NEWSFLASH

Michigan PTA's Newsletter For Leaders



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Advocacy Day
- Sip and Chat
- Membership Mania
- Family-School Partnerships
- Attention Students!
- Founders' Day
- Fed Leg Update
- Convention
- Distinguished Service
 Awards and Certificates
- Reflections
- Resolutions
- Treasurer's Cave

In-person ADVOCACY DAY MARCH 22, 2023



February/March 2023





Advocacy Day March 22, 2023

Michigan PTA's Legislative Platform - Now and Moving Forward

We invite you to have a voice in developing the focus of Michigan PTA's 2023-2024 Legislative Platform

Learn About Emerging Issues

Agenda (in Heritage Hall, under the Capitol itself):

8:00 a.m. – Registration open, light continental breakfast, coffee, water

9:30 a.m. – Program begins

1:30 p.m. – Box lunch (can be eaten on the go or in the room)

2:00 p.m. – Program end

2:30 p.m. – Leave room



Attendees are encouraged to set up meetings with their legislators at any time from 1:30 p.m. on.

Join us! Registration is now live on MemberHub (\$25 per person) and the information there will be updated as we confirm speakers, topics, sponsors, etc. https://michiganpta.memberhub.gives/advocacyday2023/Campaign/Details

Michigan PTA's Advocacy Day is focused on grassroots advocacy – the cornerstone of PTA! Since our founding, PTA has recognized the importance of advocacy in improving the lives of our nation's children. Attend Advocacy Day to become more effective advocates, and to share your knowledge with others. This is a great opportunity for both adults and students to learn new skills.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org

Michigan PTA Membership STARS Siya and Ghat

We invite all Local Unit and Council Membership leaders to grab your favorite beverage and join us for a one-hour virtual gathering together. The purpose of this gathering is to join like-minded leaders together, connect everyone to membership resources, and be of support to one another.

Location: Zoom Meeting ID: 860 3691 9243 **Dates** (4th Tuesday of the month):

• January 31

• February 28

- March 28
- April 25
- May 30

Time: 7-8 pm EST



Membership Leaders SURVEY

Your participation is appreciated and welcomed. This 5-minute survey will help us to help you! The SIP & CHAT is a monthly conversation with Membership Leaders across Michigan PTA. To make our future SIP & CHAT better for you, please respond below. As leaders within PTA, feedback is essential to allow us to listen to our volunteers and leaders and make adaptations to meet the needs of our PTA Family! Survey:

bit.ly/miptamembershipleadersurvey23



SAFER INTERNET DAY 2023

No Room for Doom: Helping Your Family Thrive in Our Digital Age

Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 PM EST

ConnectSafely



Empowering Families to Use Technology Safely

Parents: Join ConnectSafely and National PTA for a free virtual event for parents on Feb. 7 #SaferInternetDay. Expert answers to your common questions about keeping kids and teens safe and thriving online. https://saferinternetday.us/family

-program

National PTA's **Take Your Family to School Week**, celebrated Feb. 13–17, 2023, is designed to provide families with an opportunity to get more involved in their child's education and strengthen their partnerships with teachers and administrators. The timing of the week honors the day PTA was founded, Feb. 17, 1897.

Help us celebrate PTA's long legacy of family engagement during National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week by strengthening family-school partnerships using PTA's National Standards.

Families are essential partners in providing a high-quality education for every student. National PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships set the bar for how schools and parents should work together to support student success. The updated Standards provide critical guidance and best practices for strong partnerships that will make a real impact for all students, families and schools.





When we say we're #HereForTheKids, we mean we're here to support public education and the incredible educators and school staff who support kids in so many ways. Kids thrive when their teachers, staff, and schools have the support and resources they need to be successful. Nationwide, families, educators, and community members are coming together to support public education and ensure a bright future for our kids.

Want to get involved? Get started here: www.publicschoolproud.org #PSW23

Did you know that you or your student can volunteer to be a member of a Michigan PTA Committee?

Our Michigan PTA Committees would appreciate new members (some even need Chairs), and most committee meetings are held via Zoom. More volunteers mean more hands to do the work.

Please apply! Current State-Level General Committees accepting applications are listed below (italics mean a committee Chair is needed, and student volunteers may only apply for those with an asterisk):

- Awards
- Children's Advocacy*
- Communications & Public Relations*
- Convention*
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*
- Family Engagement
- Health & Wellness
- Leadership Development
- Local Bylaws

- Membership*
- · Michigan Men in PTA
- Nominating
- Outreach (new unit / council development)
- · Programs and Services*
- Reflections*
- · Resolutions*
- Strategic Planning
- Youth*

These are all hybrid committees comprised of Board Members/Officers and volunteers appointed by the Board of Directors. Committees are appointed for one-year terms, unless otherwise specified.

Committee descriptions and both adult and student prospective volunteer forms are available at michiganpta.org/volunteer-opportunities (this page is public, so that anyone may access it).

Once you have filled out the appropriate form, your application will be reviewed at the next Michigan PTA Board of Directors meeting.

If approved, you will be notified by the Committee Chair, and invited to the next meeting of the committee. You will also be notified if your application was not accepted for any reason.

If you are interested in auditing a committee meeting or two, before deciding whether to apply, please contact the Committee Chair of that committee for permission and meeting details.

Michigan PTA Fran Anderson Scholarship Graduation senior? Active in PTA? Attending college/vocational school? Apply now for the Michigan PTA Fran Anderson Scholarship Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2023. michiganpta.org/scholarship

Celebrating National PTA Founders' Day

An article from National PTA's Our Children Magazine

I love the National PTA Founders' Day story! Two thousand women converging in the District of Columbia in the middle of February in 1897 and sharing a vision to create a better world for their children and all kids across the nation.

This story always astounds me—How did they get word out? Who came? What was the convention like?

I wanted to learn more about these amazing women and the first convention. So, I went on the Library of Congress website to read the newspapers from Washington and different cities. At that time, there were numerous newspapers throughout the country serving cities, small towns and county seats.



Reading eyewitness accounts of the first gathering of the National Congress of Mothers was inspiring.

Here's what I learned:

- Motherhood was the one of the most important contributions to society for a woman during that time period. The conference was planned to bring in experts on motherhood and childhood. Our founders were interested in doing humanitarian work by raising upstanding citizens that the nation would be proud to send out into the world.
- Alice McClellan Birney, an educator, first pitched this notion to a group of moms in New York in August 1895 and was able to publicize her proposal nationwide. Her idea won the support of other educators and civic leaders. Birney shared her idea with a friend, who connected her with Phoebe Apperson Hearst, wife of U.S. Senator George Hearst.
- Mrs. Hearst's generosity helped set the wheels in motion as did her networking of notable contacts—the
 vice president's wife, Adlai Stevenson, the president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, U.S.
 Postal inspector, educators, editors and superintendents. They worked tirelessly to build relationships
 and to spread the word of this new venture.
- The organization identified officers who lived in different cities—Washington DC, Philadelphia and Chicago. The president and vice presidents lived in DC while the secretary and treasurer lived elsewhere. Their goal for the first event was to bring in the best and brightest experts to speak to the movers and shakers across the country.
- At the first convocation of the National Congress of Mothers on Feb. 17, 1897, two thousand attendees
 —which included men and women, African American and white, educators, editors, Sunday school
 teachers and delegates from sister associations—came to Washington, DC from as far west as
 California, as far south as Tennessee and as far north as Massachusetts.
- The attendees were eager to learn the most up-to-date information on educating children and how to be the best raise their children. They crammed into the meeting halls to hear presentations on current science and educational practices, reading to children and the analogy of motherhood and an artist.
- During their time in DC, attendees met with the First Lady, Mrs. Frances Folsom Cleveland at the White House.
- Our founding mothers practiced their values. During the event, one of Alice McClellan Birney's young children came onto stage, seeking her mother's attention. Mrs. Birney excused herself from the stage and took the time to be with her young daughters, who hadn't seen their mother since she had been away.
- An exhibit hall was created and it wasn't filled with vendors and sponsors. Instead, they established an
 area of the hotel and set up a nursery complete with necessary paraphernalia. This was to show the
 attendees the newest and latest equipment to enhance the life of the child.

As I read through the accounts, I am even more in awe of these interesting women and have a renewed sense of what is expected of today's PTA—to further the mission of making every child's potential a reality through family-school partnerships, community outreach and advocacy.

For more info about National PTA and our history, visit PTA.org/History. Mary Jo Neil is a national service representative at National PTA.

Student registration including meals and all sessions

MICHIGAN PTA ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 28-30, 2023

\$150 Special member rate until Feb. 15th!

Michigan PTA's Annual Convention is not just for leaders – it's for students, teachers, families, and advocates. This event is a unique mixture of training, networking, leadership development, advocacy, and fun!

The Convention includes an exciting, dynamic, and relevant slate of activities. We have included speakers and workshops on topics of particular interest to our members while also providing times for interactions and networking so that you can get to know other members from throughout the state and hear what they are doing in their districts.

Register now!

BUILDING BRIDGES, MAKING CONNECTIONS





REFLECTIONS

Attention to all of the Reflections Chairs and Artists that advanced to the State Level, we will be hosting our Statewide Reflections Celebration honoring all of the artists that placed at the state level during Convention on Sunday, April 30th in the mid-afternoon. More details will be forthcoming as we wrap up judging at the state level. Save the date!













LITERATURE

PHOTOGRAPHY

VISUAL ARTS



The convention committee is working diligently to set the schedule for workshops at Convention. Make sure the topics you are interested in are presented at Convention! If you know a speaker or workshop you'd like to see, share the workshop request QR code below.

There are still spaces in the exhibit hall! Do you have a business that other schools would be interested in, or do you know someone who does? Visit the website for more information about the sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities. Feel free to share the QR code, too!



Resolutions

Resolutions call attention to a problem and a need for action on a particular issue. They are a major source of policy for the Michigan PTA and its units and councils. If a problem or situation has statewide implications affecting children and youth and warrants PTA action, a convention resolution is one way to authorize action. Local units, councils, and the Michigan PTA Board of Directors or committees may submit resolutions. This year, the deadline for submitting Resolutions ahead of the 2023 Michigan PTA Convention is February 15, 2023.

Resolutions must meet the following criteria:

- Be in accordance with PTA purposes and policies
- Be prepared according to criteria specifically described in the Michigan PTA Position Statements and Resolutions guidelines
- Follow National PTA guidelines, if the resolution is to be forwarded to the National PTA

The position must be well-researched using credible and current information from multiple independent sources.

Please contact childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org if you have any guestions.

2022 Resolutions Status: Both the Michigan PTA Resolution on Seizure Safe Schools and the joint Illinois PTA/Michigan PTA Resolution on Child Safe Firearm Storage have been approved by the National PTA Board of Directors! These resolutions will be presented for membership approval as part of the 2023 National PTA Convention.

Celebrating volunteers and achievements

APPRECIATION AWARDS

Appreciation Awards are a way to recognize exemplary service of local and council PTA members. Authentic Michigan PTA Appreciation Awards include both a certificate signed by the current Michigan PTA President and a pin representing the type of award. Proceeds from Appreciation Awards supplement the Fran Anderson Scholarship.

As we enter the season of recognition at Founders' Days and Installations, please plan ahead. **Order your Appreciation Awards 3-4 weeks in advance of your event to ensure timely fulfillment and shipping**. Simply complete the online form and celebrate your members and volunteer leaders! michiganpta.org/appreciation-awards

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Certificates of Achievement are awarded based on information from the Field Service Reports (FSRs)/records. Units should make sure that all membership data is current in MemberHub on a regular basis by the 28th of each month.

Certificates are non-competitive; instead Michigan PTA recognizes all units and councils that apply and meet the threshold of achievement. Units can be recognized in the following categories:

- Gold Star PTA https://forms.gle/mJWbhtt9xdUiwe8u9
- 100% PTA https://forms.gle/H4FPyVkjNQwEaDsY8
- 100% Staff https://forms.gle/Feg1wrDCtup3SvTP8
- Michigan PTA Honor Roll https://forms.gle/i7v2cFygELJgdpjZ9
- Student Memberships https://forms.gle/5a1ApY4exw8e3rLc7
- Business Memberships https://forms.gle/2D5URP3GvdEjzxQV6

To be recognized at Convention 2023, please complete your Certificate of Achievement forms by March 3, 2023 at 11:59pm.











Pssst!

You can find additional tokens of appreciation at stores.shoppta.com/MIPTA/

Federal Legislative Update

Happy 2023! I always enjoy the beginning of a new year because it brings not only a chance to start things anew, but also to revisit favorite yearly traditions. National PTA's Legislative Conference (LegCon) fits into both categories, I think.

Each year at LegCon, we meet with our Michigan members of Congress; the discussions are never the same, but they always center on issues important to Michigan's children and families. I am especially excited for 2023! We have some new representatives in Michigan's newly drawn 13 districts in the House.

This year LegCon is virtual, meaning that more Michigan PTA members can attend! LegCon will be held online March 7-8, 2023, focusing on better health and safety for every child. Registration opened on January 10th. The cost is \$50.

Michigan PTA is providing "scholarships" of \$25 to all members of PTAs/PTSAs in Michigan who would like to attend LegCon2023. Details to follow.

Important Dates:

- February 8th at 8pm: Join us for a National PTA webinar where we will discuss how the meetings will be run during LegCon and learn about what we will be "asking" our Members of Congress for on behalf of our students and families.
- February 28th at 8pm: Join us for a National PTA webinar where we will learn effective ways to communicate with our Members of Congress.
- March 7th and 8th: National PTA's Legislative Conference! March 7th there will be webinars on relevant topics. March 8th we will be meeting with our Members of Congress!

We sincerely hope you can join us! When LegCon was virtual in 2021, we had 25 members from across Michigan join!

Can't be there for the entire time? Let us know when you are available, and we can let you know what meetings are happening.

You can register and find out more at https://px.edu.org/home/events/National-PTA-Legislative-Conference

When you register, please use an email and phone number that you regularly check as this will be how I will be contacting you about LegCon.

Please email ANY questions to Carin Meyer, Federal Legislative Chair, at fedlegchair@michiganpta.org

Carin Meyer Michigan PTA Federal Legislative Chair



Did you know that the Nation's Report Card has been released for the first time since 2019?

The Nation's Report Card is based on the National Assessment for Educational Progress, a test that has been given to 4th and 8th graders since 1969. However, it was not given in 2020 nor 2021. The results from 2022 show stark declines in both math and reading at both grade levels. You can find nationwide and statewide results at https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/.

Did you know that a resource called the Education Recovery Scorecard was created that lets you know how your Michigan school district compares?

The Nation's Report Card gives statewide results. However, researchers in education at Stanford and Harvard collaborated and utilized the Nation's Report Card and MStep results from 2022 to create a way to compare this data at the individual school district level. You can find information about all Michigan school districts, including yours, at https://educationrecoveryscorecard.org/

Did you know that the American Rescue Plan Act requires parent input on how your district spends its Covid dollars?

The Nation's Report Card and The Education Recovery Scorecard demonstrate that many students across the state have been impacted by learning loss in reading and math. In addition, American Rescue Plan Act Covid Relief monies must be spent by fall of 2024. The combination of both shows that now is the time to reach out to your district to find out how they plan to address learning loss and how they plan to continue to get community input during this process. The Michigan PTA has hosted webinars regarding this issue and both the National Assessment for Educational Progress and Education Recovery Scoreboard have additional information on their websites, as well.

Resources:

Michigan PTA webinar on Activating Family Engagement: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RrJJm1Gi8A&t=4s Michigan PTA webinar on the American Rescue Plan Act: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaAGuC7rNN0&t=20s



Registration details coming soon at pta.org!





2022-2023 Multicultural Calendar



FEBRUARY 2023

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DAY	EVENT	CULTURE
All Month	Black History Month	United States
2	Groundhog Day	United States
5-6	Tu b'shevat	Jewish
18	Maha Shivratri	Hindu
20	World Day of Social Justice	International
20	Presidents' Day*	United States
21	International Mother Language Day	International

To see the whole 2022-2023
Multicultural Calendar visit
pta.org/docs/default-source/files/whypta/2022/multicultural-calendar-2223.pdf

DAY	EVENT	CULTURE
All Month	Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month	United States
All Month	Irish-American Heritage Month	United States
All Month	Women's History Month	United States
6	Makha Bucha Day/Māgha Pūjā	Buddhist- Thailand
6-7	Purim	Jewish
8	International Women's Day	International
8	Holi	Hindu
17	St. Patrick's Day	International
21	Mardi Gras	United States
21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	International
22-Apr 21	Ramadan Begins	Muslim

Treasurer's Cave

Happy new year to all our units!

By now you should have completed your submissions for good standing, also known as Standards of Affiliation (SOA), which includes your budget submission for the 2022-2023 school year, your IRS 990 filing, and your annual audit (which would encompass the 2021-2022 school year). However, if you have not yet completed your submission, you can and must still do so. Even the Michigan PTA had to file an extension on this year's audit/990 filing because we could not find a new firm in time! If you filed form 8868 for an extension with the IRS, you have until May 15 to complete your 990 submission.

The deadline for submitting annual unit dues (\$40) for the 2022-2023 school year was Dec. 1, 2022. If you have not yet remitted your payment in Memberhub ... you're in good company! However, as we've only received 30% of unit dues as of Dec. 31st, it would be great if you can take a minute to pop over to the store at mipta.memberhub.com/store, choose 'PTA Unit Dues' on the left menu, and send that payment our way. No debit or credit card? Mail checks or cash to P.O. Box 510535, Livonia, MI 48151, and make sure to include your unit name!

Finally, a reminder to treasurers to remit Michigan PTA's portion of the membership dues by the 28th of every month in Memberhub by ACH (or by check). Even as Treasurer of the Great Lakes PTA, I'm bad about remembering to do this! However, all dues should be submitted prior to our fiscal year close (which isn't until June 30, 2023).

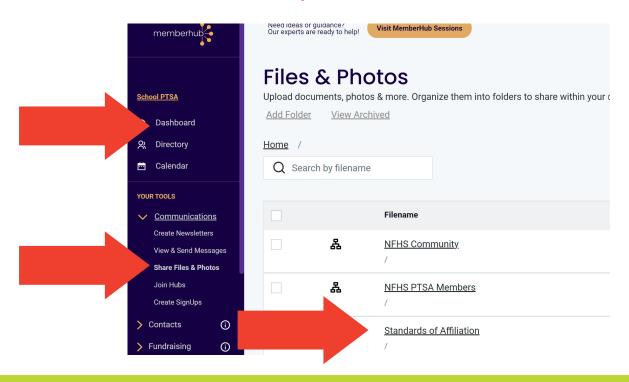
Before signing off, a reminder that you can direct any questions on the things I've covered to treasurer@michiganpta.org. Stay warm and well and I look forward to seeing you in April at the convention!



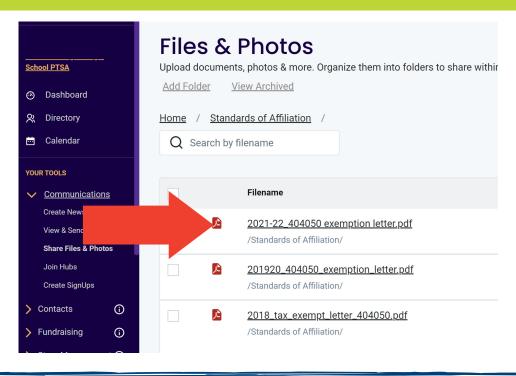
I am almost 2 years into my role as the state Treasurer, but have been involved in local PTA for 6 years now, with the DeWitt Elementary PTA. In my day job, I do IT audit work when I'm not chasing my children around (I have a 5th-grader who is 10 and my almost 8-year-old 2nd-grader). I hated math in elementary and high school but learned to love accounting while doing my MBA at Wayne State. I like to read sci-fi and fantasy and crochet while watching terrible reality television.



How do I find my Standards of Affiliation Tax Exempt Letter?



From your unit dashboard in MemberHub click on Share Files & Photos then click on the Standards of Affiliation file. If your Standards of Affiliation have been approved they will be in this folder.



GREAT LAKES PTA MICHIGAN'S STATEWIDE PTA



Join Great Lakes PTA now to support all children! For just \$10 you can help make every child's potential a reality! Great Lakes PTA (Formerly A.L.L.) amplifies your voice in our state and on Capitol Hill. When you belong to our PTA, you connect with a nationwide network of PTA advocates and a wide array of influential individuals and organizations. Your membership dues fund advocacy efforts that help all children and change policies and laws in your city, our state, and on Capitol Hill. Will you support our efforts by becoming a member?

Who should join Great Lakes PTA? Everyone who believes in the PTA mission to make every child's potential a reality, including:

- Parents
- Current local PTA members
- Community members
- Elected officials
- Business owners
- Superintendents and administrators
- Former A.L.L. members
- You!



JOIN NOW!

GREATLAKESPTA.MEMBERHUB.COM/STORE/ITEMS/19146



Get FREE Family Mental Health Resources!

Let's break the stigma around mental health. Visit PTA.org/HealthyMinds for family activities and information on how to:

- Have family discussions about mental health
- Build resilience and social and emotional learning skills
- Address challenges like depression and anxiety

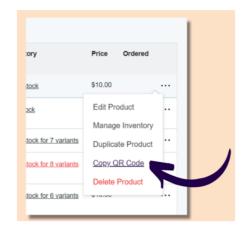
And more!



Join The 2nd Half of PTA Membership Mania Membership Mania is a fun and interactive initiative for PTA leaders who want to integrate membership into all aspects of their PTA. Learn more and join us at PTA.org/MembershipMania. Together, let's strengthen and grow membership!

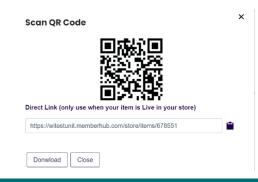
To start, view your Online Store Products Page (from your dashboard, select Online Store and then Products)

Click the 3 dots icon to view your menu options for each item.



Create QR codes to sell memberships and other items in MemberHub

Select Copy QR Code. You'll see the generated QR code as well as the direct link to the item in your store.



Important Dates to Remember

Unit and Council Renewal and Officer Updates in MemberHub

Begins June 1, 2022, must be complete by Oct. 1, 2022

Submit Board of Directors Speaking/Visit Requests for Fall 2022 and Founders' Day Schedule

September 15, 2022

990 Filing Date with the IRS (for most units/councils)

November 15, 2022

Standards of Affiliation (SOA) Deadline* (dues,

audit, budget, copy of 990, officers bylaws, insurance)

December 1, 2022

Submitting Board of Directors Speaking/Visit Request for Spring/Summer 2023

January 15, 2023

Submitting Resolutions for Consideration at Convention

February 15, 2023

Fran Anderson Scholarship Deadline

March 1, 2023

Michigan PTA Awards Deadline

February 15, 2023

Annual Convention

April 29-30, 2023

Satisfying Standard of Affiliation allows Units/Councils to participate in all State and National Awards, Grants and Programs.

Please note that when a Unit/Council applies for a National PTA award/grant/program, Michigan PTA is contacted before the award/grant/program is dispersed and if the Unit/Council has not satisfied the Standards of Affiliation (SOA), that entity will be disqualified for the award/grant/program, per Michigan PTA's affiliation agreement with National PTA.

> **Mailing Address** Michigan PTA P.O. Box 510535 Livonia, Michigan 48151

> > 734.975.9500 michiganpta.org



President- Tracey Troy president@michiganpta.org

President-Elect Vacant

Secretary- Jenna McMechan secretary@michiganpta.org

Treasurer- Meredith Blixt treasurer@michiganpta.org

Michigan everychild.one voice."

734-975-9500

P.O. Box 510535 Livonia, MI 48151 VP of Student Involvement- Lachelle Thomas studentinvolvementvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Membership- Donald Barringer membershipvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Advocacy- Jenn Garland childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Communications- Beth Hulett communicationsVP@MichiganPTA.org

VP of Outreach & Support-Lisa Roscoe outreachsupportvp@michiganpta.org