It’s been a school year like no other. Many schools remain closed, offer hybrid attendance or are open one day and closed the next due to increased cases of COVID-19 in the community. But 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. Everyone has learned so much about how to communicate in a virtual world, so put those new skills to work.

Continue full article here... https://onevoice.pta.org/its-not-too-late-to-pta/

Sourced from One Voice as written by Kirthana Krishnathasan, the Membership & Field Service Specialist for National PTA.
It’s that time of year—when you compile the list of candidates prior to electing officers for next year. What do you do when there is no one on the list? Don’t despair, look everywhere!

**Bylaws, By Gum**
Check your bylaws. You will need to know what officers are needed, when the current officers’ terms end, and when and how the new officers take over. Are your officers required to stay in place until a new one takes over? If the newly-elected officers don’t start their roles right away, there may be time to shadow the current board, or attend a summer convention. That could make the difference to an uncertain potential candidate.

**Get Creative**
Put an ad in the school newsletter. Make the job sound fun and appealing—after all, it is! (After all the work is done).

**Check the Funnel**
Does your school have lower-grade schools that feed into it? Place your ad in their newsletter, too. Because the kids who are leaving that school will be coming to yours, and they will bring their parents with them.

**Be a Teacher Reacher**
In many districts, teachers are not allowed to serve as an officer in the PTA. But in other districts, it’s not a problem. Find out what the rules are in your district. Also, ask the teachers for recommendations. They know most of their students' parents, and can identify those who would be great officers, with a little nudging. Recruit the staff to recruit for you!

**Adjust the Job Description**
Maybe you would have more candidates for President if the job didn’t include ------. Can you tweak the job description so that task is delegated to someone else? Many of the officers’ duties are flexible, and can be swapped around a bit. Remember there can only be one person in any office; no co-Presidents! But you can have a wider range of officers, each with fewer duties. Warning: This might require a bylaws change!

**Play Hard Ball**
Remind your membership that as a non-profit entity, you are required by law to have officers. If there are no officers, there can be no PTA. Remind parents of all the benefits their school received from being a PTA school. Are they ready to kiss those things goodbye?

**Throw Them a Rope**
When you are pitching the job, remind them that you won’t be throwing them in without a rope. There will be training opportunities at many levels: National, State, Council, Local. Let them know they can call you anytime, if they get stuck. After all, they are doing you a solid by taking over.

**Scope Out the KGB**
The KinderGarten Bunch, that is. Kindergarten parents are eager, and happy to have a reason to help out at the school. Sponsor a Kindergarten picnic so the kids can get to know each other—and so you can get to know the parents. Let them know about your vacancies, and encourage the parents to fill them. Kindergarten parents are also good for filling committees. This gets them in your funnel for later elections!

**Play to Their Strengths**
Someone who rocks at Social Media might not be the one to approach about being the next Recording Secretary. And someone who takes awesome minutes will make a better Secretary than Treasurer. People are happy to do what they do well, because it never feels like work!

**Talk to Their Friends**
If there is someone who would be a perfect fit, but they are hesitant to run, talk to their friends. BFFs can work with the person, and encourage them to go for it. People may have doubts, but friends can help them to overcome those doubts.

**Spread the Word**
Maybe you have no candidates because no one knows you need them. Put up posters. Use social media. Let everyone know what the openings are. You won’t catch any fish if you don’t cast a wide net.

**Be a Tweetheart**
Tweet daily about the progress of your search for next year’s team. Keep people apprised of your progress, or lack thereof. Create a fun social media campaign, with frequent updates. Your doggedness will wear down their resistance.

**Ask**
Above all, remember to ask them. People like to help, but no one helps without being asked. Let them know your concerns, and explain your dilemma. Then ask if they will step up. If they still say no, ask them who they know who might be willing. Then ask that person.

**Check Your Bylaws—Again!**
If all else fails, you can wait until the fall, and check your bylaws to learn how vacancies are filled. Most vacancies are filled through election or appointment. Remember, this is only for when everything else has failed! It is not recommended to wait until fall, then fill the empties.

So now you have a few new tools in your toolbox. Be persistent. Be creative. Be resourceful, and be honest. Just don’t wait. Find your candidates now, so they have the benefit of time: time to learn, time to shadow, time to get to know each other. This is their path to success.

By Liz Jarvis
Featured refreshed and expanded resources and tools for PTA members and leaders including:

- Advocacy
- COVID-19 Related Advocacy
- Diversity Equity Inclusion
- Resolutions & Positions
- Advocacy Alerts
- Student Involvement
- Every Student Succeeds Act
- Our Mission and Vision
- Important Dates
- MiPTA Board of Directors
- PTA History
- COVID-19 Resources
- Purchase PTA Branded Items
- Join PTA
- How Dues Are Used
- Reflections Program
- Fran Anderson Scholarship
- Michigan PTA Newsletter
- 103rd Annual Convention

And the new PTA Leader Site!

- PTA Leader Materials
- MemberHub Guides
- Membership Challenges
- State Committees
- State PTA Awards
- Appreciation Awards

Michiganpta.org
A Note From the Michigan PTA President

Hello Michigan PTA

Fingers crossed it will be Spring and a chance to get back to a more normal style of life. We hope this finds you and your family well and healthy.

As school is back in some version of face to face, we hope to see an uptick in PTA activity in our local units. Advocating never stops. Talking to your principals, superintendents, and school boards is where it starts. Keep fighting for what is right for your child and their classmates.

Elections for officers should be happening. Let us know what we can do to help and you will find guidance from us. Watch for more information coming from us in the very near future.

Please let us know what you have been doing. We want to share your ideas and give you many kudos.

We are looking for people to join our team, let us know if you’re interested in volunteering with us.

Gratefully yours,

Kathy
President Michigan PTA

A Shout-out to the Friends of Edmonson PTA!

The Friends of the Edmonson PTA raised over $6,000 in four days with a contactless fundraiser. We were so impressed we had to ask them about it.

Share your unit’s successes with us by emailing hulettb@michiganpta.org

Friends of Edmondson PTA, tell us about your fundraiser.
"We did a virtual fundraiser with Double Good Popcorn, a gourmet popcorn company that specializes in Chicago-style popcorn. We contacted the company and set up our virtual fundraiser for 4 days. Families were given a school code to set up their virtual “pop-up shop”. Once they set up their personal pop-up shops they directed people to shop online from there. The fundraiser was completely contactless. Customers that did not want to necessarily purchase popcorn could do a donation thru the pop-up shop where popcorn would be sent to first responders."

What are your thoughts about fundraising during a pandemic?
"This was a good way to connect as a school although we were completely virtual. Four days seemed short, but it was a perfect amount of time. I suggest if you have ideas to just try it. There are plenty of virtual options out there. Just be sure to have your bank account set up and EIN #. That makes the process go smoothly."

What will the funds be used for?
"We plan to use the funds to develop an outdoor learning space and expand our school garden."
Council Leaders Rally!
March 30th at 7pm.

Have you been joining Tracey Troy for her council leader meetings to catch up on information, network and share what’s been going on in PTA?

To request the attendance link email outreachsupportvp@michiganpta.org

PTA Nacional se complace en anunciar que PTA.org está disponible en español a través del traductor de Google. Para traducir el sitio web, seleccione español en la barra del menú desplegable en la parte superior derecha de la pantalla en cualquier página de nuestro sitio web. Comparta esta novedad con otras PTA para alcanzar a nuestros miembros de habla hispana como otra herramienta para apoyar a las familias hispanas en la comunidad escolar.

pta.org

MICHIGAN PTA ADVOCACY OUTREACH DAY- MARCH 24TH, 2021

Did you join the Michigan PTA Advocacy Summit on March 20th? Don't worry if you weren't able to attend live because the recording will be added to our website soon. michiganpta.org/advocacy-day-2021

This year because of COVID-19, we will not be having a live day at our state capitol in Lansing, Michigan. We ask all local PTAs across the state to select their own advocacy project and complete it in the next month. That could be an educational program for your membership, a campaign to increase Voter Voice signups from your membership, or a direct contact with the State Representative and State Senator and set up a virtual meeting with their legislator to speak to their PTA members on education topics. The Michigan PTA does have a zoom account that we will set up for PTAs to use for free if their local legislator office does not have a virtual meeting method. We will provide a step-by-step worksheet for setting up these meetings and talking points for the conversation. The goal is that these projects start on March 24th, 2021, and are completed by April 24, 2021. Advocacy can be done all year long. This project is to focus on advocacy in Michigan PTAs. There will be follow-up emails sent to local PTA Presidents and Advocacy chairs asking for your follow-up.

Questions contact Marcy Dwyer, Michigan PTA VP Child Advocacy at childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org
FED LEG CHAIR MARCH UPDATE

It is that time of year - The National PTA Legislative Conference 2021 was March 9-11. This year it was held virtually and Michigan PTA had 25 Advocates from around the state participate! On Wednesday our group had meetings with the offices of both Senator Stabenow and Senator Peters. We also met with Representatives Dingell, Levin, Tlaib, and Moolenaar and the offices of Lawrence, Levin, McClain, Meijer, Slotkin, and Stevens. That's 10 out of the 14 Representatives from the entire state! We sincerely want to thank each Member of Congress and Staff members for taking time out of their busy schedules to discuss National PTA’s Asks, which were:

- Make meaningful, robust investments in education in the next COVID relief package (The American Rescue package passed during the course of our meetings.)
- Increase funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers to $20 million
- Include schools in any comprehensive infrastructure package
- Improve the federal school meal program through Child Nutrition Reauthorization
- Support policies which protect all students, including students from historically marginalized populations and communities

You can find more information about these Asks at National PTA Hill Day Asks. Although these Asks benefit families and children across our nation, during our meetings we were able to explain how they would direct benefits here in Michigan. It was great to have so many people advocate for the first time at the federal level! But my guess is - not the last!

Speaking of positively impacting - this year many local school districts have ballot initiatives either on May 4th or August 3rd. Please look out for information in your community to see if this applies to you. Vote411.org will be a great resource as we approach elections to see what you’ll find on your ballot. Michigan.gov/sos/ is a great way to find out more about registering to vote, absentee voting deadlines, and what IDs etc. you need to bring with you on that day.

I hope to see many of you at our Michigan PTA Advocacy Day on March 20th. I will be scheduling meetings with my Northville legislators afterward and am excited about our PTA message being carried throughout Michigan.

If you would like more information about Federal Advocacy or have any questions about our LegislativeConference, please reach out to me at fedlegchair@michiganpta.org. - Carin Meyer

Are you or a leader you know interested in knowing more about serving on the State Board?

As Chairman of the Nominations Committee, I am seeking more information from all leaders throughout Michigan PTA. First we will collect information, then we will be setting up interviews to dig a little deeper. We have finalized job duties and descriptions of all positions and I will have them available for perspective candidates to review before the interview process begins.

In the mean time, any and all questions can be sent my way pitkint@michiganpta.org

If you hear of someone who might be interested in learning more about an elected position, please feel free to share my email address or have them call Michigan PTA at (734)975-9500

The interest survey is due by May 1st and can be completed here: http://bit.ly/MiPTALeadership

Tanya Pitkin

Honor your volunteers!

Michigan PTA offers the perfect way to honor your most special volunteers—Appreciation Awards. There are four to choose from: the Distinguished Service Award; the Michigan PTA Honorary Life Award; the Acorn Award (for youth); and the Council Member of the Year Award.

These awards can be ordered anytime, and are very popular for recognizing people at Founders Day. All awards come with a certificate and a special pin.

To order awards, visit Michigan PTA's MemberHub store at https://mipta.memberhub.store/store. Please remember to purchase corresponding shipping as well.
THIS IS Mi PTA

Save the Date!

103rd Annual Convention
Saturday, August 7-8, 2021
2021 Convention Updates

michiganpta.org/103rd-annual-convention

Call For Workshop Proposals

You can be a part of improving the lives of children throughout Michigan by sharing your expertise with PTA/PTSA members from across the state. You are invited to submit a proposal to present at the Michigan PTA 103rd Annual Convention to be held August 7-8, 2021 at Henry Ford College in Dearborn, MI*. To ensure full consideration of your proposal, please complete this form and submit it by May 15th, 2021.

The Michigan PTA is unable to cover expenses of presenters. We appreciate your organization’s willingness to incur the cost of travel, housing, materials and audio visual. On the day of your presentation, you are welcome to attend any other sessions.


Celebrate Your Accomplishments!

Michigan PTA offers a wide variety of awards and certificates to recognize the remarkable work of volunteers. Awards are presented at the annual convention.

michiganpta.org/state-pta-awards

Awards:
Best Male Involvement Program
Best Membership Campaign
Council of the Year
Excellence in Communication
Healthy Lifestyles
MemberHub Master User
Outstanding Administrator
Outstanding Educator/Staff
PTA/PTSA Member of the Year
Shaton Berry Spirit of PTA
Brian Whiston Advocate of the Year

Certificates:
Council Achievement
Unit Achievements
-Gold Star PTA
-100% PTA
-100% Staff
-Michigan PTA Honor Roll
-Student Memberships
-Student Memberships

2021 Convention Committee

Are you are interested in serving on the 2021 Convention committee? To be a Convention Committee volunteer, it will require completion of the volunteer form, which the committee will present to the Board of Director for approval. Visit http://bit.ly/MIPТАConventionCommittee

If you have questions or need additional information before you complete this form, please reach out to us at:
Phone: 734-975-9500
Email: Convention@michiganpta.org

*Note: Michigan PTA 103rd Annual Convention to be held August 7-8, 2021 at Henry Ford College in Dearborn, MI.
April is Autism Awareness Month

Each year, in April, we collectively amplify the voices of autistic individuals, and this year we will carry on this tradition. As a parent of two autistic children, I certainly understand the complexities of making sure that your loved ones have all of the resources needed to thrive. Feel free to review, use, and share the information below for your family or one you know of and always share with your unit or council.

Jennifer Johnson

MiNavigator is the only program in the state offering support regardless of insurance, geography or need. Free resources for Michigan are available and targeted to meet a family’s unique needs. Assistance navigating the autism journey is offered through face to face, phone, email, and web-based resources. Use the following link to obtain resources to assist your family or that of another family in need:

[autismallianceofmichigan.org/project/minavigator/](http://autismallianceofmichigan.org/project/minavigator/)

**Free Virtual Caregiver Bootcamp**

Weekday Series 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
April 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd, 2021

Registration:

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKpcs.hazpOY2tWbCTMBq-KjMEFyvanZOSbgyvmoHXfNe7Qw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gids=7628

**Social Justice Training and Advocacy**

**Peer Support and Advocacy**

The Color of Autism provides ongoing Peer Support to individuals and families in need of support and targeted advocacy. We conduct Town Halls, Special Webinar events, Cooking, Fitness, Social Groups and Support Groups.

**Youth Peer Support Training**

Advocacy, social justice from a systems, community and legislative lens.

Our programs create goals for community outreach, legislative agendas and presentation for community partnering within schools, juvenile justice and other systems that support, train, treat Black/AA Youth with Autism and participate in task forces, initiatives and events for Social Justice, Improving systems and empowering Black/AA Youth on the Autism Spectrum.

For more information, please access the following link: [thecolorofautism.org/about-us/](http://thecolorofautism.org/about-us/)

**Michigan Alliance for Families**

is a statewide resource to connect families of children with disabilities to resources to help improve their children's education. We help facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and outcomes for students with disabilities.

Michigan Alliance for Families can assist you in knowing your rights, effectively communicating your child's needs, and advising how to help them develop and learn.

This wonderful resource is accessible via the following link:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Individuals and families worldwide are doing their best to maintain their social and emotional wellness as we continue to mitigate our collective challenge surrounding COVID-19. The member volunteers and coalition partners with our Michigan PTA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Outreach, as well as our Student Involvement Committees have a selection of resources to provide some assistance for you. Use what is needed for your family and share with those friends, neighbors, and of course, your unit and council. -Jennifer Johnson

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

Mental health support and education is available via the following NAMI link: nami.org/Support-Education

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Michigan, focuses on eliminating the loss of life from suicide by: delivering innovative prevention programs, educating the public, raising funds for suicide research and programs, and reaching out to those who have lost someone to suicide.

https://afsp.org/chapter/michigan

If you are in crisis, please call: 800 273 8255 or TEXT: TALK to 741741

The three-digit Suicide Number Hotline will not be accessible until July, 2022

Easterseals has been helping individuals with disabilities and special needs, and their families, live better lives for nearly 100 years. From child development centers to physical rehabilitation and job training for people with disabilities, Easterseals offers a variety of services to help people with disabilities address life’s challenges and achieve personal goals.

Resources for children, young adults, adults, seniors, and a free mental health check-up are located via the following link: easterseals.com/michigan/

Access National PTA’s curated library of essential mental health resources for PTAs and families here: pta.org/home/programs/mental-health
Rochester Community PTA Council is getting creative to keep their students engaged and on the move.

Let us know the unique initiatives your unit is working on by emailing hulettb@michiganpta.org

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### Get Outside Challenge!

**Sponsored by the Rochester Community PTA Council**  
Safe Routes, Green and Health and Wellness Committees

Choose at least 10 activities to complete as our Michigan Winter ends and Spring begins.

Send a photo of your completed form and a photo of your favorite activity to: baldwinelementarypta@gmail.com

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go on a bike ride</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catch a snowflake on your tongue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trace and identify animal tracks in the snow or dirt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make a sculpture out of snow and other natural materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visit a park</td>
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<td>Create a nature journal</td>
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<td>Create an outdoor obstacle course</td>
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<td>Sit outside and draw a nature scene</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trace someone else’s shadow</td>
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<td>Read a book outside</td>
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<td>Make a pinecone bird feeder</td>
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<td>Find or make and place a rock pet in the community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use your imagination and find cloud images</td>
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<tr>
<td>Go to a store, school, friend’s house without driving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warm up at an outdoor fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Go plogging – walk or jog and pick-up trash along the way</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be an Outdoor Photographer – where will you go and what will your subject matter be?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify a bird by sight or by bird call</td>
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<tr>
<td>Go Stargazing – find animal constellation among the stars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hike a new trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play a game outside</td>
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<td>Go on a night hike</td>
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<td>Be a Spring Detective – look for clues that Spring is coming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Go on a Nature Scavenger Hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>On a windy day watch the clouds or fly a kite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create your own outdoor challenge:</td>
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Student Name:  
Grade:  
School: Baldwin
To view and download the 2020-2021 Reflections list of winners visit: drive.google.com/file/d/1xYDg-URartbxDMmKCe4R3lTPkTLbF7o/view?usp=sharing.
MICHIGAN PTA’S NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERS

Michigan PTA Fran Anderson Scholarship

Graduating senior?
Active in PTA?
Attending college/vocational school?

Apply for the 2021 Michigan PTA Fran Anderson Scholarship by April 15.
michiganpta.org/scholarship

Join us on Facebook!
Facebook Page: facebook.com/everychildonevoice/
Facebook groups by interest:
- Michigan PTA Advocacy
- Michigan PTA Reflections Network
- Michigan PTA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Michigan PTA Membership/Memberhub
- Michigan PTA Leadership Community

pta.org/home/events/National-PTA-Convention-Expo

MARCH/APRIL 2021
Important Dates to Remember

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit and Council Renewal and Officer Updates in MemberHub (for 2020/21 this deadline is extended to Oct.1st)</td>
<td>Begins June 1, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit Board of Directors Speaking/Visit Requests for Fall 2020 and Founders’ Day Schedule</td>
<td>September 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>990 filing date with IRS (for most Units/Councils)</td>
<td>November 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standards of Affiliation (SOA)* deadline (Dues, Audit, Budget, Copy of 990, Officers, Bylaw, Insurance)</td>
<td>December 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submitting Board of Directors Speaking/Visit Requests for Spring/Summer 2021</td>
<td>January 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submitting Resolutions for consideration at Convention</td>
<td>March 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fran Anderson Scholarship Deadline</td>
<td>April 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan PTA Awards Deadline</td>
<td>April 15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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
Announcement

The Michigan PTA Newsflash newsletter will now be published bi-monthly.

Please watch for our next edition in May.

Connect With Michigan PTA!
Website: michiganpta.org
Facebook Page: facebook.com/everychildonevoice/
Facebook groups by interest:
- Michigan PTA Advocacy
- Michigan PTA Reflections Network
- Michigan PTA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Michigan PTA Membership/Memberhub
- Michigan PTA Leadership Community

We're Here to Help

Although Michigan PTA does not have a physical office and no staff at the moment, volunteers are still available to help answer questions. How you can reach us:

734-975-9500
P.O. Box 510535
Livonia, MI 48151

President- Kathy Carter
president@michiganpta.org

Secretary- Liz Jarvis
secretary@michiganpta.org

Treasurer- Dianna Sharpe
treasurer@michiganpta.org

VP of Outreach & Support- Tracey Troy
outreachsupportvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Student Involvement- Jennifer Johnson
studentinvolvementvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Membership- Brian Johnson
membershipvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Advocacy- Marcy Dwyer
childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org