Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. It is an exciting time with temperatures dropping, a little, kids back in school, and your PTA up and running. Many of you have had a great summer planning session, some are just starting to think about PTA, and others are at square one. Wherever you are, let’s start together to move towards an amazing year. The Cheshire Cat in Alice in wonderland, reminds Alice that it doesn’t much matter which way you go if you don’t know where you want to get. So where does your PTA want to go this year? What do you want to accomplish? How can you improve outcomes and opportunities for your students? One of Tennessee PTA’s goals is to provide superior customer service to you. We want to listen to your needs, help provide solutions, offer relevant training, help share your stories with policy makers, and make your time as a leader easier.

Tennessee PTA is continuing work in the area of family engagement, helping transform simple one way information sharing to true decision making partnerships. We also received a grant to help parents and communities to understand educational data, influence what is measured to make it relevant and safe, and how to use data to make change.

Tennessee PTA also has ambitious membership goals. We want to increase the number of voices we have. We want all people that are concerned about education to have their voice heard and amplified. Being a member is not limited to parents with kids in school, parents who want to volunteer, or “those parents”, it is open to anyone who wants the students of Tennessee to succeed. Make sure you join PTA and ask a friend to join too!

Kim Henderson, Tennessee PTA President
Welcome to our two newest PTAs

Northview Intermediate PTA, Knoxville

Rose Hill PTA, Jackson

Why join Tennessee PTA? What’s the “value” in being a member?

Great questions! One of America’s most beloved Presidents once said, “Ask not what my Country can do for you, but what you can do for your country”, and we aren't known as the “volunteer” state for nothing!

It is by YOU, through your paid membership in PTA, whether you volunteer time, little time or no time that helps us support the mission of making EVERY child’s (in the state of Tennessee and Nationally) potential a reality.

Your membership supports all students, teachers, schools, and families here in Tennessee and Nationally whether they are in a PTA school or not, but we can’t do this without you and your membership. In other words, “you are the value” when you become a PTA member or supporter!

Your membership shows your belief in, and helps fund the mission of PTA, so that we together can work to secure PTA’s mission for today’s children, tomorrow’s children, and their families.

Help secure the future of our state, and our nation, become a member of PTA! Building a Stronger PTA Together! As what YOU can do for our Children”!

Thanks for ALL you do!

Charles Scott, Tennessee PTA Membership Chair 2019-2020
Hi, my name is Dana and I am the mother of three adult children. The number one question I get is “Since your kids are grown adults why are you still doing PTA?” The first thing I tell people is that when I started PTA, I joined because my nephew asked me to, then a year later my daughter started kindergarten and I wanted to be a part of her life at school. I joined her PTA because someone at a PTA table asked me to join. Then another lady asked me to be the hospitality chair for the PTA. I loved serving others and wanted to do this job, so I could be involved with the school my daughter attended.

Quickly, I realized that I was not only in PTA for my child, but for all the kids whose parents could not be there for one reason or another. I then saw that I was engaged in what my child and the other children were doing. Being a part of the PTA as a member, board member, parent, and volunteer was helping all children in my community and also those students who do not have someone to speak up for them. Through PTA I became the voice for all the children.

I started to see the value in PTA and what we did mattered. A group of PTA leaders spoke up on behalf of children, we advocated and got things changed. Our PTA got bus stops added so students did not have to walk almost a mile in the dark to catch buses.

Then I joined the board at the council and quickly could see that the membership numbers mattered. We had a new subdivision being developed beside one of our schools and the developer wanted and petitioned the zoning committee to allow him to have his subdivision entrance in a place that parents and community members did not feel was safe for our parents and students. Our PTA council president showed up at the meeting and told the city and county board members that we did not want the driveway entrance at this location and that he had over 10,000 members with PTA council that he was speaking for. A day later we received word that they voted against what the developer requested. The developer moved it about half mile away and it worked out great for all concerned. All it took was someone using their voice to advocate.

I am now a “GiGi” to my grandson Lincoln. He is attending a public school in Hamilton County School System. He is in Pre-K and his school has a PTA, I am a member of his unit, because I want to help improve his chance to have the same opportunities that all children deserve. No matter who you are financially, physically, race, religion, special needs, gifted, have a single mom, have two moms, or your grandparents are raising you, every child deserves to be learning in a judgment free environment and feel safe with who they are, while receiving a free education.

I continue in PTA because I see the value in my membership. Our mission is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering all families and communities to advocate for all children. I hope you can see a small part of why I still do PTA and that you too can value PTA even more.

**Not involved at a local PTA school??**

**Join TALL (Tennessee at Large Local Unit) at**

[https://tall.memberhub.store/](https://tall.memberhub.store/)
A PTA in Good Standing is one that:

- Adheres to the Purposes and basic policies of PTA;
- Submits an initial remittance of the State and National portion of membership dues to the Tennessee PTA, enters their members into MemberHub by December 1 and all remaining State and National dues by May 15;
- Has bylaws approved according to the procedures of the Tennessee PTA at least every 5 years;
- Submits an Audit Report Form to Tennessee PTA by November 1;
- Files annually to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) the appropriate 990 form by November 15 and shall submit a copy of the appropriate 990 receipt to Tennessee PTA by November 20;
- Maintains a minimum of 20 members;

A unit must be in good standing to receive mailings and support from Tennessee PTA, participate in PTA programs, or qualify for awards and grants.

Tennessee PTA is excited to offer MemberHub free to all PTAs in Tennessee.

**MemberHub takes the guesswork out of PTA compliance**

**It's easy to stay in good standing**, with automated dues remittance, membership reporting, and easy good-standing acknowledgements.

**Eliminate manual membership reporting** with spreadsheets when you sell PTA memberships online in MemberHub. The state automatically gets the information.

**You can also remit dues to the state with one click** via ACH, instead of dealing with cash, checks, and multiple trips to the bank.
Bills to Watch

Tennessee PTA is watching with interest Rep Bo Mitchell’s call for the Tennessee Education Savings Account Pilot Program to be deleted 'in its entirety' (Tennessee House Bill 1550)

Add your voice. Sign up to receive legislative alerts and to take action at

https://tnpta.org/take-action.html

Who's Looking at Your Child's Data?

Tennessee PTA encourages the disclosure of the type, method, purpose, use, and storage of data collected from students as well as a list of outside entities such as private companies, philanthropic organizations, governmental or quasi-governmental agencies having access to student data.

National PTA currently has six open grant programs to support digital safety, STEM, healthy lifestyles, and family engagement in your community. In total, they are giving away over 200 grants totaling over $300,000 in funding for State/District/Council/Regional and Local PTAs. We encourage you to apply!

PTA Connected Be Internet Awesome Family Workshop Grant, sponsored by Google, will award $1,000 to 75 local PTAs and $5,000 to 20 State/District/Council/Regional PTAs to host workshops designed to help families connect with each other about online safety. This program is great for Pre-K through 6th grade.

PTA Connected SmartTalk Conversation Grant, sponsored by Symantec, will award $1,000 to 25 PTAs to host a SmartTalk Conversation at their school during the month of February, in celebration of Safer Internet Day on Feb. 11, 2020. This grant program helps establish healthy online habits for first through eighth-grade students.

Take Your Family to School Week Grant, sponsored by Office Depot OfficeMax, will award $1,000 to 15 local PTAs to host a family engagement program during National PTA’s Take Your Family to School Week, which will be held Feb. 16-23, 2020. This program is great for Pre-K through fifth-grade students.

Healthy Hydration Grant, sponsored by Nestlé Waters North America, together with its national brand Nestlé® Pure Life®, will award $1,000 to 25 local PTAs add interactive water stations to existing healthy lifestyles events in celebration of Healthy Lifestyles Month in November 2019. This program is great for PTAs of all grades, Pre-K through 12th-grade.

STEM + Families Science Festival Grant, sponsored by Bayer, will award $1,250 to 30 local PTAs, $3,500 to 5 State/District/Council/Regional PTAs, and $500 to 10 Renewal PTAs to host a STEM + Families Science Festival for elementary and/or middle school families.

STEM + Families Math Night grant, sponsored by Mathnasium, will award $1,000 to 35 local PTAs to host a STEM + Families Math Night alongside their local Mathnasium franchise, who will help them run the event. This program is best suited for elementary school students (Pre-K through sixth-grade).

— Tennessee PTA Arts Enhancement Grant

Grant Overview: The Tennessee PTA Arts Enhancement Grant Program complements PTA’s long-standing commitment to quality arts education by providing funds to local PTAs to establish or enhance activities associated with participation in the National PTA Reflections program or the Tennessee PTA Citizenship Essay program. These arts programs challenge students to think artistically by creating entries based on an annually selected theme. In the Reflections program, students participate in one or more arts categories: dance choreography, film production, music composition, photography, and visual arts. The category of literature is used in both the Reflections and Citizenship programs.

Grant Amounts: Local PTA/PTSA units may received an annual grant up to $250. Councils also may apply and receive a grant up to $500.
Tennessee PTA Reflections
We had three (3) winners at the National PTA last year!

Theme for 2019-2020:
“LOOK WITHIN”

Official Reflections Kick-Off
September 8 – 14, 2019

Reflections Entries due to the State Office: January 16, 2020

For more information contact Mary Edwards at medwards@tnpta.org or visit http://www.tnpta.org/student-programs.html

Tennessee PTA Arts in Education Themes
2019-2020

All essay and poster entries must be received in the Tennessee PTA state office on or before Thursday, January 16, 2020.

Citizenship Essay Program
“We are all dreamers”

Safety Poster Program (Preschool - Grade 8)
“Put down your phone”
SUPER 5: Back-to-School Power Moves

The Learning Hero Roadmap helps you start the school year strong. Try these 5 simple actions and check them off as you go!

1. GET A GUT-CHECK
Use the Readiness Check to see how your child is doing with math and reading skills needed for their new grade, plus get videos and activities to support learning at home!

2. CELEBRATE EFFORT
Help your child see that hard work is what leads to success. Focus on effort and what your child is learning. This will help them feel less nervous about new challenges.

3. SUPPORT LIFE SKILLS
Strengths such as communication, problem-solving, and confidence will help your child in school and life. Talk openly about how they’re feeling and handling situations, especially the tough ones.

4. PARTNER UP
Help the teacher get to know your child by sharing their interests, strengths, and areas for support. Ask what’s expected of your child and how you can help at home.

5. MAKE IT FUN
You are the expert on your child and help make learning real! Read together on topics that interest your child. Find math in everyday life and turn it into a game. These small learning moments add up to a lot!

Visit bealearninghero.org to learn more. Check off each action as you go!
Have you ever wanted to serve with Tennessee PTA but didn’t have time to attend board meetings? Tennessee PTA is now looking for PTA members to serve on various committees at the state level.

◊ Committees serve under the direction of the Tennessee PTA Board of Directors.
◊ Committee members will not be asked to attend meetings in person or travel on behalf of Tennessee PTA.
◊ Committee meetings shall be held via conference calls or webinars.
◊ The Tennessee PTA President appoints the committee members.

Responsibilities for Committee Members:

Participate in monthly committee conference calls.
- Respond promptly to emails and requests.
- Help build the membership of Tennessee PTA.
- Help to create and implement a committee plan of work.
- Submit articles for the Tennessee Bulletin as assigned.
- Create or update materials pertaining to his/her committee to be sent to local units and to post on the Tennessee PTA website.

Committee members have the same duties of care, loyalty and fiduciary obligations to the association as that of officers and board members. Standards of honesty and good faith are expected so that committee actions are taken in the best interest of members and the association. The duty of care requires committee members to apply reasonable skill and judgment in committee meetings and to pay attention to the activities and financial impact of committee decisions on the association.

Nominations are now being accepted. All members are welcome to nominate a candidate. (You may nominate yourself.) The main qualification needed is dedication to all children and to PTA. Application can be found at tnpta.org/nldc/committee_interest_form.pdf
Congratulations to our Tennessee PTAs recognized as 2019-2021 National PTA Schools of Excellence!

Collierville Middle School PTA
Loftis Middle PTA
Pi Beta Phi Elementary PTA!

How can your school be a National PTA School of Excellence

What is the National PTA School of Excellence program? The National PTA School of Excellence program is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. By enrolling in this program, your PTA and school administrators are making a year-long commitment to identify and implement an action plan for school improvement based on PTA’s National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

Those that exhibit improvement are honored as National PTA Schools of Excellence, a distinction that spans two years. Honorees receive celebration tools and automatic consideration for the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award and a $2,000 grant for their school. PTAs are encouraged to renew their designation each year, or every other year, to continue to build on their momentum.

The School of Excellence Program is a powerful tool that can benefit everyone. It brings to light ways that the school/PTA can improve, but it also celebrates successes. It can be a visual reminder of everything we have accomplished together as a school and PTA.
– Lee Heinerikson, Thomas B. Chinn Elementary Principal, Missouri

The award provides an example of how the PTA, community and school have a bond and interest in ensuring that our students succeed. It’s an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments while setting goals towards future challenges.
– Dr. Gregory Matlosz, Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School Principal, New Jersey

Enroll by October 1st at https://www.pta.org/home/programs/National-PTA-School-of-Excellence
Contact Us
For more information, assistance, questions and support, contact us, we are here for you.

Tennessee PTA
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www.tnpta.com

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Note: Additional board positions are vacant. Please visit www.tnpta.org for a complete list.

2019—2021
Tennessee PTA
Board Members

Officers
President       Kim Henderson       khenderson@tnpta.org
President-elect Dwight Hunter      dhunter@tnpta.org
VP Child & Youth Advocacy LeTicia Taylor itaylor@tnpta.org
VP Membership & Outreach Anita Smith asmith@tnpta.org
Secretary       Theresa Shaw        tshaw@tnpta.org
Treasurer       Charles Everett     ceverett@tnpta.org
Past President  Cheryl Floyd        cfloyd@tnpta.org

Committees
Arts in Education & Scholarship Hank Winkler hwinkler@tnpta.org
Bylaws & Standing Rules Larry Davis ldavis@tnpta.org
Education Committee          LeTicia Taylor ltaylor@tnpta.org
Family & Community Engagement Rosemary Winters rwinters@tnpta.org
Marketing & Communications  Wayne Brown wbrown@tnpta.org
Membership, Diversity and Inclusion Charles Scott cscott@tnpta.org
Reflections                  Mary Edwards medwards@tnpta.org
Resolutions                  Terri Harris tharris@tnpta.org
Resource Development         Dana Price dprice@tnpta.org

Region Directors
South Central Region  Tim Duke       tduke@tnpta.org
Southeast Region      Gail Phillips   gphillips@tnpta.org
East Tennessee Region Tonya Cambre tcambre@tnpta.org
**Dates to Remember**

Officer Lists—Past Due  
National PTA Grants—Due September 8th  

- September 16 – Back to School for PTA Leaders  
- September 17 – Back to School for Parents  
- September 18 – Back to School for Students  
- September 19 – Back to School for Teachers  
- September 20 – Office Depot OfficeMax Day  

**Early Bird Membership** - Due September 30th  
School of Excellence Enrollment—Ends October 1st  
Reflections Registration Open Now  
Audit Reports—Due Nov 1  
990 Filing—Due Nov 15th to the IRS  

Tennessee PTA - Advocating Everyday, in Everyway, for Every Child