



Themes for Reflections, Safety Poster & Citizenship Essay

All submissions for the Reflections art program and for the safety poster and citizenship essay programs are electronic only this year. Information for electronic submission may be found on the website at www.tnpta.org

The Reflections theme is “I will change the world by...”

The Citizenship Essay theme is “Celebrate our country by...”

The Safety Poster theme is “My safety hero is...”

Membership Reporting Changes

At the April Tennessee PTA Annual Meeting, the delegates voted to approve several bylaw changes. One of the bylaw changes affected Membership Reporting.

The new required membership due date is **November 1st**. Units are to send membership dues in monthly after the required due date of November 1, from December 1 through June 1.

The good standing requirements for local unit bylaws were updated to reflect the change and became automatically adopted at the conclusion of the April Annual Meeting.

The new bylaw reads 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.”

Congratulations to the 2020-2022 National PTA’s School of Excellence Recipients in Tennessee!

A record 351 PTAs across the country received National PTA’s designation as a School of Excellence for 2020-2022!

Congratulations to our four local PTA units in Tennessee!

- Collierville Middle School PTA
- Crosswind Elementary School PTA
- Ruby Major Elementary School PTA
- Westwood High School PTSA

Find more information about School of Excellence at pta.org/soe

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Message from the President

Hello PTA Members!

Why do I PTA? That's a question many of us are asked and we should be prepared for our elevator speech to answer.

I PTA because it is the only all-volunteer organization that connects parents, teachers, and community citizens together to advocate for families, children, and youth: Not only in the local communities but at the state and national levels. We are all connected; our passion is connected.

Membership in PTA signals a commitment to authentic association whereby members have a voice and a seat at the table. I am PTA and our membership voices are heard and respected.

Within the next 30 days, Tennessee PTA will be partnering with GoGuardian mental health panel, host face-to-face training with Statewide Leadership Training, broadcast messages from VoterVoice (sign up under Take Action on our website), and much more! Our membership team contacted the PTAs that paid membership last year; we are sending emails to the members, and we have plans to advocate for families. Join PTA and become a member of an association long known for its Legacy and continual new legacy in advocating for families, strengthening family-school partnerships, and building PTA connections. Dwight Hunter

Save the Date, September 14, for the GoGuardian webinar about supporting mental health in Tennessee

PTA Legacy



Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst founded the organization when women did not have the right to vote and social activism was not popular. However, they believed mothers would support their mission to eliminate threats that endangered children, and in early 1897, they started a nationwide campaign.

On Feb., 17, 1897, more than 2,000 people—mostly mothers, but also fathers, teachers, laborers and legislators—attended the first convocation of the National Congress of Mothers in Washington, D.C. Twenty years later, 37 chartered state congresses existed.

In 1970, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers (National PTA) and the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT)—founded by Selena Sloan Butler in Atlanta, Ga.—merged to serve all children.

As the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation, National PTA is the conscience of the country for children and youth issues. Through advocacy, as well as family and community education, National PTA has established programs and called for legislation that improves our children's lives, such as:

- Creation of Kindergarten classes
- Child labor laws
- Public health service
- Hot and healthy lunch programs
- Juvenile justice system
- Mandatory immunization
- Arts in Education
- School Safety

You may wish to recognize a special principal, teacher, staff member, or community citizen or leader who has made positive differences in the lives of children with a Tennessee PTA Lifetime Achievement Award. www.tnpta.org/news/life_achievement_award.pdf

Contact Us

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

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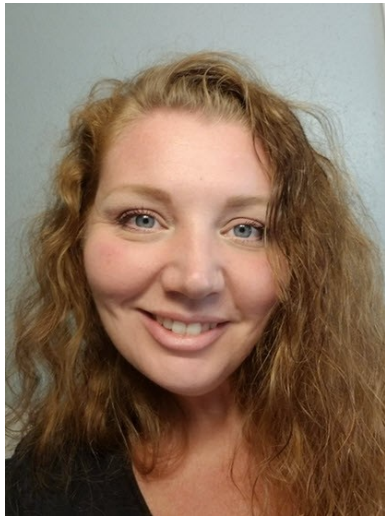
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Board Spotlight: Welcome Christy Carroll Highfill

My name is Christy Carroll Highfill and I am the **State and Federal Legislative Chair** for Tennessee PTA. I am originally from Kingsport, TN, but moved to the Chattanooga area from San Diego, CA after my husband retired from the U.S. Navy. I spent twelve years as a military wife and have lived on both coasts and the Gulf of Mexico.

We have three fantastic girls. My oldest began school in San Diego, and we moved here the week before she started 4th grade. Moving across the country really allowed me to see and appreciate the differences in our states and even in our educational systems. I have long been an advocate for children as well as for an informed public. I believe that knowledge is power, whether that be ensuring that our children have the best education possible so that they can achieve whatever they want in life, or making sure voters are informed about legislation that affects their lives and their families so that they can advocate for themselves. My position for Tennessee PTA allows me to help do both! Not only do I get to advocate for legislation that helps all students succeed, but I get to help families navigate the legislative process, which can often be confusing and seem out of touch, to ensure every family can have their voice heard.

I want to encourage everyone to sign up for VoterVoice on the TNPTA website to receive alerts about legislation and regulations that affect our families and our children and gives you an easy way to reach out to elected officials to make sure your voice is heard. Being able to voice your opinion is one of our greatest rights and responsibilities as citizens, and I want to make sure everyone knows how to do just that! If anyone has any questions about legislation on the state or federal level, please reach out so that I can help you and your PTA be informed and ready to advocate!



Board Spotlight: Welcome Parker Allison

Parker is the **Marketing and Communications Committee Chair** for Tennessee PTA. Parker graduated from Chattanooga State with an Associate of Science and is currently pursuing a double major in Business Administration and Communications from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Parker is working in Hamilton County Schools as part of the communications team. He has also worked in various communications roles within the Chattanooga area, including Impact1! Chattanooga, a nonprofit that allows Chattanoogaans to engage in transitional employment on paid professional construction projects.

“As a school communicator at heart, education is near and dear to my heart,” said Parker. “I’m excited for the opportunity to promote the meaningful work being done at Tennessee PTA and look forward to partnering with the community as we seek to create pathways to bright futures for all parents, teachers, students, and community members.”

Take Action! Sign up for VoterVoice

VoterVoice is Tennessee PTA's advocacy platform! Receive messages about state regulations, or proposed legislation. Participate in our petition drives or our advocacy campaigns. Contact your state legislators. How to sign-up? Go to <https://tnpta.org/index.php/take-action> and enter your email and zip code under Sign Up for Alerts. This page will also display the highlighted campaigns for both National and Tennessee PTA!. Take Action—Sign Up Today!

MemberHub/Officer List

MemberHub is an important tool for communications and a free benefit to PTAs. We need your email addresses to communicate! Please update your officer lists in MemberHub or download the form and return to State Office. Form can be found at <https://tnpta.org/news/officerinformationform.pdf>

MemberHub is a great tool to sign-up members online through the store, host fundraisers, and communicate with your members. Units can also submit audit reports and other required documents in MemberHub.

Statewide Leadership Training

We traveled across the state for leadership training! We will be in First Tennessee Region and Southeast Region in August plus a Zoom Event with East Region members in August. Mid-Cumberland Region will be on September 17 at the State Office and Memphis-Delta Region will be on September 18 at Crosswind Elementary. We will also have an in-person training for the East Region at a date to be determined.

Our 2021-2023 Membership Theme *"Building a Better Way Back Together"*



Tennessee PTA Tree of Honor

The oak tree is the official emblem of National PTA. The tree symbolizes strength, growth and community. Tennessee PTA has a Tree of Honor located in the state headquarters at 1905 Acklen Avenue in Nashville, Tennessee. It is a point of tribute, recognition and memorial honoring those who have made a contribution or impact to the PTA in some form or fashion.

Do you know someone or a local unit or entity that you would like to recognize? You can purchase a leaf and having it inscribed reflecting sentiments of recognition.

The application form can be found on the website: http://tnpta.org/resdev/tree_of_honor_form.pdf

Family and Community Engagement

Tennessee PTA knows we are better together than apart, and PTA membership helps build and sustain connections. One way we hope to connect with you is through our Q & A with Tennessee PTA. During the next year, we will be working to present Q & A sessions, in various medium formats, with important information and activity engagement around regrouping of families and the child impacts. We want to hear from you on topics of interest and programs. Contact the FCE committee chair at cfloyd@tnpta.org

National PTA's Back-To School Week

During Back-to-School Week, **September 13–17, 2021**—sponsored by Office Depot OfficeMax and supported by BAND—we will share a wide variety of fresh ideas, tools and program opportunities to help you **plan your school year, engage your school community and get support for students and families.**

National PTA Back to Class National PTA Virtual Town Hall

National PTA will be partnering with the CDC to host a Back to Class Virtual Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. EDT on September 1st! The event will be moderated by NBC News' Kate Snow and feature the Director of the CDC, U.S. Secretary of Education, as well as experts in mental health and social-emotional well-being and how to address missed instruction from this past year. [Watch this special event LIVE on National PTA Facebook page.](#)



Go Back-to-School with PTA

The connections PTA creates in our school communities are so necessary. With social distancing protocols in place, **PTA's role is more important than ever** as we connect parents, teachers and administrators to support critical school needs. Learn how to [lead your PTA virtually.](#)

Our PTAs will ensure that our families and schools have the tools to best support every student's learning and development. We also want to make sure to care for each child's social and emotional needs as they adjust to new routines and being back in the physical classroom. Every family in our schools should **join PTA**, because we can do more together than apart.

Tennessee PTA Board of Directors

President: Dwight Hunter

President-Elect: Dana Price

Vice President of Advocacy: Anita Allen

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Chair, Family & Community Engagement: Cheryl Floyd

Chair, Marketing and Communications: Parker Allison

Chair, Membership, Diversity & Inclusion: Charles Scott

Chair, Reflections: Bala Ramachandran

Chair, State and Federal Legislative: Christy Carroll Highfill

Southeast Region Director: Gail Phillips

Interested in [applying](#) for a state board position or to serve on a state committee? Contact Dwight Hunter at dhunter@tnpta.org

Tennessee PTA

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