover your loss.

*These forms and several others are in the treasurer’s section of the Members Only tab on the Pennsylvania PTA’s website: papta.org. Feel free to use them or design one that works for your PTA.

Sharing is Oh So Good!

Presidents: All correspondence is sent to you free of charge. It is your duty to ensure your members benefit from it as well. Encourage each of them to visit www.papta.org. The Members Only section is full of resources that will make them more efficient PTA leaders. Please be sure to share all information you
Pennsylvania PTA Visits Capitol Hill - June 15, 2022

On June 14th, six members of Pennsylvania PTA’s Board of Directors joined NPTA and other state leadership teams for the 2022 Hill Day Experience at the 125th Anniversary Convention. Our Legislative Group included: Marie Merkel, President; Cynthia-Grace Devine-Kepner, Federal Legislative Chair; Beth Dale, President-elect; Sharon Sitch-Brode, Legislation & Advocacy Chair; Beth Kaczmarczyk, Region 10 Director; and Casey Mutzabaugh, Region 11 Director. Upon arrival on June 14th, all participants in the Hill Experience met for a Welcome and Reception regarding the visit to Capitol Hill on June 15th, followed by time for our groups to plan and strategize their “asks” for Hill Day visits. National PTA requested that Congress enact legislation to our 2022 Hill Asks. There were specific appropriations and bills that were provided to help address the health and safety of every child. Leaders called on Congress to enact funding levels and pieces of legislation to ensure that our children are safe and healthy. This year’s asks included: Invest in Our Nation’s Youth (Equitable Funding), Enact Sensible Community Safety and Youth Violence Prevention Measures, Address the Current Youth Mental Health Crisis, and Improve & Increase Access to the Federal Child Nutrition Programs. Our group was able to meet with the legislative assistants for the following U.S. Representatives: Conor Lamb, Mike Kelly, Brian Fitzpatrick, Mike Doyle, Daniel Meuser, Matt Cartwright, Lloyd Smucker, John Joyce, as well as Senator Robert Casey’s assistant.

Pennsylvania PTA Attends 125th National PTA Convention National Harbor, MD

Pennsylvania PTA was represented by: Marie Merkel, Beth Dale, Sharon Sitch-Brode, Janice Cain, Cindy Horner, Bonnie Fagan, Jackie Cochrane, Lisa King, Beth Kaczmarczyk, Tara Purcell, Cynthia-Grace Devine-Kepner, and Deb Fritz (consultant to Pennsylvania PTA). These PTA members were part of the General Meetings that conducted the annual business of the association, including bylaw amendments, resolutions, elections of National PTA Board of Directors at large members, and the NLRC Members. National President Anna King, led an inspirational 125th Anniversary Celebration, focusing on the importance of PTA’s past milestones and connecting it to our present and future leaders. Our delegates heard from a variety of motivational keynote speakers who inspired us in so many ways. Workshops on various topics were presented, which included: Advocacy, Team Building, Membership, Nominations, E-Cigarettes, Confronting Cyber Danger, National PTA Programs, Mental Health, STEM, Community Violence Interventions, Family Engagement, In Person Learning, School Meals, etc. Past National PTA Presidents were present too. National PTA’s milestones, history and mission has been making connections to our Children. National PTA Convention was held for the first time since 2019, when the COVID 19 pandemic changed the world. It was wonderful to feel the energy led by our National President, Anna King. There was entertainment provided throughout the convention by our children.

We were very proud to represent Pennsylvania PTA at this very important 125th Anniversary of the largest Child Advocacy Association.
Jaime Hayford, Region 1 Director

Happy Summer! We need to take time to wrap up this year. Spend some time with Family and Friends then take a deep breath. Let’s start meeting with your Executive board and start setting up a plan to accomplish the mission with goals for the kids in our schools and community.

Shout out to the Erie Schools for setting up a meeting with the Superintendent and PTA Presidents. McKean School did a combined Fun Run with their district schools. Millcreek Schools had a list of things from events, to field trips, graduations in multiple levels. Keep up the great work!! We are proud of you!

Jenn Sennett, Region 2 Director

The PTA/PTSA units of Region 2 have persevered through this school year. While some districts eased restrictions and welcomed PTA/PTSA volunteers back in to the buildings fully, some had full restrictions and those units remained active with zoom meetings and off campus events. We also had some districts that allowed some events but were not fully back to pre-pandemic events and schedules. Regardless of restrictions, one thing remained true for all units this year, the volunteers were there for the students and did all they could to make this year the best possible year. From track ‘n field day events, to book walks, dances, field trips and more, Region 2 PTA/PTSA volunteers made amazing events happen for their students. With both returning and new members, Region 2 units are getting ready for next school year with new ideas and events, as well as continuing the successes of past events. I personally want to say Thank you to all Region 2 unit volunteers for doing their very best this year to make it a great year for the kids.
The Pennsylvania PTA Region 3 is delighted to recognize the talented “National PTA Reflections Program Participants!! To View a List of winners, go to: Region 03 / Reflections Winners (papta.org)

Region 3 had two students progress to the National entry level: Region #3 members sends applause & Congratulations to:

- Benjamin Mares -Mellon Middle School-Mount Lebanon-FILM- Titled- “The World in Perspective”- Bronze Medal
- Ava Flood- Jefferson Hills Intermediate PTA – DANCE- Titled-“I’ll Do Whatever It Takes” -$200 Young Artist Scholarship and a Silver Medal

The West Jefferson Hills PTA Council invited me to a most wonderful, collaborative council meeting, this was an outstanding opportunity to experience their spirit of advocacy & school community - I am truly appreciative.

Region 3 had two National PTA Bayer Foundation STEM PTA $1,000 Grant awardees: The Homeville PTA had a “Bayer STEM Family Event” which had a creative mentorship element, they invited High School Students to present & help facilitate the STEM activities with the younger students & their families. The Wilkins PTA had a “Bayer Stem Family Event “developed a fabulous promotion with a Facebook National PTA and Bayer STEM + Families Event Page to welcome parents & families.

The (PPS)-Pittsburgh Public Schools - Pittsburgh Montessori PTA had an amazing event on the morning of May 4th, 2022 with community partner organizations: Pittsburgh Mobility & Infrastructure, Bike Pittsburgh and all the parents & students from Montessori School who took part in the Walk & Roll to School Day.

I have been asked by many families reaching out for additional supports for Special Education in Allegheny County Region since the Covid-19 Pandemic occurred, may I suggest the following: The Pittsburgh Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF#2) is a state mandated parent-majority organization that works collaboratively with administrators from the Pittsburgh Public Schools and with community agencies to improve, strengthen and expand educational services for students with disabilities. The Pittsburgh LTF also serves as a liaison and information resource for families. While these past few years have been challenging for everyone, students, families, school staff and district administration, the hope is that through partnership efforts we can affect positive student outcomes. If you are a family with a child with an IEP or 504 Plan in the Pittsburgh Public School District, or a resident in the City of Pittsburgh with a child in a public charter school, we are here to help. If you need information, or have questions or concerns, please call our hotline number, 412-529-2300, or email us at ltf2pgh@gmail.com. go to: (7) Pittsburgh Local Task Force on the Right to Education LTF 2 | Facebook

The Allegheny County Intermediate Unit Local Task Force on the Right to Education (-LTF#3) serves as a resource for children with all disabilities and their families in the 42 school districts in Allegheny County. Parent Assistance Line number (412) 394-5930, or email at Localtaskforce3@gmail.com go to: (7) LTF3 - Local Task Force for the Right to Education in Allegheny County | Facebook
Call to Convention 2022

Pennsylvania PTA
113th Annual Convention
October 21-22, 2022

Building a Stronger PTA, One Brick at a Time!
**Schedule at a Glance**

**Friday, October 21, 2022**

- Dinner/Get to Know You Activity 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- General Meeting I 7:30 - 9:30 PM
- Virtual Trivia 9:30 - 10:30 PM

**Saturday, October 22, 2022**

- Coffee with Board 9:00 - 9:55 AM
- Workshop 1 10:00 - 10:55 AM
- General Meeting 2 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Lunch with Activity 12:30 - 2:00 PM
- Workshop 2 2:00 - 2:55 PM
- Workshop 3 3:00 - 3:55 PM
- Workshop 4 4:00 - 4:55 PM
- Workshop 5 5:00 - 5:55 PM
- Dinner 6:00 - 6:45 PM
- Awards Ceremony 7:30 - 8:30 PM

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**Call to Convention Contents**

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**Business for General Meeting I**


**Business for General Meeting II**


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**Official Call to Convention**

Pennsylvania PTA hereby calls its constituent associations (local units and councils) to send accredited delegates (voting members) and non-voting members to the 113th Annual Pennsylvania PTA Convention to be held October 21-22, 2022 to be held virtually.

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**Still to come …**

Look for supplemental convention information that will be posted online at www.papta.org

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The Official Publication of the Pennsylvania PTA
This year Pennsylvania PTA’s 113th Annual Convention will be held Virtually on October 21 and 22. Our State Board of Directors has been working hard for you! This year, you will be voting on bylaws amendments as well as resolutions in our general meetings. These changes to the bylaws can only be made at the annual business meeting of the Pennsylvania PTA. There will be workshops available to attend on a variety of topics and leadership levels. We are very excited to bring you this year’s convention. The Registration Form is available in this issue of The Call to Convention and on our website. Please bring as many of your members as possible for this amazing event. Remember that leadership training is an appropriate use of PTA funds.

Our Membership Year began on July 1, 2022, so now is the perfect time to have your officers get their membership cards and start your membership campaign. These dues can be submitted immediately.

Our Board of Directors look forward to “seeing” you in October!!! Please contact us if you need anything!!! Stay safe and healthy!!!
Daily Schedule

Friday October 21, 2022

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM  General Session I

Saturday October 22, 2022

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM  Coffee with the Board

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM  Workshop 1
What PTAs Need to Know About Bingos & Raffles - Small Games of Chance Laws in PA - Sgt. William Stuckey and Liquor Enforcement Officer Gerald Weber

11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon  General Session II

2:00 PM - 2:55 PM  Workshop 2
201 - PTA Presidents - Leading Your Team With Confidence - Marie Merkel
202 - Vice President Training - Beth Dale
203 - Treasurer Training - Novice - Debbie Munson
204 - Secretary Training - Kelly Atkinson

3:00 PM - 3:55 PM  Workshop 3
Tired of Fundraising? Join a Movement to Support State Funding Your Students Need and Deserve!" - Susan Spicka

4:00 PM - 4:55 PM  Workshop 4
401 - The Role of Grassroots Advocacy - William Potts-Datema, NPTA
402 - Reflections - Bonnie Fagan
403 - Treasurer Training - Experienced - Sherry Knauft

5:00 PM - 5:55 PM  Workshop 5
501 - Congratulations on Being Elected President - Marie Merkel
502 - Membership - Maureen Ciavarella
503 - Bylaws and Standing Rules - Cindy Horner

6:00 PM - 6:45 PM  Panel on Mental Health

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM  Awards Ceremony
Pennsylvania PTA Convention 2022 Rules

1. All delegates must be registered to attend the general meetings and workshops.

2. All delegates shall be in a quiet place while attending general meetings and workshops. In order to cut down on background noise, all delegates shall be placed on mute by the chair, until being recognized to speak.

3. Delegates wishing to speak shall send the signal to speak as indicated on the internet meeting service and wait to be recognized by the chair before speaking. When recognized, delegates shall give their name and the name of their local unit or council unit and state if they are speaking for or against the motion, if they have an amendment to the motion, or a question on the motion that is on the floor.

4. Delegates wishing to amend a motion on the floor or make a motion, must send a written motion to the meeting service with the delegate’s name, PTA they are representing, their position in that PTA, and the amendment /motion being made prior to making the amendment/motion.

5. The President shall recognize delegates in the order their hands were raised. When speaking in favor of a motion, the delegate shall follow the instructions in number three (#3) above, and state: “I speak in favor of this motion” and then explain their reason why or rationale. When speaking against a motion, the delegate shall follow the instructions in number three (3) above, and state: “I speak against this motion” and explain their reason why or rationale.

6. No Resolutions, other than those previously submitted to the Legislation and Advocacy Committee for consideration as emergency Resolutions, shall be introduced from the convention floor. The urgency of the subject matter must have arisen after the deadline date for Resolution submissions (April 1, 2020). The Resolution shall conform to all established criteria for Resolutions as adopted by the Pennsylvania PTA Board of Managers.

7. A delegate may speak up to two (2) minutes at a time on a given subject and shall be permitted to speak for a second time only when all other delegates wishing to speak for the first time on the subject have had a chance to do so. No delegate shall be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject.

8. All items of business shall be “on the floor” for debate for no more than twenty (20) minutes, inclusive of all points of order and points of information. A delegate may make a motion to extend debate for a specific amount of time. This motion requires a second and two-thirds in favor to pass.

9. During all voting, no delegate may join the meeting until after the President has announced the results of the vote.

10. The Emergency Resolution process and General Convention Information contained in this Program shall be strictly adhered to and enforced at all times, as will the association’s Bylaws and Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition.
Emergency Resolutions Process

No resolutions, other than those submitted for consideration as emergency resolutions, will be introduced from the convention floor.

The urgency of the subject matter must have arisen after the deadline for submission of resolutions (April 1st). The resolution must conform to all established criteria for resolutions as established by the Pennsylvania PTA.

The resolution must be signed by thirty (30) accredited voting delegates representing a majority of the regions of the Pennsylvania PTA. Before presentation, signatures must be verified for current voting status by the Convention Credentials Committee and will be placed on file with a copy of the emergency resolution attached.

A delegate presenting an emergency resolution must present a copy of the resolution, accompanied by background data as required by Pennsylvania PTA and the Resolutions Submission Form, to the Convention Registration Desk attendant, no later than 1:00 PM on the day of General Meeting I. The attendant will immediately submit the Resolution to the Legislation & Advocacy Chairman.

A two-thirds vote in the affirmative, of the convention body, is required for consideration of the resolution.

If the convention body gives the affirmative vote to consider, a copy of the resolution must be supplied by the group or individual submitting the resolution for each delegate in attendance at convention. The resolution shall only be distributed after the two-thirds vote required for consideration is obtained.

The originator of the resolution, who must be a delegate registered for convention, or their designated member (who must also be a registered delegate at convention) may speak first to the resolution.
Concentration 2022 Registration Form

Pennsylvania PTA 2022 Virtual Convention
October 21st and 22nd, 2022
Convention Registration Form

A separate form is required for each registrant. This form may be duplicated.

All registration forms are due to the State Office no later than September 10th. Thank you!

Contact Information
Name______________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________________
Phone_______________________________________________________________
Email_______________________________________________________________
Local Unit or Council you are Representing_________________________________

Please check all below that apply:
_______ This is my 1st Convention   _______ Local Unit President _______ Council President
_______ Pennsylvania Life Member (PLM)

Registration: $50 per delegate (includes… delegate boxes to be mailed, t-shirts. *Shirts not included*)

Shirt Size: (check one please) ___ S ____ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2XL ___ 3XL
$10 for sizes S, M, L, XL  $12 for sizes 2XL, 3XL

_______ Cash  _______ Check (Pennsylvania PTA) _______ Visa _______ Mastercard _______ Discover

Name on card:________________________________________________________________
Card Number:_______________________________________ Exp. Date:__________
Signature:____________________________________________________________________

Did you remember to send?
Convention Registration Form (one per registrant),
Copy of Membership Card, and
Payment
**National PTA Service Liaison**

Kim Harper-Munford began serving as a PTA leader in 2000, when her daughter was in first grade. From there, she was became PTA president at each of her daughter’s schools. Kim served a council president for 5 years and held numerous positions on the council level. She also served as Alabama State PTA President from 2019-2021 and has held several state positions. She currently works on the National PTA Governance team as a Field Service Liaison.

Kim would often encourage parents about the importance of participating in their child school by telling them: “The best way to ensure your child’s success is by

1. Participating in your child’s school
   and
2. Getting your child reading!”

**National PTA Representative**

Dr. William Potts-Datema was elected National PTA Secretary-Treasurer in June 2021. His goals for his term include mentoring leaders and strengthening the National PTA Endowment Fund to provide for future generations.

His previous volunteer service for PTA includes two terms on the National PTA Board of Directors, one term on the National PTA Nominating and Leadership Recruitment Committee (NLRC), and terms on seven national committees and numerous state and local committees. He has been a member for over 45 years.

Dr. Potts-Datema has served in education and public health for over 40 years, including service from local to international levels. He has held several national leadership positions including Chief of the Program Development and Services Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Adolescent and School Health, Director of Partnerships for Children’s Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts, and Executive Director of the Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education in Washington, DC. His current and previous nonprofit board positions include service on four international, eight other national, and several state and local organizations. Dr. Potts-Datema is the United States representative for the UNESCO Chair - Global Health and Education.

He holds a Doctor of Public Health degree from the University of Georgia, and master’s and bachelor’s degrees from Missouri State University. He has presented in 48 states and 12 other nations and has authored and contributed to several publications. He is a father of four children and grandfather of two.
Workshop Descriptions and Presenters

**Workshop 101: What PTAs Need to Know About Bingos & Raffles - Small Games of Chance Laws in PA**  
Sgt. W. Stuckey and Liquor Enforcement Officer G. Weber  
PTAs need to follow the Pennsylvania laws governing small games of chance (SGOC) when they host bingos, casino nights, raffles or other events that involve selling tickets for chances to win prizes. This workshop will explain which activities/events your PTA can offer, when you need a license, what records must be kept and more.  
Sergeant William Stuckey has been a member of the Pennsylvania State Police for 23 years. For the last six years he has been assigned as the Erie District Office Commander within the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement. The Erie District Office is responsible for a seven county area including Erie, Crawford, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties.  
Assisting with the presentation will be Liquor Enforcement Officer Gerald Weber geweber@pa.gov.

**Workshop 201: PTA Presidents - Leading Your Team with Confidence!**  
Marie Merkel, President Pennsylvania PTA  
This workshop is for PTA presidents who have been in office and are ready to handle more challenges in their PTA, focusing on communication, building relationships with your board, and understanding the connection between local, state, and national PTA.  
Currently, Marie Merkel is our Pennsylvania PTA President. Marie is a retired Special Education teacher. She has been involved in PTA since her oldest son entered pre-school in 1995. As Marie moved through her years in PTA, she has held the position of president at the elementary school, middle school, and high school levels, as well as Scranton Council PTA President. Her positions on the Pennsylvania PTA State Board have included: Region Director, Bylaws Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Convention Chair, and President-elect. Marie believes in helping current and future leaders becoming the best that they can be through training.

**Workshop 202: Vice President Training**  
Beth Dale, Present-elect Pennsylvania PTA  
Description and bio was not available at time of editing, look for it on line.

**Workshop 203: You’ve Been Elected Treasurer...Now What?**  
Debbie Munson, Treasurer Pennsylvania PTA  
This workshop will help you get started by setting up your filing system so you have accurate records, as well as explain what your duties and responsibilities as treasurer, entail.  
Debbie Munson is a Past President, President-elect, Secretary, Bylaws Chair and current Treasurer of Pennsylvania PTA. She has been involved in PTA for over 30 years. Debbie has served at the local, council, district, region and state levels as president secretary and treasurer. Debbie has chaired Santa’s shop, Reflections, Book Fair, Membership, fFundraising, After-grad, Legislation and Advocacy committees during her time in PTA. Debbie strongly feels that PTA leaders who have received training are better leaders and are more prepared to carry out the Mission of PTA.

**Workshop 204: Let’s Talk About Minutes and Document Retention**  
Kelly Atkinson, Secretary Pennsylvania PTA  
Description and bio was not available at time of editing, look for it on line.

**Workshop 301: Tired of Fundraising? Join a Movement to Support State Funding Your Students Need and Deserve**  
Susan Spicka, Executive Director, Education Voters of PA  
Description and bio was not available at time of editing, look for it on line.
Workshop 401: The Role of Grassroots Advocacy  
**Dr. William Potts-Datema, National PTA Secretary-Treasurer**

In this workshop, we will describe how PTA puts your membership dues into motion across a range of issues through PTA’s advocacy agenda and efforts. Discuss how these issues affect students at your school and in your district, then, network with your peers as you design a grassroots advocacy campaign to generate awareness and support for the issue. Gain access to the knowledge you can use to apply this approach to an issue at your school or in your community.  
(Bio is on page 19)

Workshop 402: Reflections  
**Bonnie Fagan, Arts in Education Chairperson**

This workshop will cover all of the details for this year’s Reflections program and explain how to start a Reflections program at your school. The session is for both newcomers and veterans. Bonnie Fagan became a Reflections coordinator at the very first PTA meeting that she attended when her twin sons started school in 2004. She has enjoyed being involved in the program in various roles for the past 17 years, including the past three years as the Chair of the Arts In Education Committee. She has also served at the Pennsylvania PTA Secretary, Region 1 Director and Resource Development Chair.

Workshop 403: Advanced Treasurer Training  
**Sherry L. Knauft, Region 15 Director**

The goal of this workshop is to reinforce the importance of ensuring all deadlines are met by the Treasurer and President. The high level of the tools available to experienced Treasurer’s will be reviewed. Sample Excel workbooks that will automate your reporting will be provided and “Best Practices” and audit & tax filings will also be discussed.

Sherry currently serves as the Region 15 Director and as Treasurer for a local PTA. She has served in many roles in the past on a local sports booster club. Sherry has 40+ years in financial services, working with banks and financial services providers. She is the mother of 4 children and has 9 grandchildren ranging from 1 year to 15 years of age.

Workshop 501: Congratulations on Being Elected President!  
**Marie Merkel, President Pennsylvania PTA**

As a new president, you will be faced with many challenges, but the best way to look at being a president is as the leader of a team. Your team needs organization and communication. This workshop will help you to organize your PTA year, as well as how to communicate and delegate responsibilities to help your PTA be effective while always remembering why we PTA.  
(Bio is on page 20)

Workshop 502: Membership  
**Maureen Ciavarella, Membership & Extension Chairperson**

Description and bio was not available at time of editing, look for it on line.

Workshop 503: Bylaws and Standing Rules  
**Cindy Horner, Bylaws and Policies Chairperson**

This workshop will explore the differences between bylaws and standing rules. Additionally we will cover the requirements of filing out the local and council bylaws model. Cindy Horner has been involved with PTA for 21 years. She has served on the Pennsylvania PTA Board of Directors for over 10 years. She was elected as the Bylaws and Policies Chair at the 2021 Convention. Cindy has also served the Pennsylvania PTA in the roles of Region Vice-President and Treasurer.
Amendment 1.
Amend the Pennsylvania PTA Bylaws, Article VIII Board of Directors Section 8. Cause for Dismissal letter a. by inserting the words, “after due process”, after the words “at any time”, and by amending letter b. by inserting the words “shall be referred to the Dispute Resolution Committee to commence due process” after the words “(convention to convention)” and by striking the words “constitutes an automatic dismissal from the board of directors”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Form:</th>
<th>Proposed Form:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article VIII: Board of Directors</td>
<td>Article VIII: Board of Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 8. Cause for Dismissal</td>
<td>Section 8. Cause for Dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. A member of the board of directors, who becomes ineligible, fails to</td>
<td>a. A member of the board of directors, who becomes ineligible, fails to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abide by the bylaws, board of directors adopted standing rules, and/or</td>
<td>abide by the bylaws, board of directors adopted standing rules, and/or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>policies, and/or fails to meet their responsibilities at any time, shall</td>
<td>policies, and/or fails to meet their responsibilities at any time,</td>
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<tr>
<td>be removed from the board of directors by a majority vote of the board of</td>
<td>shall be removed from the board of directors by a majority vote of the board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>directors. The vote shall be by ballot.</td>
<td>of directors. The vote shall be by ballot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. A member of the board of directors who is absent from two (2) face-to-</td>
<td>b. A member of the board of directors who is absent from two (2) required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>face- required regular quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall) or</td>
<td>quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall) or four (4) total board of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>four (4) total board of directors’ meetings within one year (convention</td>
<td>directors’ meetings within one year (convention to convention),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to convention), constitutes an automatic dismissal from the board of</td>
<td>shall be referred to the Dispute Resolution Committee to commence due process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>directors. (Refer to Section 9.c. of this Article)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Rationale: In addition to checking other state bylaws, and respecting direction from National PTA leaders, Robert’s Rules of Order newly revised 12th edition gives adequate direction on removal from office, an investigative committee (not previously allowed for), investigation and trial. In an organization governed by volunteers coming from all walks of life, we should give grace and work with one another not against one another.

Proviso: If this motion is passed, the Bylaws and Policies Committee will develop a Dispute Resolution Committee comprised of the 4 officers of the Pennsylvania PTA.

T-Shirt Orders

T-shirt orders
Must be ordered when registering and placed prior to the deadline as listed on the registration form. No late orders will be accepted. T-shirt design will be blue and white lettering on a yellow T-Shirt.

The Official Publication of the Pennsylvania PTA
Bylaws amendments

Amendment 2.
Amend Article VIII: Board of Directors, Section 9 letter e. by and inserting the words “or during each state convention prior to the close of convention, but not in conjunction with the post-convention meeting in election years.” after the word “preceding”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Form:</th>
<th>Proposed Form:</th>
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| Article VIII: Board of Directors  
Section 9: Meetings  
   e. Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held immediately preceding each state convention, following each state convention in an election year, and in the spring, summer, and winter of each year (convention to convention). The winter meeting shall be held by teleconference or internet meeting services as designated by the President. Additional regular meetings of the board of directors may be called by the president with at least thirty (30) days’ notice and shall be held by teleconference or internet meeting services as designated by the President. | Article VIII: Board of Directors  
Section 9: Meetings  
   e. Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held immediately preceding or during each state convention prior to the close of convention, but not in conjunction with the post-convention meeting in election years, following each state convention in an election year, and in the spring, summer, and winter of each year (convention to convention). The winter meeting shall be held by teleconference or internet meeting services as designated by the President. Additional regular meetings of the board of directors may be called by the president with at least thirty (30) days’ notice and shall be held by teleconference or internet meeting services as designated by the President. |

Rationale: This amendment would enable the president to hold the board meeting during convention, but not necessarily immediately before the start of convention.

Amendment 3.
Amend Article XIII: State Convention, Section 1 by inserting a new letter b after letter a. to read:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Form:</th>
<th>Proposed Form:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Article XIII: STATE CONVENTION  
Section 1: A convention of the Pennsylvania PTA shall be held annually, in the Fall.  
a. The date and place shall be determined by the president and approved by the board of directors, at least one (1) year in advance. | Article XIII: STATE CONVENTION  
Section 1: A convention of the Pennsylvania PTA shall be held annually, in the Fall.  
a. The date and place shall be determined by the president and approved by the board of directors, at least one (1) year in advance.  
b. The annual meeting/convention of members may be held by electronically (teleconference or internet meeting services) as designated by the board so long as all the members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting. Such a meeting need not be held at a particular geographic location. In the case of an emergency, the President would have the authority to hold the annual meeting/convention electronically as stated above. |

Rationale: Although Pennsylvania law does allow for electronic meetings, this amendment would clarify that the annual meeting/convention could be held virtually, with board approval, or in the case of an emergency, with the President’s approval. (This was on the advice of an attorney at PANO.)
Resolution and Position Statements to be Amended

1. Amend the Pennsylvania PTA Position Paper entitled “Public School Library Programs” by striking the words “viable school library” and inserting the words “certified school librarian.”

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Libraries are the fundamental building blocks for our democracy. A library creates and atmosphere that is conducive to learning. A library is a place that enables learners to wonder, explore, innovate, teach and create. A library fosters a learning environment where learners feel safe. School libraries provide more than just books, computers, and other technology, databases, of accurate information.

Pennsylvania ranks sixth in the list of states that lost most of their libraries. School libraries play a vital role in maximizing learning and instructional effectiveness.

Library services are important for research and learning in all core academic subjects. It is important for all Pennsylvania public schools to have a viable school library “certified school librarian”, impoverished, rural, and urban communities which services a large number of at risk students.

Pennsylvania Public School Code requires school libraries and staffing for private schools although there is no requirements for public schools to operate a school library or to have certified staffing. There are no federal constitutional requirements for school districts to provide school libraries or librarians.

• Therefore, Pennsylvania PTA advocates for policy and regulatory reform that sets standards for public school library programs.

• Pennsylvania PTA calls upon its constituent associations to build partnerships with other associations, agencies, policy makers, educators, and school board members to build a statewide network for public school library programs.

• The Pennsylvania PTA through on-line articles and PTA in Pennsylvania shall educate parents of school aged students in learning the value of public school library programs and the importance of professional librarians.

• Pennsylvania PTA is mindful that public school library programs contribute to student achievement.

January, 2011
Reviewed, 2016
Amended, 2021

Rationale: Most states require public librarians to be certified. Certification for school librarians (also called school media specialists) varies by state. Some states require that they be certified teachers, while others stipulate that they have a master’s degree in education with a specialization in library science.
Resolution and Position Statements to be Amended

2. Amend the Pennsylvania PTA Resolution entitled, “Air Quality in School Buildings” by inserting a whereas clause to read “Covid-19 has enhanced the need for measurements of ventilation rate, air flow, pollutant pathways, and validation of fixed sensors for specific In Air Quality (IAQ) perimeters monitoring in schools.”

AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, According to the EPA there is an increasing awareness of health problems arising from poor indoor air quality; and

WHEREAS, Air pollution levels can be far greater indoors than outdoors due to improperly designed or maintained heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems and pollutants from equipment, furniture and supplies in a building; and

WHEREAS, Covid 19, has enhanced the need for measurements of ventilation rate, air flow, pollutant pathways, and validation of fixed sensors for specific In Air Quality (IAQ) perimeters monitoring in schools.

WHEREAS, The total effect of various pollutants such as biological agents (bacteria, viruses, fungi, pollen, dust mites and molds) as well as carbon monoxide and chemical and organic compounds found in furniture, paint, carpets, construction materials and supplies can result in unhealthy air and cause allergic reactions, headaches, lethargy, dizziness, nausea and other short and long-term health effects; and

WHEREAS, Parents may diagnose and control air-quality problems in their own homes, their children may be exposed during the school day to pollutants in their school buildings; and

WHEREAS, Workers in most federal, state and private buildings are ensured of a reduced risk of poor indoor air quality through mandatory enforcement policies to maintain, repair and adjust ventilation systems; children and parents must rely on school districts to voluntarily monitor and improve air quality, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania PTA through its constituent bodies provide awareness programs for parents and the community on the effects of poor indoor air quality and methods for improving indoor air quality in the home, school and community; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania PTA local units and councils urge their respective school districts to provide air quality monitoring equipment that would ensure a healthy school environment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania PTA and its constituent bodies encourage school districts to conduct an annual air quality assessment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania PTA encourage its constituent bodies to urge school districts to name an indoor Air Quality Coordinator; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania PTA seek and support legislation that would require mandatory guidelines for ventilation maintenance codes for school buildings that include provision for an enforcement program and funding to ensure compliance when an indoor air quality problem arises.

ADOPTED, 1996
REVIEWED, 2003
REVIEWED, 2017

Rationale: A U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that an estimated 54% of public school districts need to update or replace multiple building systems or features in their schools.
Resolution and Position Statements to be Rescinded


   GANG AWARENESS

   WHEREAS, Gangs exist not only in major urban areas but in smaller cities, suburbs and rural areas; and
   WHEREAS, Gang participation is associated with vandalism, drug trafficking, racial harassment and violent crimes including drive-by shootings; and
   WHEREAS, Gang members usually adopt distinctive clothing, symbols and colors as a means to identify and solidify members of the same gang and to identify members of rival gangs; and
   WHEREAS, Gangs attract youth with multiple personal and social problems who are alienated from family, school, place of worship, and community; and
   WHEREAS, Pre-gang behaviors usually begin in elementary school and become solidified by middle school; and
   WHEREAS, Gangs thrive in areas where there is no strong community support system and where there few positive social opportunities available for youths; therefore be it
   RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania PTA and its constituent bodies urge school districts to adopt a policy designed to protect children and youth from the threats by gangs as well as a policy that bans the wearing of gang symbols, colors and other gang inspired clothing in the school; and be it further
   RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania PTA and its constituent bodies urge school districts to institute gang awareness information as a part of the school curriculum beginning in the elementary grades and to include problem solving and anger management skills at all level; and be it further
   RESOLVED, That local PTA units and councils urges schools, communities, local law enforcement, State Attorney General’s Office and places of worship to cooperate in establishing supervised after-school programs for children and youth as an alternative to gang involvement and to establish a Gang Task Force; and be it further
   RESOLVED, That local PTA units and councils sponsor workshops to educate parents, teachers, children and the community about gangs and violence prevention.

   ADOPTED, 1993
   REVIEWED, 1999
   AMENDED, 2005
   AMENDED, 2011
   REVIEWED, 2016

   Rationale: There is no current evidence-based research available.
Resolution and Position Statements to be Rescinded

Rescind the Pennsylvania PTA Resolution entitled, “Skin Cancer Awareness” in its entirety.

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers afflicting adults and the chief cause of skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation emitted from the sun; and

WHEREAS, UV rays are most powerful between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, A person’s chance of developing melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer, is often directly related to their exposure to the sun during the pre-adult years and research shows, that the risk of developing skin cancer is increased by experiencing two or more blistering sunburns as a child; and

WHEREAS, Over-exposure to UV radiation can also result in painful sunburns, cataracts, a weakened immune system and premature aging, including wrinkles and blotches; and

WHEREAS, Skin cancer is highly preventable when specific sun-safety behaviors, including the use of sunscreen, protective clothing, wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses with UV protective lenses are adopted and where these behaviors are supplemented by environmental guidelines and sun protection policies, such as the provision of shade structures are implemented; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania PTA and its constituent associations advocate the importance of skin protection and promote the awareness of the high incidence of skin cancer and the recommended strategies for reducing risk for this disease, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania PTA and its constituent associations encourage local school districts and child care settings to follow the comprehensive set of SUN SAFETY GUIDELINES published by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

ADOPTED, 2017

Rationale: There is no current evidence-based research available.
2022-2023 Legislative Priorities

**Education**
- Family Engagement in Education
- Charter School Reform & Improvement
- Career Readiness & Education

**Health & Safety**
- Bullying Prevention & Education
- School Safety
- Child/Adolescent Mental Health
- School Nutrition & Physical Activity

**Environment**
- Extraction of Natural Gas (Fracking)
- Air & Water Quality in School Buildings

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2022-2023 Legislative Program

**Education**
- Career and College Readiness (CCR)
- Family Choice
- The Importance of Elementary World (Foreign) Language Instruction
- Mandatory (Compulsory) Age to Enter School in Pennsylvania
- Pay-To-Play School Programs
- Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS)
- Privacy of Students' Records - Military Recruiters
- Public School Library Programs
- School to Work Programs

**Environment**
- Air Quality in School Buildings
- Extraction of Natural Gas (Fracking)
- Radon Testing in Schools

**Health, Safety, and Nutrition**
- Certified Athletic Trainers
- Cyberbullying (Online Bullying, Online Harassment, Online Stalking)
- Importance of a Nutritious School Breakfast Program
- Meningococcal Disease Vaccine B (Men B)
- Physical Activity
- Playground Injury Prevention
- Preschool Vision Screening for Amblyopia and Strabismus
- Random Drug Testing (For All School Employees)
- School Nurse Services
- Sports and Sportmanship
- Tuberculosis Testing of Children
- Youth Suicide

The Official Publication of the Pennsylvania PTA
**Sponsorship Information - Corporate Sponsors**

**Virtual Conventions**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Deadline for Registration - August 31, 2022</th>
<th>Diamond Sponsor $1500</th>
<th>Platinum Sponsor $1000</th>
<th>Gold Sponsor $500</th>
<th>Silver Sponsor $250</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ad in Convention Program</td>
<td>Full Page Ad</td>
<td>Half Page Ad</td>
<td>¼ Page Ad</td>
<td>Business Card Ad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to send a Virtual Message to play to Delegates</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insert/Article in President’s Mailing</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denoted as a Sponsor of PA PTA Mailing</td>
<td>Yes - Sponsor of Delegate Mailing for Convention</td>
<td>Yes - Sponsor a PTA in PA with an article</td>
<td>Yes - Sponsor a Presidents’ Mailing with single-sided B&amp;W flyer</td>
<td>no</td>
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<tr>
<td>Company logo on PA PTA website as a Convention sponsor</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>9 months</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>3 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunity to provide information or sample items for delegate boxes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact the state office for more information on being a Convention 2022 Sponsor at:

info@papta.org
The annual Convention is the official business meeting of the Pennsylvania PTA. At Convention, delegates will meet old and new friends, attend workshops, gain valuable leadership skills, browse exhibitor booths, and plan the direction of the state PTA. Local units, councils, and individuals who would like to send greetings may do so in the Convention materials. Your support of PTA is greatly appreciated. Your efforts are what make this association strong and successful.

Information on submitting greeting ads and/or patron contributions is listed below. Please complete the request form and submit payment, greeting layout, and patron listing by September 10, 2021.

· Camera-ready ads may be submitted as color or black and white, but the convention program will be printed in black and white. Mail to Pennsylvania PTA, 4804 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

· Electronic file formats that can be accepted include Word, JPG, PDF, and Publisher. Email file to info@papta.org or mail to the Pennsylvania PTA, 4804 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

Be sure to share this information with your PTA unit and council, and encourage everyone to show their support of the Pennsylvania PTA.

Name: ____________________________________     Phone #:__________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________
City: ________________________________________    Zip: ____________
Email: ________________________________________________________________________
Name of PTA /Council: __________________________________________________________

Greeting Ad Rates:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Sub-Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business Card Size</td>
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<td>Quarter Page</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Page</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Page</td>
<td>$115</td>
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Patron Contributors:

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<tr>
<th># of Patrons</th>
<th>Sub-Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Patron (one line only)</td>
<td>$5</td>
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</table>

* Please list patrons on separate sheet and submit with this form.

Total Amount Enclosed __________

Make checks payable to: Pennsylvania PTA
Mail to: Pennsylvania PTA, 4804 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111
Submit greeting layout, patron listings, and payment by September 10, 2021.
As you prepare going into this new school year, I have three asks for not just Region 11 units, but all local units:

1. Engage and increase your memberships. This is directly part of our mission statement and is the biggest ask of our national PTA President, Anna King; so it is my ask too. I had the privilege of meeting her at last year’s state convention and I cannot stress enough how influential, inspiring, and down to earth she really is.

2. Participate in at least one advocacy activity. This is also directly part of our mission statement and is my personal ask for not just Region 11 units, but all units. Together we are a powerful voice for children and advocating for children and families is what makes us stand out from other parent and teacher organizations. This could be as simple as going to school board meetings and asking to place a crosswalk at an intersection for families to walk to school safer or contacting legislators to provide fair and equitable funding for education.

3. Share your stories with us. Anything you are proud of or information you think is important and valuable for others to know – PLEASE SHARE! Sharing events, programs, or partnerships local units are offering to their communities helps guide our initiatives and potentially award and grant opportunities. Sharing with one another may also help newer units be successful or schools who may be rebuilding their parent organization and need inspiration.

I look forward to hearing from all of you this coming year!

Congratulations to all the PTA units in Region 13, Pennsylvania, and across the nation for standing strong through another very challenging school year. Well done and THANK YOU for serving your school communities.

Shout out to Hanover Elementary PTA in Bethlehem. One year ago the unit was on the verge of closing due to a lack of new officers to replace the outgoing board. Local Reflections chair, Honorée Kerrigan was not going to let that happen. She said, “I just didn’t want to lose our PTA. There are so many wonderful things our PTA accomplishes for our kids.” She reached out to the Pennsylvania PTA for support and put out a plea for parent involvement via Facebook. The school principal chimed in to encourage parents to keep the unit going, which they did! They elected a new board of committed volunteers who have kept the unit active despite the limitations they faced during Covid. Thank you Honorée and Hanover PTA leaders for stepping up to serve for the good of all the children at Hanover Elementary. I hope this PTA’s story will inspire other units to endure. Pennsylvania PTA is here to help.

In June I had the privilege of participating in the National PTA Convention. What an incredible experience! I attended a workshop session that both saddened and encouraged me at the same time, Programmatic and Advocacy Strategies to Address Food Insecurity. Many of our nation’s children are hungry and rely on school meals as their main source of nourishment. With schools closed, summer is the hungriest time of the year. The session highlighted Share our Strength’s No Kid Hungry Campaign which is committed to ending childhood hunger in the US through advocacy initiatives and grant programs. I encourage you to learn more about the program and how your PTA can help end childhood hunger in your community at www.nokidhungry.org

The Official Publication of the Pennsylvania PTA
**Region News**

**Julie Renode, Region 14 Director**

Happy summer! Congratulations and welcome to all our new officers. Thank you to the outgoing officers and those who are continuing. What a year we had! Hopefully this upcoming school year will be as close to normal as we knew it before. Be sure to check out our virtual trainings and webinars we have in store. Don’t forget about our Reflections Program. Let us showcase our children’s talents. Need more information? Contact me or Bonnie Fagan at reflections@papta.org. Come join us virtually at our Annual Convention on Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22.

**Sherry Knauft, Region 15 Director**

**Year End Activities in Region 15: Bradford County/Canton-PTA**

Canton PTA students raised $12K of their $14K goal in donations for their Relay/Fun Day for the children. The reward was “ICE CREAM SUNDAY” not a bad way to bring the year to an end.

Fairview PTA decided that they needed to dial “Action BMX” for their students. Yes, they are teachers the BMX rider is performing over… AWESOME!

**Hazelton Area Council-Bright Beginnings PTA**

Field Day 2022!!!

**Hazelton Area Council – Freeland Elementary-Middle PTA**

Last Day Blast!!!! Activities

**Hazelton Area Council - Heights Terrace Elementary Middle School PTA**

Look who made the front page of the ‘STANDARD-SPEAKER’!!!!

**Deb Nolan, Region 16 Director**

Hello from Region 16!! I would like to thank everyone for their time, hard work, and dedication that you all have given to your PTAs this year. Your dedication does not go unnoticed! It is very much appreciated!

You all did an amazing job showing your teachers and staff love for Teacher Appreciation Week this year.

There were so many awesome Field Days that I saw pictures of! Your students loved it and really enjoyed it!

Here’s to a great school year and a job well done!!

Be sure to be on the lookout for information about our State PTA Convention both on this publication and on our website! Enjoy your summer!

The Official Publication of the Pennsylvania PTA
Bonnie Fagan, Arts in Education Chairman

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of more than 100 local unit & council chairs, along with our great team of Region Reflections chairs and our Arts In Education Committee, we had another great year for Reflections, with the theme of "I Will Change The World By..." Most PTAs welcomed the change of advancing their entries via a shared Google drive, while some chose to continue to advance entries as email attachments. As always, the main goal is to have as many PTAs as possible participate so we can showcase the artistic talents of our students.

We were thrilled to have about half of our 107 state winners and their families attend our first in-person state Reflections ceremony on May 1. It was a unique coincidence that we were able to announce the names of the students from Pennsylvania who won at the National PTA level of judging during our state ceremony that day.

Yasmeen Fahs from Rowan Elementary PTA in Region 2 won a National PTA Outstanding Interpretation of Theme Award for her Film Production entry, titled "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle," in the Intermediate grade division. There were only 7 Outstanding Interpretation of Theme Awards presented by the National PTA. Yasmeen received an $800 Young Artist Scholarship and a gold medal, while the Rowan Elementary PTA received a $200 prize.

Ava Flood from Jefferson Hills Intermediate PTA in Region 3 won a National PTA Award of Excellence for her Dance Choreography entry, titled "I'll Do Whatever It Takes," in the Intermediate grade division. She received a $200 Young Artist Scholarship and a silver medal.

Benjamin Mares from Mellon Middle School PTA in Region 3 won a National PTA Award of Merit for his Film Production entry, titled "The World In Perspective," in the Middle School grade division. He received a bronze medal from National PTA.

These students were recognized at the National PTA Convention in June. Congratulations to them and the more than 4,000 students who participated in last year's Reflections program. With the conclusion of last year's program, students may now start working on entries for the 2022-23 Reflections program, with the theme of "Show Your Voice!" All information will be updated on the PA PTA website by August 1. There will be Reflections training webinars on July 13 & 26 at 7 pm and August 8 at 12 noon. A session will be taped and a link will be shared on the website so people can also view it at their convenience.

I would like to thank the members of the Arts In Education Committee (Penelope Butler, Janice Cain, Maureen Ciavarella, Jackie Cochrane, Beth Dale, Cindy Horner & Julie Renode) for their help with our state program. I also want to thank all of the Region Reflections Chairs for all of their hard work on that level of judging: Jaime Hayford, Jenn Sennett, Bonnie Fagan, Penelope Butler, Bobbie Reitz, Beth Dale, Christina Landau, Tara Purcell, Ginny Wade, Jackie Cochrane, Julie Renode, Marie Merkel & Deb Nolan.

Thanks to Debbie Munson and Mary Hess, in our state office, for their work on the program and Marie Merkel, President, for her help with the state ceremony. A link for a video presentation with a representation of all the students’ entries that Maureen Ciavarella is preparing will be shared soon.

If anyone has any questions about how to start a Reflections program or just a general question about Reflections or our Arts in Education Committee, please contact me at reflections@papta.org or call me at 814-449-0996.

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BYLAWS MODEL INSTRUCTIONS, IN BRIEF

Bylaws must be reviewed and updated at least every five (5) years according to Pennsylvania PTA Bylaws to be a “unit in good standing”.

The bylaws must be updated using the most current bylaws model that is only available by contacting the state office or the state bylaws & policies chairperson. Start the process 3-4 months prior to their due date.

ITEMS PRECEDED BY # OR ##

# or ## items are required by the National PTA and/or the Pennsylvania PTA and must be included in the unit’s bylaws and cannot be deleted or changed in any way.

- # Before an Article title affects the entire article.
- # Before a section affects the entire section.
- # Before a sub-section affects only the subsection.

Local unit or council bylaws are NOT IN EFFECT until they bear the state chairperson’s signature & date of state approval. Units must continue to follow the current bylaws until that approval is complete.

LOCAL UNIT/COUNCIL BYLAWS

REVISING BYLAWS WITH NO CHANGES FROM THE CURRENT BYLAWS

Attain a copy of the latest blank model of Local Unit or Council Bylaws (call/email the state office or the state bylaws & polices chairperson for the most current bylaws model). If you receive them via e-mail, be sure to refer to “Tips on Using a Computer to Fill in Bylaws Model” on the next page. Insert the same info from the current local unit/council bylaws into current bylaws model. Note: copies of all state approved bylaws can be obtained from the state office.

Advertise to the membership (at least 30 days prior) the date of the regular meeting when the vote will take place to renew the bylaws with no changes. Newsletters are a great way to get the word out.

Vote on the bylaws – 2/3 of the members in attendance need to vote in favor.

Have the local unit/council president & secretary fill out & sign/date the signature page. Fill in the name for the local bylaws chair with contact info if applicable. The date should be the date of meeting when approved by the membership.

(continued on page 34)
Send, 1 complete copy of the updated bylaws with handwritten signatures (on the signature/approval page) & date WITH a copy of the minutes of the meeting when the bylaws were approved by the members by e-mail or United States Postal Service to the state office and state bylaws chairperson.

You must list the standing committees in Section 2 of Article XI. If all is in order, the state chair will sign/date and forward them to the state office and the state office will mail one (1) completed copy back to you.

Maintain 1 copy of previous bylaws for permanent records. All other distributed previous paper copies & any copies of the updated bylaws that do not have the state approval should be recalled & destroyed.

NOTE: Bylaws must be received by the state office &/or the PA PTA bylaws & policies chair within 90 days of the date that they were approved by the general membership of the local unit or the entire process will have to be repeated.

UPDATING BYLAWS WITH CHANGES

Follow the same steps as above but include in the advertisement the specific article and section exactly how it currently reads and the way it is being proposed to read. Include a rationale as to why the change is being made.

NOTES:

If this is a NEW PTA, the New PTA bylaws model must be used and approved by the Pennsylvania PTA state representative who attends the chartering meeting. These bylaws are good for one (1) year and then, they must be renewed using the current local bylaws model following the above instructions. If for some reason the bylaws are not approved (other than for clerical errors), the local unit/council will need to go through the entire amendment/approval process again. Refer to FAQs on the PA PTA website: www.papta.org

TIPS ON USING COMPUTER TO FILL IN BYLAWS MODEL

Since the bylaws model is a WORD document, it is possible to enter all information using a computer. Be sure to do the following:

Use **BOLD** & underline font for **ALL** inserted information so it can be easily located.

- If the PTA name is long, it can be abbreviated, but the full name and the abbreviation in ( ) must appear on the first page in Article I – NAME (abbreviation).

- If the local unit is not part of a council, that entire article may be deleted, except the title– simply write “not applicable” (using **bold** & **underline** font) under the article title.
  
  Be careful when deleting or backspacing. Important information can be accidentally omitted.

Never re-type the document!

Be sure that the Signature/Approval Page is the first page with all information completed on that page.
Cultural Awareness in Family Engagement

Janice Cain, Family Engagement Chairman

Cultural Awareness in Family Engagement

Each year we are amazed at the quality, creativity, and effort our local units put into their family engagement programs. This year was no exception.

To encourage local PTAs in their effort to provide opportunities welcoming students and families from culturally diverse backgrounds, the Pennsylvania PTA Family Engagement Committee sponsors the Cultural Awareness in Family Engagement Mini-Grant. This annual $500 grant recognizes excellence in culturally diverse family engagement efforts.

Two Cultural Awareness applications was received this year. These two PTA’s, each had exceptional programs, which made the committee’s decision quite difficult. Runner-up was the **Penn London Elementary PTA**.

The winner and recipient of the $500 grant is **Copper Beech Elementary PTA**. They collaborated with families, school staff and community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services and civic participation. Their demographics is large and diverse. They are planning on a community/family cultural night where families and teachers/staff will select a country to represent and incorporate stories, music/instruments, recipe cards for foods, and/or crafts from each culture.

The Pennsylvania PTA applauds Copper Beech Elementary PTA for fostering a spirit of inclusivity and true acceptance of all cultures.

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Health & Safety: Keep PTA Involved Year-round with Water Safety

Did you know an estimated 3,960 fatal unintentional drownings happen every year in the United States (including boating incidents)? That is an average of 11 drowning deaths per day. World statistics are even more shocking. There are an estimated 236,000 annual drowning deaths worldwide, according to the UN's World Health Organization. That comes out to an average of 647 people per day. At risk groups include children 1-4 years old, males, and minority groups. Drowning deaths occur in all types of water – be it ocean, river, lake, or swimming pools. Most can be prevented by understanding the conditions of the type of water you may be looking to enjoy, knowing how to swim, and knowing how to perform CPR.

Did you know Pennsylvania PTA and the National PTA have resolutions advocating for water safety? Here is a program that South Side Elementary PTA has offered and cannot stress enough how easy and impactful it is and it includes EVERYONE!

The Learn to Swim program partners with a local pool, whether it be a YMCA or a community pool that offers a learn to swim program, and meeting with those program organizers to coordinate dates to offer classes for your school. You want to do this to ensure there will be enough space and instructors available to handle the influx of participants.

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As the nation's oldest and largest child advocacy association, National PTA is committed to ensuring that our nation enacts legislation that supports each and every child.

On June 15\textsuperscript{th}, 2022, during National PTA’s 125\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary Convention, the Pennsylvania PTA President, President-elect, Federal Legislative Chair, State Legislative Chair and several Legislation & Advocacy Committee members went to Capital Hill in Washington, D.C. to bring National PTA's positions on a variety of important topics affecting children across the country as listed below to our Representatives in Congress:

**Family Engagement in Education** - Family engagement has been at the heart of National PTA's mission since the association's founding in 1897.

**Federal Investments in Education** - The long-term success of our nation depends on quality federal investments in our education system.

**Gun Safety and Violence Prevention** - No parent should fear for the safety of their child every time they leave home.

**Child Nutrition** - Healthy children learn better and are more productive - both in and out of the classroom.

**Safe, Supportive and Inclusive Schools** - Every student can reach their full potential when the school environment is one in which they feel truly valued.

**Investing in School Infrastructure** - The average school building is over 44 years old. Now is the time for the federal government to invest in our school facilities.

Find out more about National PTA's positions on issues impacting children, families and schools. Review in depth by going to [https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy](https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy)

We encourage all local units to complete your local unit registration form – **including** the section listed a “Legislation Chair” 2022-2023 Annual Local Unit Registration Form.
Maureen Ciavarella, Membership & Extension Chairman

Pennsylvania PTA is committed to connecting parents, teachers, children and community and improving the quality of life for all children. The strength of your PTA lies in its membership - the parents, teachers, school administrators, business leaders, and community members who commit their time to improving children's lives are the cornerstone of our association’s mission. Finding new members while retaining current members are the two most common obstacles that PTAs face. The traditional ways of maintaining a table at an Open House or mass flyer distributions no longer have the desired effect. The pandemic has made reaching out to parents more complicated. As PTAs look for ways to connect with parents; creativity and personal relationships become vital in developing a strong membership.

The following ideas can be included with in-person and online membership drives:

**Current Member Outreach**
It’s easier to re-connect with current members than to find new ones, yet more often, PTAs ignore their current members when searching for new ones. MemberHub is an excellent tool to keep track of your members and find ways to strengthen relationships. Reach out to your past members and share how they are important to the mission of your PTA.

**Staff Invitations and Incentives**
PTAs often forget the “teacher and staff” aspect when searching for members and ignore a potential member group. These potential members should be one of the first groups PTAs should target for membership as parents have no closer connection with the school than the teachers and staff. Including teachers in PTA membership drives may help convince parents to learn more and join PTA events.

**Membership Contest/Incentives**
By including a contest or incentive to your membership drive, you may have more parents to promote the organization to their community. Find an exciting prize and see which parent can get the most members to join. Older students can also be an excellent source for new members. Making a membership contest for students in the classroom could reveal chances that have previously gone unnoticed. In order to support them in achieving their academic objectives, students may persuade their parents, grandparents, and other members of the neighborhood to join the PTA.

**Offer Incentives**
Parents are interested in supporting their children’s education, but supporting every association can be very expensive. One way to change that viewpoint is by giving parents discounts for shopping and child-friendly events. PTAs, in working with the school, can provide parents with discounts in school stores and work with local businesses to offer discounts which also brings the community into your efforts of the PTA. Every little bit helps when you are a parent.

Additional tricks and tips, including resources from National PTA, can be found on the Pennsylvania PTA’s website under membership. If you need assistance in finding ways to increase membership, feel free to contact Maureen Ciavarella, Membership and Extension Chair at membership@papta.org or at (570) 956-0845.

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The Official Publication of the Pennsylvania PTA
In Memorium

Debbie Munson

I am saddened to report another Past President of Pennsylvania passed away on July 16, 2022. Sandy Zelno was always a happy, outgoing person who loved life and was a very strong advocate for children and public education. She worked tirelessly for fair funding for education, despite being in pain a lot of the time, she pushed herself to speak up for the children of Pennsylvania and was a well-known face in Harrisburg. Her obituary appears below:

Sandy (Sandra) L. Zelno, 74, of North Huntingdon, formerly of Scranton, Pa., passed away unexpectedly Saturday, July 16, 2022 at her home. She was born September 20, 1947 and was raised by her grandmother, uncles and aunt. Sandy was an advocate for children, served as a State Certified Lobbyist for the Education Law Center, where she was an expert in public school state funding reform and co-founded the PA School Reform Project. Also, as an expert in school funding, she played a critical role in getting the state to do a costing out study for public education. This study continues to be relied upon as the battle for an adequate and equitable continuous in PA state courts and in the legislature. Previously she worked for Mon Valley Education Consortium and Norwin School District. She served with the PTA on the local and state level and was regional vice president of the National PTA Chapter and past president of the state PTA. She also served as the state and national parliamentarian for the PTA. Locally she had been involved with Girl Scouts, Norwin Public Library and Norwin Band Aides. She was preceded in death by her uncles, Eugene Squires and Gordon Hughes; aunt, Alice Hughes, cousin, Gordon Hughes Jr., brothers-in-law John Galeano and Mitch Zelno and his wife Rosanne. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Nicholas Zelno; daughter, Sherry Zelno; cousins, with whom she was raised, Martha Hughes Neary, Nancy Hughes Hodanich and Eugene Hughes; Gordon's wife, Mary Ann Hughes; and several nieces and nephews. Also survived by sisters-in-law, Frances Heaney and Gene, Marilyn (Rich) Charsky, and Denice Galeano. Friends will be received from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. on Friday at the James W. Shirley Funeral Home, 176 Clay Pike, North Huntingdon, PA 15642. A funeral service will take place on Saturday at 11 a.m. in the funeral home chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Norwin Public Library. www.shirleyfuneralhome.com

From Sandy’s daughter Sherry (on Facebook):

This is the post you never want to make.

Mom unexpectedly and peacefully passed away Saturday evening in her sleep. I guess that’s how we all want to go, but we didn’t see this coming. Mom was a special person, and the best mom anyone could ask for. When I was growing up she was involved with everything I did and more. She loved being my mother and I loved being her daughter. I am surely going to be lost without her. …

Everyone is asking what they can do for us. For me, give your mom a call or an “I love you” text tonight. And if not your mom, anyone you really love.
Congratulations to the following PTAs celebrating anniversaries in 2022

85 Years
Dutch Ridge Elementary PTA
South Scranton Intermediate PTA

75 Years
Jefferson Elementary Center PTA, Inc.
Rayne Elementary PTA

70 Years
Hanover Elementary PTA
Shanksville Stonycreek PTA
Thomas Jefferson Elem_School PTA
West Hanover Elementary PTA

65 Years
Buchanan PTA
Governor Wolf Elementary School PTA, Inc
Lee Park PTA
McClellan PTA
South Central PTA
Sunset Valley Elementary PTA, Inc.

50 Years
Dunmore Elementary Center PTA (DEC PTA)
McKeel PTA
Wilson Elementary PTA

45 Years
California Area PTA, Inc.
Coudersport Area PTA
Heights Terrace Elementary PTA, LTD
Richard F. McNichols Plaza PTA, Inc.
Wasson Avenue Elementary PTA, Inc.
West Mifflin Area High School PTA

40 Years
Dingman Delaware Elementary PTA
Marion Elementary PTA
Mount Carmel Area PTA; Inc.
Robert D. Wilson PTA

35 Years
Everett Elementary PTA, Inc.

30 Years
James W. Parker Middle School PTA

25 Years
Delaware Valley High School PTA
Dunmore Middle School PTA
Oaks Elementary School PTA
Owen J. Roberts Middle School PTA

20 Years
Avon Grove Intermediate School PTA
Homeville Elementary PTA, Inc.
Independence Charter School PTA
South Allegheny Elementary PTA
Valley View High School PTA

15 Years
ASA Packer PTA
Dilworth Traditional Academy PTA
Keystone PTA
North Pocono Area Council PTA
SciTech High School PTA
Southmoreland PTA

10 Years
CMS PTA
JM Hill PTA
Montour Elementary PTA, Inc.

5 Years
Aliquippa PTA
Crestwood Secondary PTA
Homer Center PTA
Howard Elementary School PTA
Paxinos Elementary PTA
Pennsylvania Special Education PTA
Pittsburgh Montessori PTA
Scranton High School PTSA
Strong Vincent Middle School PTA
Wallenpaupack Area North Elem. Schools PTSA
Waynesburg Elementary PTA