

Arts Themes for 2023-2024

Reflections Theme: I am Hopeful Because ...

Citizenship Essay Theme: How can I become a more responsible citizen?

Safety Poster Theme: Bully Free Zone



The Fourteenth Issue of the 2021-2023 Term

The 14th and **final** issue of this term. One of the jobs as president is creating and publishing a newsletter.

While we post on social media and blog, official communications from Tennessee PTA are published in The Bulletin. That's why reading each issue is important for PTA leaders.

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Message from the President

The 2021-2023 term is completed. While the term for the 2021-2023 board and officers is nearing the end, I am very proud of this board of directors. We've done some heavy lifting. We were on the ground co-sponsoring town halls about student funding, webinars informing about student funding; we promoted the refreshed national family-school partnerships, and advocated with a legislative tracker, adopted new resolutions and position statements. We celebrated student artists at the Student Awards Ceremony. We partnered with other like-minded organizations to amplify our advocacy voice. We partnered to host a statewide mental health of students town hall. We communicated through newsletters, social media channels, a blog, MemberHub emails, and our website. This board has done a lot.

And we sold the state office building in Nashville and re-established a new office building in Knoxville.

Indeed, what a two-year term!

This newsletter is filled with the required information: our financial report, membership report, legislative report, and board report. We also have some pictures from our celebration at the Students Award Ceremony held at the Brentwood Library on June 3rd!

Will you help us to remain an advocate for children and youth? Help us by joining the PTA for the 2023-2024 year!

PTA was founded as an advocacy association. Read our PTA [Mission statement](#)— you will find the word advocate in the statement. What other parent-teacher group has been around for 125 years advocating for children and youth? Not one single organization beyond PTA!

Dwight Hunter
President, Tennessee PTA



Congratulations!

Lookout Valley Elementary PTA received their Tennessee PTA Outstanding Local Unit Award from Gail Phillips, Southeast Region Director. Congratulations!



Our new state office building located at 5006 Jim Jones Lane, Knoxville.
Call us at 865-896-4016.



Student Awards Ceremony

The Tennessee PTA Student Awards Ceremony was held on June 3rd at the Brentwood Library. The estimated audience was 125! Students were celebrated for safety posters, citizenship essays, and the six art categories in Reflections. Thank you to the Student Awards Committee of Larry Davis, Bala Ramachandran and Charles Everett. Thank you to our office administrator Tonya Cambre. And thank you to our MC, Mike Hammond!

Congratulations to all of our student award winners! Find the list of winners on the TNPTA website! (www.tnpta.org)

Congratulations to Bala for receiving the Life Achievement Award!







Tennessee PTA Financial Report

TENNESSEE CONGRESS OF PARTENTS AND TEACHERS, INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 20, 2022

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 91,288
Dues receivable	473
Certificate of deposit (restricted)	93,512
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation of \$169,283)	<u>17,111</u>

Total Assets \$ 202,384

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:

Accounts payable \$ 1,890

Net Assets:

Unrestricted 94,231

Unrestricted – Board Designated 6,320

Temporarily restricted 95,698

Permanently restricted 4,245

200,494

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 202,384

State and Federal Legislative Report

The Tennessee PTA believes in the power of advocacy and that parent voice is integral to the success of all students. The Tennessee PTA utilizes a legislative tracking spreadsheet open to all to ensure that all stake holders are able to be informed and advocate for the youth of our state and beyond.

The Tennessee PTA board of directors released a position statement about the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act (T.C.A. § 49-6-3115), also known as Third Grade Reading Retention Legislation. While we recognize that students need additional assistance to reach reading goals for third grade proficiency, we also believe that legislation regarding student retention should work to meet the needs, skills, and abilities of each student. The Tennessee PTA participated in National PTA's Legislative Conference both in June and February, meeting with elected federal officials and their staff to advocate for food security, mental and emotional supports, stronger safety, and more for all students.

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

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



Tennessee PTA Scholarship Winners

Blake Ellis

Sale Creek High School

Sydney Crownover

Lookout Valley High School

Tennessee PTA Board of Directors' Annual Report

What has your all-volunteer Tennessee PTA Board of Directors done during the 2022-2023 year?

Tennessee PTA Board of Directors has represented you well. We have spent numerous hours speaking about educational and health and safety issues affecting students, parents, communities, school staff, school districts: rural, urban; and suburban. Tennessee PTA has also offered virtual and in-person leadership training and helping new and seasoned PTA leaders at all levels.

The all-volunteer Tennessee PTA Board of Directors meets at least quarterly as a whole group. The 13 members of the Board collectively logged in more than 2000 hours just during the meeting portions of these weekends.

Each member sits on four or more state PTA committees and some also serve on additional statewide educational boards and committees and on National PTA committees. They work in between meetings doing such things as working on legislative issues, tracking membership, starting new PTA's, approving bylaws, running the Reflections program, answering units questions, visiting local units & councils, planning events and conferences, contacting units with reminders, attending training workshops, and writing newsletter articles.

Here are some highlighted points of work by the board:

- Hosted 12 leadership training sessions across the state.
- Receive a grant from National PTA to promote the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.
- Traveled many miles in support of our local units, councils and membership.
- Aligned designated board members with our collaborating agencies
- Represent parents on the Tennessee Department of Education Parent Council.
- Represent parents on CoPEC and Tennessee nutrition task force.
- Published our Legislative Priorities
- Distributed six newsletters
- Participated in monthly meetings with our advocacy alliance partners in Tennessee
- Graduated four Leadership Academy Participants
- Attended National PTA Convention
- Attended quarterly advocacy and membership and financial training
- Attended monthly all-state president and all-state president elect meetings
- Partnered with Sycamore Institute to provide important data for surveys
- Served on building teams to help with the sale of the historic state PTA office building on 1905 Acklen Avenue, Nashville, TN
- Set up a new state office building in a rented office space located in Knoxville, TN

- Met with several organizations across the state
- Recommended House Bills and Senate Bills for committee members to watch that will affect our students and parents
- Created a legislative tracker for registered participants in VoterVoice
- Attended National PTA Legislative Conference
- Invited students to participate in the arts program and recognized our student winners
- Partnered with VIDSIG to give high school students free peer insights to college life
- Maintained and updated the Tennessee PTA website
- Sent a summer checklist for PTA units to help with transitioning
- Promoted the TNPTA Arts Enhancement Grant and the Teacher/Child-Related Services Scholarship program
- Gave information to local units on how to stay in compliance through newsletters, social media, MemberHub emails, phone calls, and leadership training
- Adopted a new Strategic Plan
- Promoted the National PTA Healthy Lifestyles resources
- Promoted National PTA webinars on the refreshed National standards for Family-School Partnerships

Pictures from the Tennessee PTA Office in Knoxville



2022-23 Membership, Diversity & Inclusion Report

The membership theme was “Building a Better Way Back Together”.

1) 2022-2023 Membership Goal= 22,000

Our total Membership as March= 18,422

2) New or reinstated Units 2022-2023 = 5

3) Units with an Increase in Membership 2022-2023 = 48

Units with three consecutive years of membership increase = 27

4) The total number of Active Units listed National PTA: 153

Units Membership Payments Received = 118

5) Diversity & Inclusion Chair Positions listed in MemberHub:

2022-2023= 12 (14*-Chairs)

I would like to thank each of you, every member, Local Unit, Council, and all the members of the membership committee and especially the Region and Acting Region Directors for their hard work this past year. There are so many amazing units and councils that have had tremendous membership success and are doing wonderful things.

Charles Scott, Membership, Diversity & Inclusion Chair



Larry Davis was recognized at the Student Awards Ceremony for coordinating the ceremony for the second consecutive year.

Interesting fact: Larry has served as vice president in all three TNPTA VP offices: Membership and Outreach, Child and Youth Advocacy, and currently, Communications and Student Programs.

Tennessee PTA now only has two vice presidents due to the bylaws change in April 2023.

Strategic Plan - Tennessee PTA

Connect

- Face to Face
- Through our Social Media
- Members to MemberHub
- Like Minded Organizations
- With Parents/Teachers/Students

Advocate

- Legislative priorities
- All voices Parent, teacher and student matter
- Register to vote/get to know your Legislators
- Why have Resolutions/Position Statements
- Attend School Board meetings

Recruit

- Inspire Future Leaders
- Ask people to join PTA
- Provide Resources to Leaders
- Grow our Membership
- Host Multiple Training Opportunities
- By celebrating unit's successes

Build

- Community Partnerships
- Diversity and Cultural Inclusion awareness
- Students/Educators/Parents knowledge of PTA Mission
- Stronger PTAs (Local Unit, Council, Community)

President's Farewell—Connect by Telling Your PTA Story



I love to speak in front of large crowds. Small groups, not so much, but large groups of 100+ I love speaking in front of: I slow down my speech, I have cadence. One of the recent stories I tell when speaking is about the steep, creepy road. One day driving back to Chattanooga from Nashville, the traffic on I-24 was at a standstill. The alternate route on 41 was also backed up. I had reached the last exit before going up Monteagle. I veered off the exit and found a road that went up the mountain. It was steep, no guardrails on the switchbacks. It was narrow, wide enough for 1 and 1/2 cars. The canopy of the trees created a tunnel. I felt all alone climbing Monteagle, on a narrow, steep, creepy road. I questioned why I was on

this road. The answer came to me: no matter what road I find myself traveling, I am here for a cause, for a mission, for a set of values. No matter how steep, how narrow, how weird the road you are on, speaking up for children, youth, and their families is worth the effort. Tell your PTA story to connect why you advocate for all children.

Peace and courage in our life journeys,

Dwight Hunter

Tennessee PTA Board of Directors

President: Dwight Hunter

President-Elect: Dana Price

Vice President of Advocacy: Anita Allen

Vice President of Communications & Student Programs: Larry Davis

Treasurer: Charles Everett

Secretary: Theresa Shaw

Immediate Past President: Kim Henderson

Chair, Family & Community Engagement: Cheryl Floyd

Chair, Membership, Diversity & Inclusion: Charles Scott

Chair, Reflections: Bala Ramachandran

Chair, State and Federal Legislative: Christy Carroll Highfill

Southeast Region Director: Gail Phillips

Memphis –Delta Region Director: Shelica Cox

Tennessee PTA

5006 Jim Jones Lane

Knoxville, TN 37931

PLACE
STAMP
HERE