

NEWSFLASH

Michigan PTA's Newsletter For Leaders

JULY 2020

WHAT'S INSIDE

**A Message From the
Michigan PTA President**

Let It Go, Let It Go

Convention Business Meeting

**Growing Forward Together-
A guest post**

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Greetings, Membership!

New Membership Campaign

**Smarter Summers.
Brighter Futures.**

Noteworthy

From the desk of the President of Michigan PTA

Hi everyone,

Hope you have been able to find time to breathe before we get back at it full steam, unless you are already there!! Please find time to see family and friends no matter what it looks like.

Our hope is that you will join us for our Annual Business meeting in August and the Convention/Leadership that will follow after. Also, there is still time to register for National PTA Virtual Convention. Visit National PTA website: pta.org and see what they have planned. Both will be exciting.

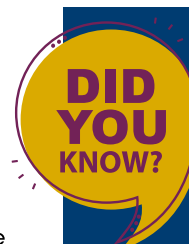
We will be introducing some new things over the next few weeks to help with back to school and PTA business. It will look different but it will happen.

The times are changing constantly so please let us know what you need.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Kathy Carter
President Michigan PTA

Together Everyone Accomplishes More



Kathy also serves
as the Vice
President of the
Lincoln Park
School Board

Let It Go, Let it Go

Sorry about the “Frozen” reference—especially in July! Even though we are in uncharted waters regarding this pandemic, I hope you will not fret too much—just let those worries go. **We are going to help each other get through.**

I have been getting calls from members asking if it is okay to have their **elections** in the fall, as they didn't meet in the spring. The answer is YES! Even if your bylaws say that elections are held in the spring. The pandemic definitely counts as extenuating circumstances, so you are allowed to make an exception.

What will that look like? It won't be the same as in the spring. If you are meeting in person, you will be able to vote in your usual way, whether that is by show of hands, or a ballot box, or whatever. There is the possibility that schools may not be meeting in person, or that the PTA will not be meeting at the school. With so many unpredictable variables, if you haven't had your election yet, it is advisable to plan for different scenarios: in person, or over Zoom, for example. Make your plan now, so you aren't stuck in the fall.

If you have outgoing officers still in the school community, they should work with the principal to plan the elections. The principal may know what will be allowed in their building in the fall. If you do not have any officers left in your PTA community, (perhaps their children have all moved on), then ask your Council for assistance. If you don't have a Council, please call Michigan PTA. We will help you to plan your fall elections.

Many calls have been received asking about **budgets**, and folks are worrying about not having enough money in the coming year, to do the traditional projects and programs. I hear your concerns. I am challenging you to think outside of the box. We all agree that this will not be a “typical” year, and you are hereby released from doing the same typical projects and programs. Remember, **PTA is not about fundraising.** The PTA mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. The Michigan PTA mission is to mobilize the forces of school, home, and community in order to ensure a quality education and nurturing environment for every child. Nowhere does it say “to raise funds.” So what can you think up that helps fulfill our mission, within the limits of your budget? If you can't raise funds, can you still PTA? YES!!! We will address this over the summer.

In the meantime, please prepare yourselves. Learn all you can. If you are or will be an officer or other PTA leader, go to PTAkit.org, and sign up for PTA Boot Camp or an e-learning course.

Michigan PTA will soon open registration for our virtual summer meeting. These events are reasonably priced (Boot Camp is free), and if you never thought you could attend the a PTA convention, well, maybe now you can, right from your living room. Join the PTA Leaders group on Facebook. You can share ideas with PTA leaders around the world.

“The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and most beautiful of all.” Oops, wrong Disney flick! But it's the right idea. Not only will **we get through this**, but we will take these unusual times as our chance to really shine! Our kids need us, and our schools need us. We will engage and empower families in new and exciting ways. Are you ready? Let it go!!

Liz Jarvis
Secretary, Michigan PTA

HELP!
our membership
is way low.

REALLY?
ours is good, but we
have no money!

Our fundraising
is fantastic... but
we need more
VOLUNTEERS!

NEED A HAND?

Endless resources are
available 24/7 at PTAKit.org.
Or ask your peers for
their best ideas on the
PTA Local Leaders
Facebook page.

PTA
everychild.one voice.*

MICHIGAN PTA

Call to Convention



Focus on the Future

Join Michigan PTA Officers and Board members to review the business of the State PTA for 2019-20 and a glimpse into the new year and upcoming training.

During the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, August 15th at 10:00 am we will present the audit/financial review, hear from officers and announce the results of the bylaw amendments vote.

With keynote speaker Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Door prizes and a message from National PTA will round out this meeting that is scheduled to last approximately 90 minutes.

Register: <https://bit.ly/MIPTACON2020>

**ANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING**
08.15.2020



"Growing Forward Together"

A guest post by Kristen Egger,
President, Nichols Elementary-Middle School PTA

With weeks of school closings behind us, like many, the PTA executive board at Nichols Elementary-Middle School didn't know what the remainder of the spring semester would look like, nor the coming school year. As we moved towards the new normal of meeting regularly over Zoom, it became clear to all of us that we wanted to see our school make a regular practice of reaching out to encourage and help meet the needs of our larger community. What would this message of hope look like? Many ideas came to us, but one stuck out as something we could do right now! GROW! CREATE!

Nichols Elementary-Middle School has had nine garden beds for a number of years, but these have often been left untended due to a lack of someone to lead the charge in caring for a garden. With some collaboration and motivation (thanks to our frequent meetings over Zoom!), the Nichols PTA has begun to grow and dream in the Nichols school yard and garden!

We are currently growing summer squash, kale, zinnias, tomatoes, sunflowers, beans, cosmos, bell peppers, pumpkins, and corn. Other projects to landscape near our school marquee have begun as well. We hope to see the school community attend family events and hopefully form an after school club in the coming school year to tend the garden, as well as create community artwork. A collaborative outdoor effort to beautify and nourish our community seems like a dose of healing we could all use right now!



DIVERSITY IS A FACT. INCLUSION IS AN ACT

By Jennifer Johnson, VP Student Involvement/ Chair Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Student Involvement Committees wish to thank everyone who participated in our first Social Justice Town Hall Webinar. We are greatly encouraged by the outcome and positive feedback as we seek to be part of the solution regarding social justice and eradicate racial injustice in our society. The Michigan PTA Position Statement on racism is accessible via the following link: [RACIAL INJUSTICE AND TRAUMA IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES](https://michiganpta.org/resolutions-and-position-statements) (michiganpta.org/resolutions-and-position-statements)

Representing a wide range of individuals regardless of physical characteristics, socioeconomic status, religious or political ideology, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability is essential to our work. Both committees have parents, retirees, teachers, people of color, allies (Disability, Race, Identity, and LGBTQ+), and students as active, participating members of our team. **Maintaining focus on our "why"-children, youth, and families- leads the agreements/norms of both committees.** Student Voice is essential. We ensure that a space exists where everyone in the group feels supported, respected, and valued regardless of their perspective or uniqueness.

Anyone who desires to have increased information on:

- Full Representation and Inclusion Initiatives
- Special Education Information and Resources
- Book Club Opportunities
- Allyship (Disability, Race, Gender, Orientation, Identity, LGBTQ+)
- Relationship-Building Tips
- Stakeholder Organization Initiatives
- Cultural Audit Information
- Workshops/Trainings (Mostly Virtual)
- Interrupting Bias
- Events (Mostly Virtual)
- Volunteer Opportunities

may obtain this and more via our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/ Student Involvement monthly newsletter, which is published at the beginning of each month. Please send your query to Johnsonjmichiganpta.org

SAVE THE DATE for our next virtual event: Social Justice Virtual Town Hall Series Part 2: "Uncomfortable, Necessary Conversation About Racial Trauma In the Middle and High School Curriculum," on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 from 6:30 PM - 8 PM. Details at a later date.

save the date

SAVE THE DATE

Social Justice Virtual
Town Hall Series
Part 2

Presented by

Michigan PTA

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
and
Student Involvement Committees

Uncomfortable, Necessary
Conversation About Racial Trauma
in the
Middle and High School Curriculum



Tuesday, August 4, 2020
6:30PM - 8PM

Moderators:
Michigan High School Diversity Club Student
Brian L. Johnson
Educator, VP for Membership Michigan PTA

What "counts" as a PTA Diversity and Inclusion Initiative?

Given the broad definition of diversity in PTA, there are many forms of outreach and engagement that serve the commitment to diversity and inclusion. Here are just a few:

- Providing PTA materials or events in multiple languages
- Sponsoring members to attend Emerging Minority Leader or Diversity and Inclusion Conferences at the national or state levels (Note that alumni from these events can serve as role models and leaders in your PTA.)
- Participating in the Every Child in Focus campaign
- Having members who complete PTA training sessions such as male engagement training, special needs training, cultural competence training (including e-learning), Spanish language training (including e-learning), or military family training
- Conducting PTA outreach, networking and events focused on the specific needs and opportunities related to the circumstances of families with children in foster care; or inner-city urban, rural or suburban families; or immigrant, refugee or homeless families
- Conducting PTA outreach, networking and events designed to engage multicultural communities, including African American families, Hispanic/Latino families, Asian American families, American Indian/Alaska Native families, Pacific Islander American families, families involved in foster care, and families with LGBTQ members
- Increasing male presence and perspectives in PTA at all levels and in all activities
- Addressing issues specific to families with children who have special needs, military families, and families with gifted children
- Hosting or participating in diversity summits, town halls or community gatherings devoted to children's educational success and well-being
- Developing advocacy initiatives addressing specific issues affecting PTA families

Greetings Membership!

From Brian Johnson, VP of Membership

As we start a new fiscal year, I want to thank you for all your hard work, support, and service to your school, community, and state. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the last school year was incredibly challenging. Still, YOU continued to make the necessary changes and sacrifices to improve the lives of our children. Your voice does matter! I thank all the frontline workers who risk their lives every day to save others. Your sacrifice is much appreciated. Thank you to all those who assisted me with membership this year: the Michigan Board of Directors and the Membership Team. If you would like to participate with the team, let me know. We are always looking for additional ideas. I thank all the units who participated in the membership challenges this year. The winner for the April/May challenge was Hillside Elementary PTA. Congratulations to all the units that increased your membership this year. Special recognition will be given at a later date. Please check the Michigan PTA site for the form to complete for the Most Student Membership and the Most Inclusive Student Membership. Also, the winners of the 100%, 50%, and 25% will be selected based on the numbers of last year and this year. The units will receive special recognition at the convention in August.

As of June 30, 2020, we are at 33,283 members which is a decrease from last year. I feel we did great considering the pandemic changed our lives. As we go into the new membership year, it is time to plan and collaborate. Now is an excellent time to think about a membership plan. Look at your numbers between this year and last. Did you increase membership? How did you do it? Was it an event, a communication tool, training of members, an increase of inclusion among stakeholders, or need that you fulfilled? If you lost membership, what did not go as expected? Was an event, communication, training, inclusivity, school-related problems, or planning? I know one issue for all of us was novel coronavirus, as plans for the last quarter of the year were lost. This next school year will be challenging for fundraising and membership. I suggest that you reach out to your membership and get the members you had last year within the next couple of months. I encourage you to think of innovative ideas such as virtual events and partnerships with businesses. **Be sure to check out the new membership campaign on page 7!** There will be virtual webinars coming soon to help you in the endeavor to increase membership. Although how the school year will look is uncertain, one certain thing is that our children will need our voice and actions "to make every child's potential a reality."

Spotlight on Norup International School PTSA

Norup International School PTSA is located in Berkley, Michigan. This past year, the 2019 - 2020 tenure of President, Jennifer Johnson, Vice President for Committees and Volunteers, Mikey Smith, Vice President for Membership, D'Angelo McWilliams, Treasurer, Jeff Ginn, and Secretary, Marie Dereniewski concluded. Together with building Principal, Paul Yowchuang, and Assistant Principal, Ruth Sochacki, they focused on producing partnerships that center on the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships set forth by PTA. I will share the six national standards from Norup PTSA.

The first standard: Welcoming All Families is an ongoing goal achieved via several programs, including Multicultural Night, which celebrates the cultures of 42 different ethnic backgrounds of students who attend the school. Norup also holds an annual International Carnival, which celebrates the culinary cuisine of the ethnicities that comprise this unique school. The following standard: Communicating Effectively involved collaborating with school administration and support staff to produce a weekly newsletter to all families. The Norup PTSA administration continued their expansion of this standard by creating a website and revamping their social media pages to increase the reach to their families and community. The third national standard: Supporting Student Success is an ongoing effort. The staff at Norup uses a digital resource portfolio platform that documents student progress and success and allows families to connect with staff members who work with their children.

The fourth standard: Speaking Up for Every Child Norup PTA routinely provides legislative alerts and information at the district, state, and national levels about students, families, and their well-being educationally and health-wise. Norup PTSA and school personnel also routinely collaborate to raise funds for programs such as Doctors Without Borders and food and clothing drives for in-district families and the greater community. A fifth national standard: Sharing Power is a favorite of the Norup PTSA. Sharing and collaborating ideas with their sister PTA and PTSA in their council, the state, and across the country. For example, this outreach enabled Norup to create useful forms for events, thereby boosting their team's productivity. The final national standard: Collaborating with Community entailed initiatives such as collaborating with the school to work together and provide opportunities for students to better the surrounding community. Building Principal, Mr. Paul Yowchuang, initiated a program for 8th-grade students to perform seasonal volunteer yard assistance for senior citizens in the three cities that comprise Berkley Schools. The students felt a personal sense of accomplishment for helping their fellow humans.

The 2020 -2021 year brings forth the new Norup PTSA administration under the leadership of President, Mikey Smith, Vice President for Committees and Volunteers, Kim Gallagher, Vice President for Membership D'Angelo McWilliams, Treasurer, Bruce Corrigan-Salter, and Secretary Janell McWilliams. I am confident that they will surpass the achievements of their predecessors.



PTA For Your Child with Our All New Membership Campaign

Today, PTA's role is more important than ever in connecting parents, teachers and administrators, and supporting critical school needs. We want every family in our schools to join PTA, because we can do more together than apart. Our new membership campaign—PTA For Your Child—is designed to engage and excite new members and existing members by making the work of the PTA more visible and highlighting the value and impact of PTA. To bolster your membership recruitment activities, we have developed a suite of materials, including a campaign toolkit that outlines how to effectively communicate the value of PTA membership, a suite of dynamic visuals and collateral materials, and a campaign rollout checklist.



Smarter Summers. Brighter Futures.

PTAs and schools are key to linking parents to vital summer learning opportunities that can help children have fun and meaningful learning experiences that prepare them for the next grade.

The **Smarter Summers Brighter Futures Playbook** empowers and equips PTAs and educators to make summers matter in their communities with easy-to-follow planning tools and strategies. Get yours here:

pta.org/home/family-resources/summer-learning

NOTEWORTHY

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Now that PTA units have wrapped up the 2019/20 school year there are some activities they should consider doing over the summer to prepare their MemberHub Site for the new school year. For details and step-by-step instructions click through each link or go to <https://bit.ly/MemberHubEndOfYear>.

- [Add New Officers](#) after elections have taken place
- [Review List of Site Administrators](#), remove any old officers
- [Make sure all state dues are paid](#), contact Michigan PTA Treasure with questions
- [Transfer WePay account Ownership](#) to new treasurer or president if needed
- [Clear Hub Activity](#), notify teachers before making changes to
- their hubs. Cleared data is unrecoverable.
- [Remove Families Who are Leaving the School](#)

Connect With Michigan PTA!

Website: michiganpta.org

Facebook Page: facebook.com/everychildonevoice/

Facebook groups/pages 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