Welcome to Spring

No matter what has happened over the past year, wherever your PTA is working this year, it is a great time to get started again. We have our annual business meetings and training workshops coming up in April and May. Use these to help rejuvenate your PTA leaders and members. There are tons of resources available to you to PTA your way.

I wanted to share an excerpt from a National PTA article “It’s not too late to PTA” by Kirthana Krishnathasan. “PTAs don’t need a school building to support their families! Are you still PTA/PTSA-ing in your school communities? Kids, families, teachers, principals and schools need your PTA more than ever this year. Your PTA can play a key role in helping support your school community in these tough times. It’s not too late to PTA this school year! If you had a slow start to your PTA year, renew your efforts in 2021. For many, if COVID-19 has meant the needs of your school community have changed, have your PTA refocus on responding to—and supporting—those needs.” I encourage you to read the whole article which can be found at https://onevoice.pta.org/its-not-too-late-to-pta/

PTA is so much more than fundraising and meetings. We are here to engage and empower all the families and community members. PTA is about opening lines of communication to improve schools and programs to help every child. Reach out to those in your community that need their voice heard, gather the thoughts and needs of your students and see what a team can do to provide your students with opportunities to reach their potential.

Kim Henderson, Tennessee PTA President
Dr Seuss said “You’ll never be bored when you try something new. There’s really no limit to what you can do.”

PTA started as the idea of one woman named Alice McLellan Birney. In 1897, she along with Phoebe Apperson Hearst founded the National Congress of Mothers. According to Birney, the goal of the organization was to unite the forces of home, school, and community in recognizing "the supreme importance of the child." She introduced something new to her world.

We have had many amazing leaders adding their footsteps to the PTA path including Selena Sloan Butler who founded the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, local leaders such as Mrs. G. H. Robertson, the first president of Tennessee PTA; Mrs. J. F. Trimble, first president of the Tennessee Colored Congress of Parents and Teachers; Nashville born Lois Jean White, the first African American President of the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to name just a few. They all tried something new and built the association that we are each a part of.

This past year has given us opportunities to try new things. We have had many amazing things happening throughout the state. At times most of us have also been overwhelmed by our challenges, but as we come together we can continue to try new things building and expanding this association into the future.

This year’s convention will look different. We will be hosting this event virtually. The evening of April 23rd and the morning of April 24th Tennessee PTA will conduct our business meeting with keynote speaker(s), the officer election, bylaws amendments, annual reports and unit/council awards. May 13th - 15th Tennessee PTA will offer a variety of workshops to help you succeed in the upcoming year. The cost is $10 per person for any or all events. The student award event will be held later in the year. Convention is an excellent training opportunity and a legitimate expense for your PTA/PTSA. Plan to be renewed, revived and energized as you add your voice for the children and families we serve.

Don’t miss your opportunity to join us for convention. Complete your registration form today.

Thank you for all you do. Together we will make a difference in the lives of the children and families of Tennessee.

Kim Henderson
Tennessee PTA President
Tennessee PTA’s Annual Business Meetings and Training Workshops
Tentative Schedule (Times may be adjusted)

**Friday April 23rd**
5:30-7:30 pm
Keynote Speaker
Reports: Legislation, Membership, Financial, NLDC
Unit/Individual Awards
Door Prize Drawings
Election Speeches (if needed)
Bylaws Amendments

**Saturday April 24th**
9:00-12:00 am
Keynote Speaker
Election
Unit/Individual Awards
Bylaws Amendments
Door Prize Drawings
Officer Installation

**Workshops May 13th-15th**
Workshops will be offered twice daily and as recorded links

Tentative Topics
Finances for Everyone
Membership
President
Arts Programs
Family Engagement—including Men
How to PTA Virtually
MemberHub
Advocacy
Tennessee PTA will be holding our officer elections during the annual business meeting held on April 23rd and 24th. Dwight Hunter, our president elect will be installed as president for the 2021-2023 term.

Below is the slate of officers submitted by the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee.

The NLDC presents the following individuals for the Tennessee PTA 2021-2023 Term

**President-Elect** - Dana Price

**VP Child & Youth Advocacy** - Anita Allen

**VP Communications & Student Awards** - Larry Davis

**VP Membership & Outreach** - Tonya Cambre

**Treasurer** - Charles Everett

**Secretary** - Theresa Shaw

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Shaw, NLDC Chair
Wayne Brown, Committee Member
Tonya Cambre, Committee Member
Gail Phillips, Committee Member
Charles Scott, Committee Member

Additional nominations from the floor must be sent to the Tennessee PTA President, Kim Henderson at president@tnpta.org no later than April 2, 2021. Nomination forms can be found at https://tnpta.org/index.php/nldc/

Tennessee PTA is also looking for committee chairs and region directors for the 2021-2023 term. Please visit https://tnpta.org/index.php/nldc/ and complete the board interest form as soon as possible to be considered.
Proposed 2021 Tennessee PTA Bylaws Amendments

In accordance with Article XXII: Amendments, Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at an annual convention by two-thirds vote of those present and voting provided the amendments have been approved by the Board of Managers and notice of proposed amendments has been provided to constituent organization thirty (30) days prior to the opening day of convention. Housekeeping corrections will be completed following the business meeting.

It is preferred, but not required, that you submit any primary amendments to these proposed bylaws in writing to the president at president@tnpta.org before the beginning of the first business meeting.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend Section 8 in ARTICLE VI: MEMBERS AND DUES by striking the word council and inserting the word unit.

Currently Reads:

The treasurer of each council shall make remittances to the state office for the amount of the state and national dues received by the established dates.

Proposed Amendment would read as:

The treasurer of each unit shall make remittances to the state office for the amount of the state and national dues received by the established dates.

Rational:

Local units submit dues directly to the state office via MemberHub or via a remittance form and check not to a council.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend the bylaws by replacing all instances of the term “Board of Managers” with “Board of Directors”.

Rational:

The word managers makes it sound as if the State Board has the final say so on anything regarding Tennessee PTA. Board of Directors is a much better fit as simply directing the Association in the way it’s members would approve of.
Proposed Amendment:
Amend Section 1, letter B in Article XVI: Local PTAs/PTSAs, by striking “December 1 and all remaining State and National dues by May 15” and inserting “November 1st and monthly thereafter through June 1.”

Currently Reads:
Submits an initial remittance of the state and national portion of membership dues to the Tennessee PTA by December 1 and all remaining State and National dues by May 15.

Proposed Amendment would read as:
Submits an initial remittance of the state and national portion of membership dues to the Tennessee PTA by November 1; and monthly thereafter through June 1

Rational:
Most units start collecting membership dues in August or September. A November 1 due date benefits Tennessee PTA operations. Stating the process of monthly payments of dues after November 1 through June 1 raises the expectations that units should be remitting dues on a regular and continuing basis after the initial remittance.

Proposed Amendment:
Strike Section 8 in Article X: Board of Managers and replace with a new Section 8 which reads: A Quorum of the Board of Managers shall be a majority of the members of the Board currently in office, with at least two members who are not on the Executive Committee.

Currently Reads:
Eleven (11) members, three of who shall be members of the Executive Committee, 14 shall constitute a quorum.

Proposed Amendment would read as:
A Quorum of the Board of Managers shall be a majority of the members of the Board currently in office, with at least two members who are not on Executive Committee.

Rational:
Over the years the size of the state board has decreased. Also, with situations, such as the pandemic, the state board, like many local units, struggle to reach a quorum. This amendment will allow Tennessee PTA to meet quorum and conduct business.
Proposed Amendment:
Amend Section 5 in Article XVII by striking “city, county, or area” before council.

Currently Reads:
The voting body of the annual meeting shall be limited to the Board of Managers, Past Presidents, who maintain an active membership, Presidents of city, county or area councils or their elected alternates, county chairmen in unorganized counties,

Proposed Amendment would read as:
The voting body of the annual meeting shall be limited to the Board of Managers, Past Presidents, who maintain an active membership, Presidents of councils or their elected alternates, county chairmen in unorganized counties,

Rational:
Councils are not designated by their city, county, or area. Removing these words clarifies the term council.

Proposed Amendment:
Amend Section 10 in Article VI: Members and Dues by striking “Teacher Training”

Currently Reads:
A Tennessee Life Achievement Award may be conferred upon a person for distinguished services. The fee for a Tennessee Life Achievement Award shall be a part of the Tennessee PTA Teacher Training Scholarship Fund. Life Achievement Award members may become active members upon payment of dues in a local PTA/PTSA.

Proposed Amendment would read as:
A Tennessee Life Achievement Award may be conferred upon a person for distinguished services. The fee for a Tennessee Life Achievement Award shall be a part of the Tennessee PTA Scholarship Fund. Life Achievement Award members may become active members upon payment of dues in a local PTA/PTSA.

Rational:
Tennessee PTA’s fund is titled Scholarship Fund not Teacher Training Scholarship Fund.
Early Bird Membership Awards

- A. L. Lott Elementary PTA
- Amherst Elementary PTA
- Collierville Middle School PTA
- Crosswind Elementary School PTA
- Donelson Elementary PTA
- Fairmont Elementary PTA
- Frayser Community PTSA
- Grandview Elementary PTA
- Holston View Elementary PTA
- Indian Trail Intermediate School PTA
- Inglewood Elementary PTA
- John Adams Elementary PTA
- Knox County Schools Teacher Supply Depot PTA
- Liberty Bell Middle School PTA
- Lookout Mountain Elementary PTA
- Northview Intermediate PTA
- Ooltewah Elementary PTA
- Robertsville Middle School PTSA
- Ruby Major Elementary PTA
- Schilling Farms Elementary PTA
- Science Hill High School PTSA
- Soddy Daisy Middle Community PTA
- South Doyle Middle Scoot PTSA
- South Side Elementary PTA
- Towne Acres Elementary PTA
- Tyner Academy PTA (New Unit)
- Wallace A. Smith Community PTA
- West Collierville Middle PTA
Welcome to our newest PTA

Dalewood PTA, Chattanooga

Congratulations to Vivian Hall on receiving the National PTA Lifetime Achievement Award - Awarded by the United Shelby County Council of PTAs

Vivian Hall’s dedication and support of children and their families on behalf of the Parent Teacher Association spans over 14 years. Her election as president of the River City High School Parent Teacher Student Association in 2006 was the start of her PTA journey. While she held this position for a year, it was her selection as the Legacy Memphis Council PTA’s honorary cultural art chairperson that led to her leadership accomplishments as its Cultural Arts Chair for PTA Reflections, an annual arts recognition program that invites students to explore their artistic talents. Vivian held this position from 2006-2010 and also served as 2nd vice president during her last year with the Council for the 2011-2012 school year. She continued to support PTA through local unit memberships.

When the Memphis Council and Shelby County Council PTA merged in 2017 to become the United Shelby County Council PTA, Vivian was asked to reprise her role as cultural arts chairperson for PTA Reflections. Although initially hesitant because of personal obligations, Vivian agreed to take on the responsibility knowing that she had the support of her fellow board members and has done so for the last three years with no regrets. “Working with Reflections has been one of my most gratifying experiences when it comes to involvement with PTA, the children and the families we serve,” she says.

Vivian attributes her success with the program to effective management, communication, interpersonal, and organization skills. But most importantly, it’s her love for children, exposing them to the arts to enhance their educational well-being, and recognizing them for their efforts.

---

Tennessee School District Director Named 2021 National Superintendent of the Year Finalist

Dr. Bryan Johnson, Hamilton County Schools Director

“We are thrilled Dr. Bryan Johnson has received this national recognition and will represent Tennessee on the national stage,” said Commissioner Penny Schwinn. “Dr. Johnson has exemplified exceptional leadership and created positive school culture and environment during his time leading Hamilton County Schools, especially in the midst of such a challenging year. We congratulate him and Hamilton County on this well-deserved honor.”

In September, Dr. Johnson was selected as the 2021 Tennessee Superintendent of the Year by the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS).
Parents know that they play an important role in their child’s success. But traditional family engagement practices don’t always meet the needs of each and every family, nor treat them as equal partners in ensuring their child’s success. Family-School partnerships often focus primarily on academic success, but whole child development is also an essential part of the conversation.

The solution? **Transformative Family Engagement.**

Transformative family engagement is a shared effort of families, schools and community leaders to advance programs, practices and policies that empower every parent to make their child’s potential a reality.

The **Four 'I's of transformative family engagement** outline how your PTA can become more inclusive, individualized, integrated and impactful in its approach to family engagement.

In each of our upcoming newsletters we will share ideas and examples of ways your PTA can improve family engagement in your community. If you can’t wait visit https://tnpta.org/family-engagement.html.
Individualized
Advocating for all children means empowering families with individualized information, tools, and connections that are relevant to them and their child. Transformative family engagement uses personalized invitations to reach families, provides more tailored experiences for them to be involved based on their and their child’s

**Personalized Invitations**
As families scroll through their inboxes, they can easily delete a generic email invitation without much thought. When flyers come home in children’s backpacks, they’re easily forgotten, lost or tossed away. The most effective ways to engage families is to offer personalized outreach that makes them feel welcomed and valued.

By Middle School, some families become particularly hesitant to engage, especially if their children are no longer excited by their presence at the school. However, at Noel Grisham Middle School PTA in Texas, they built enthusiasm for a school-wide dessert night, and had the students invite their own families, which led to a very well attended event!

**Tailored Experiences**
Families will feel most satisfied when they are engaged in activities that meet their specific needs. Some parents don’t have time or interest in attending a long meeting or event that covers multiple topics. Consider bringing in a few different speakers on a range of issues and allow families to choose one or two mini-sessions. Communicate ahead of time what aspects of your meeting agenda are for business, what are for sharing ideas or problem-solving, and what are for listening or learning together. This way parents can join you for whatever portion is most interesting to them.

Similarly, families are most willing to help when they know that their skills are being put to good use and that the work they are doing directly benefits the children. Byram PTA in New Jersey effectively used the expertise within the community to create meaningful after school learning opportunities for children. They tabled at an event in the community and networked to find contacts who could help to fill their gaps in after school programming. When they met a parent, who was a professional African drum and dance instructor, they worked with him to create an eight-week workshop where children learned about African culture, and how to play drums.

Giving back isn’t limited to caregivers with unique talents, though. A grandmother in the community offered to supervise a Lego club, held twice a week at the school. Although she herself was not a master architect, she was able to create a relaxed but organized environment where children could collaborate on projects and get to know others with similar interests.

**Responsive to Feedback**
When PTAs are responsive to feedback, families know that their thoughts and suggestions are taken seriously, and they will be more inclined to engage. Feedback from families also provides great insight into what programming will be most successful.

Prior to hosting a Middle School Transition Informational Night, Henry W. Longfellow Elementary PTA in California polled its fourth and fifth grade parents and students to find out their top questions and concerns. They analyzed the results of the poll and used the most common questions to guide the evening’s discussion.

**Other ideas…**
- Divide your literacy or STEM nights into grade-level cohorts where students and families get information relevant to them.
- Make sure your opportunities for engagement aren’t one size fits all. Many families don’t want to volunteer or fundraise.
- Find out areas of interest in your community and invite local experts to speak to families about those topics.
- Offer a variety of opportunities that can engage parents and caregivers regardless of their schedules and skills (e.g., cooking food for an event, making photocopies for teachers, reading with students in class, assisting with computers and technology at the school).
- Restructure meetings and events to meet families different needs.
- Send agendas ahead of time and communicate the purpose of the events so families know what to expect.

**ACTIVITY IDEA**
Host a community listening session to get a better sense of families’ most common concerns and questions. Download National PTA’s Facilitating Community Listening Sessions toolkit for a step-by-step guide.
READY, SET, SUCCESS!

PATHS TO SUCCESS: HOW TO JUMPSTART YOUR CHILD’S FUTURE

You want to help your child be ready and excited for high school and beyond. But getting there can be overwhelming, especially given all the changes this school year. The good news is, success is not a destination—it’s a journey with multiple paths! Whether that path leads to a four-year college or a technical program, the same is true for all—a strong education is the foundation to a fulfilling career.

DID YOU KNOW?

Being on track in 9th grade is the greatest predictor of high school graduation.

To get a gut check on your middle schooler’s math and reading skills, have them take the Readiness Check. You also get videos and activities to support learning at home!

Get the Readiness Check here

Action steps to help your child be ready for high school and beyond.

KNOW THE MILESTONES:
Check in regularly (even virtually) with your teen’s teachers and counselors on a plan for high school graduation. Know application deadlines and take relevant tests. This can keep your child motivated and improve grades.

NURTURE LIFE SKILLS:
Learn into how your teen’s feeling—for example, ask them to share their high and low points of the day. Get support to strengthen life skills like organization, communication and managing stress.

REFLECT ON INTERESTS:
Talk to your teen about their strengths, passions, and the kinds of jobs they can see themselves doing in the future. Ask them questions like “What makes you happy?” “Is there a career you want to learn more about?” Help them see the connection between the choices they make now and their future.

CONSIDER CLASS CHOICES:
Find a balance of high school classes based on interest and level. Maybe your child is ready for advanced placement (AP) classes or is interested in career and technical education (CTE) courses—both can equal college credit which saves time and money!

PLAN AHEAD:
College, career and technical education costs are a lot but knowing what to expect can reduce stress. Explore financial aid options and how FAFSA works. Research smaller colleges that can offer a great education and more scholarship opportunities. Learn about the process for transferring schools. Over one-third of students change colleges and discover that some class credits won’t transfer (lost time and money!)

Go to bealearninghero.org for more tips and resources.
Tennessee Students Can Now Benefit from Instant Concussion Supports for their Classroom

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. Did you know that concussion is a mild brain injury? Maybe you or someone close to you has had a concussion. If so, you know how important it is for those around you to understand the symptoms. You can do something now from your home -- a call or an email -- that seems small but will be a HUGE help to your child’s school. There is no cost and no training, just lots of great, user-friendly resources for teachers when a child is back in the classroom following a concussion.

Most concussion symptoms resolve within one to four weeks, but the child is usually back in the classroom in days. This is where TACT, the Teacher Acute Concussion Tool comes in!

We need your help!

Get your child’s teachers and entire school in the know about their free access to the Teacher Acute Concussion Tool. Share this article with your principal, PE teachers, coaches, and school nurses so they can spread the word!

Add getschooledonconcussions.com/tennessee/ to the school’s homepage and ALL Tennessee teachers use the password TACT-tennessee2020 for instant access. That’s all they need!

With TACT, when a child has a concussion, his or her teacher can use the website and password above to log in and minutes later begin benefitting from the customized classroom strategies. The teacher receives a first email with personalized academic adjustments and an additional 4 emails over 4 weeks with timely, bite-sized follow ups that address common questions and gives further suggestions if needed. The recommendations are clinical, practical and best practice approaches. The teacher has immediate access to all of the other one page tip sheets listed by topics, like “What to do about Missed Instruction” or “Slowed Processing Speed Strategies.”

If your child has a concussion (or more severe brain injury) or you know of someone who needs information now, please visit Brain Links’ resources page at https://www.tndisability.org/resources-0. There you will see “When Concussion Symptoms Are Not Going Away: A Guide for Parents of Children Who Are School-Aged” and so much more. Brain Links provides brain injury training and educational materials for professionals at no cost. Everyone can benefit from our brain injury-related resources for all ages and our topic-specific clips on our YouTube Training Channel. For more information on TACT or brain injury education, visit https://www.tndisability.org/tact.

Jennifer J. Rayman, EdS, CRC, CBIS

Brain Links Brain Injury Specialist
Facilitating Listening Sessions Toolkit

What’s the best way to find out what families in your community want and need? Ask them ... and listen! It’s particularly important to reach out and listen to families who haven’t traditionally had a seat at the table.

The Facilitating Listening Sessions Toolkit will provide you with everything you need to know about hosting a listening session in your community. You will find practical tips, helpful invitation scripts, and an agenda for your facilitator to use to guide the conversation.

Visit [https://www.pta.org/center-for-family-engagement/listening-sessions](https://www.pta.org/center-for-family-engagement/listening-sessions) to find the toolkit. It is available in 7 languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Somali, and Haitian.,

A Podcast for Parents, by Parents

PTA is working to ensure our public schools provide a high-quality and equitable education for every child to reach their full potential. **Notes from the Backpack** is a PTA podcast designed for millions of parents and the decisionmakers they influence.

Through the unique combination of expert, parent and educator guests, each episode features engaging conversations that offer real-life advice and ideas on how to support children's learning and development—all in parent-friendly language.

**Real Experts. Real Parents. Real Conversations.**

Notes from the Backpack features real conversations with real parents, experts and educators who offer real-life advice, ideas and strategies parents can use to help their children succeed in and out of school.

*Subscribe* on your favorite podcast platform:
2019—2021 Tennessee PTA Board Members

President
Kim Henderson  khenderson@tnpta.org
President-elect
Dwight Hunter  dhunter@tnpta.org
VP Communications & Student Programs
Dana Price  dprice@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

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: tennesseepa.tumblr.com
Facebook: @tnpta
Twitter: @tennesseepa
Instagram: @tennesseepa

2019—2021 Tennessee PTA Board Members

President  Kim Henderson  khenderson@tnpta.org
President-elect  Dwight Hunter  dhunter@tnpta.org
VP Communications & Student Programs  Dana Price  dprice@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

Committee Chairs
Arts in Education & Scholarship
Hank Winkler  hwinkler@tnpta.org
Bylaws & Standing Rules
Larry Davis  ldavis@tnpta.org
Marketing & Communications
Wayne Brown  wbrown@tnpta.org
Membership, Diversity and Inclusion
Charles Scott  cscott@tnpta.org
Reflections
Bala Ramachandran  bramachandran@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

Audit Reports — Due Nov 1
990 Filing — Due Nov 15 to the IRS
Letter of Intent to Run from Floor — Due Apr 2
Teacher Child-Related Scholarship — Due Apr 15
Tennessee PTA Annual Business Meeting — Apr 23-24
Student Awards Ceremony — May 1
Tennessee PTA Training Workshops — May 13-15
2021-2022 Officer Lists — Due June 15