Happy Holidays!

At this time of year there are many different holidays being celebrated and I hope each of you are enjoying this time to step away from your normal day to day activities and spending time with friends and families.

Just as there are many different types of holidays and ways to celebrate, there are many different types of families. Some may be biological, some may be traditional, some maybe multigenerational, some may be adopted and some may be just a group of people whose care about each other. Recently I was speaking with a business representative and she mentioned to me how surprised she was to find out that the state PTA leaders she spoke with were linked with other PTA leaders throughout the country. This is one of the great benefits of PTA. You are never alone. As a new or seasoned PTA member, there are always lots of PTA family to reach out to for help, leadership, support, and friendship. This reminder has been very personal to me these past 5 months as I have been receiving treatment for breast cancer. State and local leaders here in Tennessee have stepped up to help carry the load and offer support, but also national, state and local leaders throughout the country have stepped up to help Tennessee PTA and offered support personally. I would like to thank all of my PTA family and friends for their love and support.

But you don’t need to be a state president to have a family of PTA friends. Get involved in your local council or start a council if there is not one in your area. Join the PTA Local Leaders Facebook group. Reach out to a state board member. Participate in Tennessee events and webinars: leadership calls, membership webinars, educational data training, and Student Storm the Hill are all coming up in the next couple months and offer great networking opportunities.

PTA provides resources and training that allow you to focus on the important issues in your local community. You do not need to reinvent the wheel or start from scratch. Tennessee PTA is here to help! Reach out to us to let us know what you need.

2020 will be a exciting and busy time for Tennessee PTA. Visit our website and Facebook page, and read our tweets and newsletters to find out about all the upcoming opportunities.

Kim Henderson, Tennessee PTA President
Tennessee PTA
Students Storm the Hill

February 12, 2020

This event provides an opportunity for middle and high school students as well as PTA members across the state to meet with legislators and have their voices heard. Mock legislative sessions and capitol tours will be provided. All Tennessee PTAs are encouraged to attend.

An Intent to Participate form must be completed and submitted via email to the Tennessee State PTA Office no later than January 10, 2010. The form can be found at https://tnpta.org/day-on-the-hill.html
Find out which bills in Congress National PTA supports, opposes and is monitoring.

https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/federal-legislation/Key-legislation

The 111th Tennessee General Assembly will reconvene on January 14, 2020, at 12 Noon.

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)

S.1832 - Smoke-Free Schools Act of 2019

Tennessee PTA is joining with National PTA to support S 1832. Too many of our youth are being negatively affected by tobacco and e-cigarettes. This bill would clarify federal law to explicitly ban the use of e-cigarettes and other vaping mechanisms in schools. The bill was introduced by Senator Tom Udall of New Mexico and has bipartisan support.

Tennessee PTA is gathering anecdotal data and information about how passing this legislation would positively impact schools who are grappling with the difficult issue of preventing students from using e-cigarettes and other tobacco products at school. Please send any stories to Tammy Crowe at tcrowe@tnpta.org
ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE
– PTA RESOLUTIONS

Tennessee PTA is part of the largest child advocacy group in the world. One of the tools utilized to speak on behalf of children is Resolutions.

Are you aware of a situation or concern that impacts youth statewide and requires statewide action for solution? The Resolution Committee encourages PTA members, local units and councils to propose resolutions of interest on which they wish the Tennessee PTA to take a position. Those resolutions, which must meet criteria listed below, will be presented at the Tennessee PTA Annual Convention, to be held April 24-25, 2020 in Knoxville, TN.

You may be wondering if Tennessee PTA already has a position or resolution on a certain topic. The Tennessee PTA website, www.tnpta.org, has all adopted resolutions of the Tennessee PTA, listed under the Advocacy tab. Check it out for ideas and information. National PTA also offers an eLearning course, “Writing and Proposing PTA Resolutions” at https://member.pta.org/Shop/Local-Leader-eLearning-Courses, to guide you. If you would like some help, please feel free to contact the Tennessee State PTA Office at ptastateoffice@tnpta.org.

To be considered all resolutions with all supporting documentation must be e-mailed to the Tennessee PTA office no later than midnight, February 15, 2020.
1. Identify Your Issue
Perhaps your local PTA/PTSA or council has already identified an area of concern, such as crosswalk safety, school nutrition, or substance abuse. As in any advocacy effort, you must begin by clearly defining your cause for concern. Start by developing a concise statement of the problem. Stick to one sentence at first, just to frame your thinking. For example: “The crosswalk in front of the high school is dangerous because of speeding cars and lack of supervision.”

2. Research Your Issue
Do some initial research; then present the issue to your PTA. If your PTA agrees that this is an issue they want to address, your PTA should form a committee to help you continue your research. Share your problem statement with the committee. They may want to add to it or edit it based on the group's research. From there, use the group's problem statement and turn it into a one-page overview. As you research the issue, be sure the resolution meets the criteria. A resolution must:

- Is in harmony with the purposes and basic policies of PTA
- Is addressing an issue of statewide concern related to the education, health, safety or welfare of children and youth, or parental education and family engagement
- Is not addressed in a position statement or resolution previously adopted by National or Tennessee PTA
- Use correct grammar and spelling throughout
- Use clear and concise language with consistent name references and no acronyms

3. Draft Your Resolution
After your committee has thoroughly researched the issue, you will be ready to draft the resolution. Make multiple copies and share them with the committee so everyone can review the requirements. There are two main parts of a resolution:

**Whereas:** The preamble portion of the resolution consisting of a statement(s) providing information on the resolution, reasons for the resolution, and why it should be adopted.

**Resolved:** The main motion. The Resolved statements constitute the request for action and express the opinion or will of the group.

- “Whereas” statements should be broad in scope, concise and limited to less than 8
- Resources from a variety of sources (must have 3 per “Whereas” statement) that are factual, verifiable and published no more than 5 years ago
- Each reference should include the author, title, publisher, page number and date. Online sources must include the URL.
- Support for each “Whereas” statement shown in the background references using brackets and indicating which “Whereas” statement it supports
- PTA documents may not be included as background support
- Please note that you can use the same reference for different “Whereas” statements if necessary
- Make sure each “Resolved” statement directs the Tennessee PTA to take some form of action to help solve the problem and/or states the action you want taken by others to help solve the problem. This may include administrators, legislators or other influential parties.

4. Submit Your Resolution
CONGRATULATIONS! You are now ready to present your resolution. To be considered all resolutions in Word format with the completed Resolutions Submittal Cover Sheet and all supporting documentation must be e-mailed to the Tennessee PTA office no later than midnight, February 15, 2020. You will be contacted about the results of your submission by the Resolutions Committee.
What is needed to be in Good Standing?

- **Annual Audit submitted by November 1**
  
  Sample audit forms can be found at [https://tnpta.org/other-local-unit-forms.html](https://tnpta.org/other-local-unit-forms.html)

- **Annual IRS Filing**
  
  File 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. Every organization regardless of income must file a 990 every year. Many PTAs can complete the 990N which takes just a few minutes. Visit [https://tnpta.org/financial.html](https://tnpta.org/financial.html) for information.

- **Membership Dues must be paid annually by December 1st.** (A minimum of 20 members.) Additional dues collected after that date should be submitted no later than May 15th. Electronic payments can be submitted via MemberHub at any time. Visit [https://support.memberhub.com/hc/en-us/articles/360006895253-How-to-pay-your-state-dues-in-MemberHub](https://support.memberhub.com/hc/en-us/articles/360006895253-How-to-pay-your-state-dues-in-MemberHub)

  Members information must be submitted to Tennessee PTA by entering the information into MemberHub.

- **Bylaws must be reviewed and submitted to Tennessee PTA at least every 5 years.**

- **Officer lists must be submitted every year to Tennessee PTA.**
  These can be updated directly in MemberHub as officers change.

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MemberHub helps your PTA stay organized and in Good Standing
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.
Welcome to our two newest PTAs

Inglewood Elementary PTA, Nashville
Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence PTA

SAVE the following dates for a series of special “Membership Growth Webinars”

They will focus the spotlight on Local Units across the state that have increased their membership, so that you too can learn how to increase membership in your school! Any PTA member is welcome to join.

Tuesday, January 7, 2020*
Monday, February 3, 2020*
Monday, March 2, 2020*
Monday, April 6, 2020*

*Time: 6:00 PM CDT/7:00 PM EDT
Each Webinar should last less than an (1) hour,

PLEASE Register in advance
To register for the Jan 7, 2020 call go to
https://pta.zoom.us/meeting/register/upwvc-6grDMpAfCCU4ZQxzGHYg4sgRAaTQ
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how
Tammy Crowe

Growing up I remember my parents having deep discussions regarding PTA activities and events and attending meetings in my school’s library. At the mere mention of a meeting I would be doing my famous eye roll followed by a deep sigh. I detested them so much! Granted, I had no clue the value they were investing in me by giving of their time but I was wise enough to know it was important work.

Fast forward a few decades later when I was asked to be part of my own children’s PTA. It was then that I realized how my parents along with so many others, sacrificed their time just to give us children a VOICE! The beauty of it all is that PTA advocacy in the 70’s is still the PTA advocacy of today, never wavering their beliefs that all children matter!

It was in 2016 before I became involved with PTA and the dedication this organization gives to children was made clear within the first weeks of my involvement. Being a professional child advocate and being involved in multiple children’s advocacy organizations, PTA is the one I am most proud of! We walk the walk and talk the talk.

When you ask me why I join the PTA, it’s seeing a child become his own advocate because he was impacted by a PTA volunteer, that right there, is my why! It’s seeing a community collaborate with a school to strengthen their youth, that’s my why! Guiding and assisting caring individuals, who tirelessly work in harmony, to give their own students a voice, that is my why! Come, be part of the equation and

Join the PTA!
Have you ever wanted to serve with Tennessee PTA but weren't sure how. Tennessee PTA is looking for PTA members to serve at the state level.

- Resolutions Chair
- Reflections Program Chair
- Parliamentarian
- VP of Communication and Student Programs
- First Tennessee Region Director
- Memphis Delta Region Director


There are also openings for PTA members to sit on statewide committees. Visit [http://tnpta.org/nldc/committee_interest_form.pdf](http://tnpta.org/nldc/committee_interest_form.pdf) for more information.
Contact Us

For more information, assistance, questions and support, contact us, we are here for you.

Tennessee PTA
1905 Acklen Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212

(615) 383-9740

Visit us on the web at
www.tnpta.com

Follow us:

Blog: tennessepta.tumblr.com

Facebook: @tnpta

Twitter: @tennessepta

Instagram: @tennessepta

Officers
President Kim Henderson khenderson@tnpta.org
President-elect Dwight Hunter dhunter@tnpta.org
VP Child & Youth Advocacy LeTicia Taylor ltaylor@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
Federal and State Legislation Tammy Crowe tcrowe@tnpta.org
Marketing & Communications Wayne Brown wbrown@tnpta.org
Membership, Diversity and Inclusion Charles Scott cscott@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

Membership Remittance—Due Dec 1st
SSTH Intent to Participated—Due Jan 10th
Reflections Entries—Due Jan 16th
Student Storm the Hill—Feb 12th
Resolutions—Due Feb 15th

Tennessee PTA Convention
April 24-25, 2020
Knoxville