

PENNSYLVANIA PTA MILESTONES

1899-1902

- Founding of Pennsylvania Congress of Mothers November 1899
- Bill providing for Juvenile Court and Probation System prepared with New Century Club to become law in 1903
- Letters sent to each superintendent seeking support from teachers and to organize mothers
- Major achievements; organization and publicity

1902-1905

- Emphasized welfare of delinquent children
- Paid one-half salary of first probation officer to implement Probation Act 1903
- Legislative chairman appointed to coordinate efforts for handicapped children

1905-1915

- From president's own funds a field organizer was hired and paid \$60 per month plus expenses
- Literature prepared in several languages for foreign-born parents to explain American institutions
- Congress joins National Congress in approval of federal aid to kindergartens and endorsement of Child Labor Laws
- Motion Picture Censorship Bill introduced in Pennsylvania House of Representatives 1911
- Scholarships provided for 12 people to attend Summer School, University of Pennsylvania
- Initiated idea of headquarters with paid secretary

1915-1916

- President served less than one year because of death of husband and relocation to another state

1916-1926

- "Back to school" movement to have young people return to class following World War I
- Permanent name Pennsylvania Congress of Parents and Teachers adopted in 1924; incorporated in 1926
- Foundation laid for district organization
- Local emphasis on playgrounds, well baby clinics, school examinations, and circulating library
- Allocated \$100 for publishing state bulletin twice a year

1926-1930

- Pennsylvania Congress applies to Court of Common Pleas in 1928 for charter

- Organization builds on 30 years and reaches maturity
- Districts of approximately 10 counties are organized and funded by Founders Day gifts
- Study course "Education in Parenthood" prepared by Harold Holbrook, state Department of Public Instruction, printed and distributed
- Leadership training urged for parent education groups

1930-1934

- Research for compilation of first history completed (published in 1940)
- First office opened, free of charge, at Coach and Four Inn, Coatesville; secretary employed
- Larger offices required; moved to National Bank Building, Coatesville, \$10 per month
- Literature distributed to every city and county superintendent of schools; 14 teachers colleges
- Local Unit charters adopted and student loan fund initiated

1934-1938

- State office moves into two rooms in Harrisburg Masonic Building and secretary, Mrs. Esther S. Sanford, employed
- First summer leadership school held at Bucknell University 1938
- Pennsylvania delegates attend National convention for first time
- First fiscal year charters issued in 1936 to units

1938-1942

- Membership grows to 118,603 and requires organizational changes
- Committees revamped to conform to National Congress
- State bylaws and standing rules revised and adopted; presidential term changed to 3 years with no reelection
- Scholarships renamed Hannah Kent Schoff Fund— 70 honored to date
- Unit programs and committees support national defense plans

1942-1945

- Cooperation with other agencies stressed
- President appointed to Commission to Study Public Schools
- CPA sets up books for treasurer and secretary
- Victory certificates given units reporting "reasonable amount" of war service

- Called “wartime administration”

1945-1948

- Increased local unit activity and membership enrollment
- Resumed leadership training, which had ceased during war, for teachers colleges, districts, and board of managers
- First series of statewide radio broadcasts
- “Early Childhood Needs” published and distributed; “History of War Activities” compiled

1948-1951

- “Golden Jubilee Project” administration
- State dues increased from five cents to 10 cents
- Goal of \$7,000 for scholarships surpassed and \$12,618 is given in 15 \$500 scholarships as well as 14 \$340 scholarships
- County survey groups prepare for 1950 White House Conference and Civil Defense programs
- Discussion guide “Family Life in 1950s” prepared

1951-1954

- Plan, finance, and select new headquarters, 2028 N. Third St., Harrisburg; cost \$45,000, no encumbrance; occupied May 1, 1954
- Two Summer Leadership Sessions each year
- Filmstrip “PTA Goes to College” completed and used to publicize program
- Local unit involvement includes bond issues, jointures, legislation, recreation, school bus safety

1954-1957

- Emphasis on public relations
- Worked with Department of Public Instruction; PSBA and PSEA
- Compilation of history begins
- Summer Session and district conferences continue

1957-1960

- “Caring for All Children” is theme
- Emphasis placed on importance of the local unit and legislation
- State board reorganized; Hannah Kent Schoff Fund revamped; 1928 charter revised; publications updated; term of president reduced to 2 years
- President represented Pennsylvania Congress at 1960 White House Conference
- For first time, Pennsylvania hosts National convention; held in Philadelphia

1960-1962

- “The Challenge of the Community”
- PTA, PSBA, and PSEA form Joint Action Committee; actively cooperate with governor’s committee
- “The PTA Story” presented to future teachers with cooperation of state college presidents
- Redistricting with six regions, 14 districts (at least two per region)
- Membership climbs to 581,967 in 2,400 local units

1962-1964

- “New Aims in PTA Growth and Leadership”
- “New PTA Aims in Health Education and Human Relations” adopted by 1963 convention and emphasized at 14 district conferences
- Compiled numerous publications dealing with school boards, council schools of instruction, general PTA information
- Amended bylaws to include elected first vice-president position
- Worked cooperatively with numerous agencies and administration in reorganized school districts; organized councils of PTAs

1964-1966

- “Concern + Knowledge = Action”
- With National Congress, held first conference on Judicial Concern for Children in Trouble
- Schools of instruction held regionally to implement redistricting; dues increased from 10 cents to 20 cents
- Initiated block parent program at local level
- Counseled units and councils disturbed by removal of Bible reading and prayer from public schools; helped units prepare appropriate materials for use by school librarians

1966-1968

- “Alert Leaders + Informed Members = Vigorous PTAs”
- Streamlined instruction for districts and replaced Summer Session with one-day identical workshops in each of 14 districts
- In cooperation with National PTA, held State Juvenile Protection Conference
- With State Department of Health and Allied Health Council, sponsored a smoking health conference
- Children’s emotional health program introduced

1968-1970

- “New PTA—New Involvement”
- Initiated monthly presidential letter to local units

- Created listening committees to hear local units/grass roots opinions; stressed importance of communications at all levels; membership 352,215
- Presented emergency resolution to 1970 National PTA convention on “Teaching About Religion in Public Schools”; adopted by an almost unanimous vote
- Savings stamp program for local units launched at 1970 convention

1970-1972

- “Parent Teacher Action for Every Child”
- Conducted extensive self-study of Congress; loss of membership, apathy, inroads of other groups on PTA effectiveness; created Region VII in 1971
- Purchased headquarters at 4804 Derry Street, Harrisburg
- President serves on governor’s Commission on Basic Education
- Summer Session resumed at Lycoming College

1972-1974

- “Unity for Education: Parents-Teachers-Administrators,” promoting a working relationship with Department of Education and education secretary
- Commissions discontinued; phased out scholarship program; increased dues to 30 cents
- Increased participation in Joint Action Committee
- Supplied broad base to help Recodification of School Code
- Initiated Safe Bridge Project

1974-1976

- “Let’s Join Hands,” promoting health programs ranging from school and community health to nationwide immunization program for preschoolers and March of Dimes parenting program
- Pennsylvania PTA one of 10 to “look in on education at the federal level” with the Federal Office of Education
- Served on President’s Advisory Committee to Commission on Basic Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Published *Basic Parliamentary Procedures for PTA* by Sarah Johnson; renamed monthly state publication *PTA in Pennsylvania*
- Renamed Hannah Kent Scoff Memorial Regional Field Service Fund; eliminated youth representation to state board

1976-1978

- “The Child’s Advocate—Today’s PTA” with emphasis on juvenile justice and related concerns
- Represented PTA on Project 81; chaired Joint Action Committee; served on numerous task forces
- Second phase comprehensive health project launched
- With Department of Education, conducted surveys on Act 195 and energy shortage
- Parenting and TV violence chairs created to increase cooperation with National projects

1978-1980

- “Pennsylvania PTA Takes a Stand on Critical Issues”
- Committee studies structure; additional means of funding sought; liability protection program offered
- “How to Help Your Child Get More Out of TV” cosponsored with WGAL-TV, Lancaster
- Guidebook *Preparing for Family Life and Human Sexuality Education* published
- Troubleshooting teams organized; luncheon with president increases communication

1980-1982

- “Attitude, Skills, Knowledge—ASK PTA”; main thrust support of public education; represented PTA on numerous statewide organizations
- Numerous publications compiled and distributed on issues timely for the day, such as block grants, tuition tax credits, school strikes, etc.
- Supported national efforts to establish federal Department of Education
- Conducted Principals/Parents Workshops with National PTA; cooperated with state Department of Education for “Parents As Partners Workshops”
- Elementary Principals’ Association endorses PTA involvement

1982-1984

- “PTA—Together for Tomorrow” with emphasis on grass roots and return to basics, open communications
- Instrumental in state seat belt law; National PTA Seat Belt Safety Project
- Instrumental in defeating tuition tax credits
- Numerous brochures prepared and published
- Represented on many statewide educational committees

1984-1986

- “Children—The Rainbows of Our Future” geared to legislation, programs, communications, parent involvement, and increased grassroots communication; regional leadership team training initiated
- Secured legislation to exempt PTAs from Charitable Solicitations Act
- National PTA Region 2 Advocates for Children award received by Center PTA, Plum, in 1985 and White Oak PTA in 1986
- Presided over Joint Action Committee, served on Block Grant (ECIA) and numerous other statewide committees; active with Department of Education “Parents Be a Part of It”
- Legislative conference featured press conference on need for equitable school funding

1986-1988

- “A Child—A Person” with emphasis on self-esteem, parent involvement, open communications
- Active with Department of Education “Home-School Team”
- Participation with several statewide groups dealing with AIDS, school funding, outstanding teachers, reading, parent effectiveness techniques, etc.
- National PTA Region 2 Advocates for Children Award received by White Oak PTA in 1987 and 1988
- Formally addressed cults in lives of young people through program, resolution, and pamphlets

1988-1990

- “Quality Education Through Teamwork” emphasizing increased involvement with Department of Education and teamwork to ensure quality education
- National PTA Region 2 Advocates for Children award received by Stewartville PTA
- Active with Alliance for a School Aid Partnership; Joint Action Committee
- Initiated first long range plan for Pennsylvania PTA
- Recipient of a National PTA grant to implement a Rural PTA Project

1990-1992

- “Working Together Can Make a Difference” emphasizes working with all segments of school family
- Pacesetter Award presented by Prudential Asset Management Co. Inc.

- President appointed to Pennsylvania 2000; served on numerous statewide educational organizations; chaired Public Education Coalition to Oppose Tuition Vouchers
- Testimony given to legislature on numerous educational issues; sought equitable school funding
- Involved in several AIDS education coalitions; sponsored Playground Injury Prevention Project and Sports Injury Awareness Seminar and Survey

1992-1994

- “We the PTA” with emphasis on responsibility of parents and citizens to become involved in public schools through PTA
- Participated in every recognized state educational group; represented on 30 coalitions and alliances; presented testimony on pressing issues; increased communication with every Pennsylvania legislator
- National PTA Region 2 Advocates for Children award received by Dingman-Delaware PTA
- Cooperated with National PTA to make parent involvement a National Education Goal; published a booklet on new education regulations and met with Pennsylvania Department of Education to communicate concerns of parents in understanding
- education reform
- President one of 12 Pennsylvanians chosen to participate in week-long policy makers seminar sponsored by Danforth Foundation to secure education reform; chaired National PTA state president’s conference

1994-1996

- “PTA: A Voice and A Vision for Children” with increased emphasis on parent involvement
- Attended meeting at White House on importance of federal funding for local educational programs; testified before Pennsylvania legislature on several issues
- Cooperated with cable TV network in initiating “Critical TV Viewing” workshops across state; board of managers trained to facilitate
- Initiated collaborative effort with Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE) to stress importance of parent involvement in teacher education
- Developed a state committee to increase communication with rural PTAs; initiated a newsletter to organize Spring Conferences and training sessions in isolated areas

- National Region 2 Advocates for Children Award received by Plum Senior High School PTSA

1996-1998

- “PTA: Fitting the Pieces Together for Our Children”
- Partnership with Pennsylvania School Boards Association to present School Board Academy “Schools & Families: A Partnership for Success” promoting parent involvement
- Pennsylvania PTA Web Page was established at www.papta.org
- Sponsored a Phi Delta Kappa Forum
- Collaborated with the Comprehensive School Health Education Advisory Team (CSHE) of the American Cancer Society in the development of a Comprehensive School Health Advocacy kit.
- Developed the first “*Envirokids*” newsletter, sent to all elementary and middle schools in the state.
- National Region 2 Advocates for Children Award received by Washington Elementary School PTA, Mt. Lebanon
- National PTA Outstanding Local Unit Award Honorable Mention received by Mt. Lebanon High
- School PTSA (This award replaced the National PTA’s Advocates for Children Award.)

1998-2000

- “PTA—A New Century for Children”
- Updated Pennsylvania PTA history 1960 to 1999
- Participated in the Attorney General’s Task Force on School Safety
- Celebrated 100th Anniversary of Pennsylvania PTA
- PAC-TE PTA Web site on parental involvement, best practices and resources for pre-service and practicing teachers
- Honor Unit, 1999 National PTA Outstanding Local Unit Award—McAnnulty PTA
- Sent letters to 501 School Superintendents, as was done in our founding year, encouraging them to support PTA in their schools

2000-2003

- “Every Child”
- Partnered with Pennsylvania Council on the Arts to provide “Every Child a Masterpiece” convention
- Changed bylaws to move from a fall to spring convention
- Established membership database enabling improved communication with members and upgraded PTA website

- Partnered with Pennsylvania School Board Association to create “Best Ideas for Parental Involvement in Education”
- Partnered with Penn State and Pennsylvania Department of Health on statewide nutrition education efforts
- Trained entire board to present “Taking Charge of Your TV” and “Building Successful Partnerships”
- President chaired the Pennsylvania Coalition to Oppose Tuition Vouchers and represented PTA to the Education Funding Group and monthly meetings with the Secretary of Education
- Board members represented PTA to ASAP Coalition, PIAA Oversight Board, Coalition for Public Education, and several health coalitions

2003-2005

- Appointed to First Lady Rendell's Citizenship Initiative PennCord
- Received the Education Policy and Leadership Center's Partnership Award
- Created the My Teacher for President Contest
- Registered 5000 new voters in Pennsylvania
- Created Shop PTA
- Created new membership brochure
- Selected as keynote presenter for the Governor's Institute on Parental Involvement
- Formed over 15 partnerships - FutureConnect, Office Depot, PSEA, PBS, Coca-Cola, Barnes & Noble, Lehigh University, Joe Corbi's Pizza, AIM Insurance etc.
- Appointed to PSBA Commission for Effective School Leadership
- Created a new comprehensive membership incentive campaign
- Partnership with Philadelphia 76ers - created marketing event PTA Day with the 76ers at the Comcast Arena
- Started partnership with Bennett Family Dealership received donation of first PTA car
- Created first CD-ROM Information Bulletin for local unit leadership
- Increased membership 2003-04 and increased non-dues revenue through partnerships
- Created and implemented two Presidential Success Seminars
- Trained PTA leaders at National PTA Convention, Florida, New Jersey and Maryland PTA
- Met with every legislator in the Pennsylvania General Assembly
- Identified structure and mission of Council of Districts

2005-2007

- “Every Child. One Voice”
- Restructured the Pennsylvania PTA into 16 geographic regions, each with a vice president serving on the state board of managers
- Developed a new website at www.papta.org, with hosting donated by Schoolwires
- Collaborated with New Jersey PTA to train both state boards on Building Successful Partnerships
- Presented the “School Health Councils” resolution at the National PTA convention in Phoenix where it was unanimously adopted
- Represented at the first National PTA Emerging Minority Leaders Conference in Detroit, Michigan
- Partnered with Action For Healthy Kids to award 15 “parent scholarships” to attend the first “Wellness and Academic Success: From Policy to Action Conference” in State College
- Received 1000 backpacks from Office Depot and distributed them to students in Title I schools throughout the state
- Partnered with Pennsylvania Council on the Arts on Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest

2007-2009:

- Formed Keystone PTA for individuals with no school affiliation who wanted to join PTA.
- Hosted Lobby Day for PTA members at the state capitol.
- Formed partnership with Attorney General office about Internet Safety, Cyber bullying and co-sponsored “Operation Summer Surf” statewide press conference.
- Increased partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
- Formed partnership with Pennsylvania Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC).
- In 2008, with Pennsylvania PIRC, had the Governor proclaim and the Senate and House pass unanimous resolutions declaring October “Parent Involvement Month”.
- Joined forces with over 30 other organizations to form the Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign to advocate for adequate, accountable, equitable, sustainable and predictable school funding. Achieved the funding goal the first year.
- With Learning First Alliance, hosted the statewide conference “Pennsylvanians Achieving Academic Success”.
- Helped to form the Coalition for Effective and Responsible Testing (CERT) to address the Graduation Competency Assessments.

- Worked with Pennsylvania Department of Education on the Standards Aligned System for Parent Involvement, Response to Intervention, Student Assistance Program, and the Strengthening Families Leadership Team.
- Implemented the use of training webinars and teleconferences for PTA leaders.

PENNSYLVANIA PTA PRESIDENTS

*1899-1902	Mrs. Frederick Schoff (Philadelphia)
*1902-1905	Mrs. Howard W. Lippincott (Philadelphia)
*1905-1915	Mrs. George K. Johnson (Philadelphia)
*1915-1916	Mrs. E. I. Fothergill (Pittsburgh)
*1916-1926	Mrs. E. E. Kiernam (Somerset)
*1926-1930	Mrs. William Brice (Bedford)
*1930-1934	Mrs. Walter E. Greenwood (Coatesville)
*1934-1938	Mrs. H. H. Hall (Williamsport)
*1938-1942	Mrs. P. B. Digby (Pittsburgh)
*1942-1945	Mrs. Edwin S. Yarnall (Pottstown)
*1945-1948	Mrs. A. J. Nicely (Erie)
*1948-1951	Mrs. James Meehan (Brush Valley)
*1952-1954	Mrs. Alexander Groskin (Philadelphia)
*1954-1957	Mrs. Cecil S. Garey (Scranton)
*1957-1960	Mrs. Horace H. Johnson (Pittsburgh)
1960-1962	Mrs. Harold G. Moore (Wesleyville)
*1962-1964	Mr. Oscar L. Lingle (Harrisburg)
*1964-1966	Mrs. E. S. Smith (Pottstown)
1966-1968	Mrs. Howard J. Huegel (Lehighton)
1968-1970	Mrs. Robert E. Reynolds (Williamsport)
1970-1972	Mrs. Robert G. Scholze (Lower Burrell)
1972-1974	Mrs. Lloyd L. Bennett (Harrisburg)
1974-1976	Mrs. P. J. DeMatteo (Erie)
1976-1978	Mr. Frank Vollero, Jr. (Penn Hills)
*1978-1980	Ms. Anna Lee Dowling (Monongahela)
*1980-1982	Mrs. Celesta C. Brandon (North Versailles)
*1982-1984	Mr. Robert P. Stanley (Middletown)
1984-1986	Mrs. Hattie L. Lehigh (York)
*1986-1988	Mrs. Marjorie Horvath (Nanticoke)
1988-1990	Mr. Claude E. Kohl, Jr. (Allentown)
1990-1992	Muriel Barton (Taylor)
1992-1994	Sandra L. Zelno (North Huntingdon)
1994-1996	Jeanne Stefanac (Baldwin Borough)
1996-1998	Linda Burns (Peckville)
1998-2000	Mary Beth Graf (California)
2000-2003	Tomi Waters Boylstein (North Apollo)
2003-2005	Carol S. Ritter (Bath)
2005-2007	Christine Munchak (Scranton)
2007-2009	Caroline Allen (Harrisburg)
2009-2011	Michele Morrow (Bath)

*deceased