

NEWSFLASH

Michigan PTA's Newsletter For Leaders

November 2020

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WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR ME?

A note from the Michigan PTA Secretary

Is your school meeting face-to-face? Virtual? Maybe it has changed recently, or is about to. PTAs everywhere are being challenged in what their students and families need, and how that affects their planned activities and programs. Parents, teachers, and students ask, "What can you do for me?"

I encourage you to visit National PTA's website for inspiration (www.pta.org). You will find podcasts, grant opportunities, and information on how to run your PTA virtually. There is so much information on that website, and all of it is for you. Whether it is Membership, Advocacy, Reflections, STEM, or Officer Training, you will find something there to help you. As a PTA member, YOU matter. Take advantage of these resources, to make this challenging year the best year ever!



Make Your PTA Virtual

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed how PTA/PTSAs communicate, grow and accomplish goals within their school communities. Many PTAs have successfully used web/app-based technology, software and resources to continue strong leadership and build and grow their PTA community. National PTA applauds these efforts and has compiled resources to help you move your PTA into the virtual world.

MemberHub Minute

Did you know MemberHub changed the look of your on-line eStore? It has many exciting new features. Additionally, instead of being serviced by WePay, the new eStore is serviced by Stripe. If you haven't upgraded your MemberHub eStore already, please do so. If you haven't completed your Merchant Agreement with Stripe, you'll need to do that, as well. Please have your bank account info handy.

Store 2.0 offers several compelling improvements, such as:

- Enhanced reporting and reconciliation for Treasurers
- Website builder
- Givebacks for passive fundraising
- Improved user interface
- Mobile swiper app for in-person payments (mid-November)
- Access to Fundraisers for virtual fundraising pages



On December 15, 2020, all MemberHub eStores across the entire platform will automatically be upgraded to version 2.0. This means that MemberHub will no longer support version 1.0 of the eStore.

Local unit leaders still using version 1.0 of the eStore will also get a series of email notifications over the next several weeks reminding them to upgrade. They can of course upgrade to version 2.0 before December 15, and it's very easy. The help article below provides steps.

[How do I upgrade to Store 2.0.](https://support.memberhub.com/hc/en-us/sections/360008720993-Store-2-0) (<https://support.memberhub.com/hc/en-us/sections/360008720993-Store-2-0>)

Remember that in Michigan only, MemberHub has a special live meeting app you can subscribe to (like Zoom, but cheaper). The rate is \$12.99 per month, which is a great deal. We are the only state with access to this feature, as MemberHub is using us to test the program. Call us for details on how your unit can subscribe.

Please call Michigan PTA if you need a MemberHub refresher, or have questions about how to use it.



Easily host meetings for your PTA, your parents, and your entire school.

*Up to 500 participants
\$12.99/month or \$156/year*

Exclusively for Michigan PTA units!

Featuring the Reliability of Zoom Video!
MemberHub Meeting Features Include:

- Up to 500-person meetings
- Up to 500-person webinars
- Unlimited recordings and cloud storage
- Unlimited meeting transcripts
- In-meeting breakout rooms
- Sharing tools: stream live to Facebook

memberhub.com/meetings

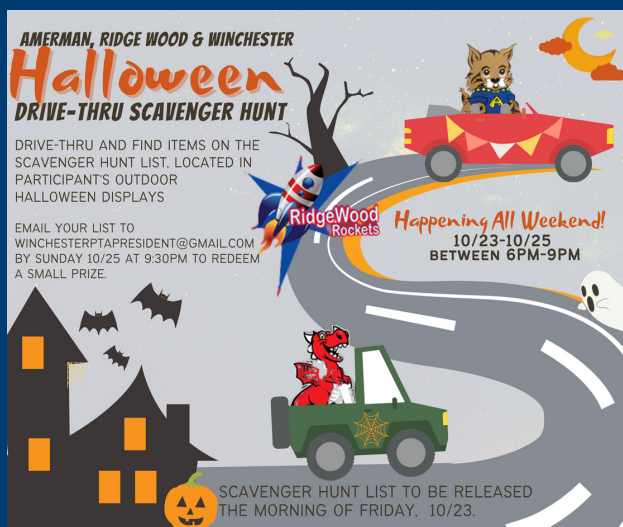
Local Unit Highlights

Bagley Elementary School of Journalism and Technology PTA

Detroit's Bagley PTA along with Angel's Kitchen served food to voters as they waited in line to cast their vote on Election Day.



Amerman, Moraine and Winchester Elementary School PTAs



Amerman, Moraine and Winchester PTAs joined forces to create a drive-thru scavenger hunt for their families. Students that turned in the list of items they found, took home small Halloween themed prizes that the PTA provided to the teachers to distribute. All left over prizes were handed out during the Halloween celebrations by the teachers.

This was a health and safety compliant event that all families could participate in when their schedules allowed. It was a great way to include virtual and in-person students and was such a great success that they're already working on a similar Holiday Light themed activity.

KNOW THE SIGNS: RECOGNIZING MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS IN KIDS AND TEENS

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to exact a huge toll on not just the physical health but the mental health of the nation. As we enter a new, very uncertain academic school year - it's important for parents, caregivers, and school personnel to know the signs that a young person is struggling with his or her mental health.

We know that stress and anxiety can be common during the school year for students, but with the pandemic upon us, it's even more important to pay attention. For those who are physically going back to schools, the anxiety and fear is palpable – and simply navigating the uncertainty can feel overwhelming. And for those who are learning virtually, too much isolation can be harmful.

Research shows that chronic loneliness, which many of us are feeling these days with stay-at-home orders - can translate to poor sleep, high blood pressure, greater risk of suicidal ideation, and even alcohol and drug use. Depression and anxiety have also increased in the months since the pandemic began.

Half of all mental health disorders begin by the age of 14, and about 75 percent begin by the age of 24. But it's also important to know that mental health issues are common and treatable – you don't have to suffer in silence!

Know the signs and symptoms of mental health issues so that you can seek help for you or someone you care about. Free, confidential, and anonymous screening tools are available at www.MHAScreening.org to check in on symptoms and to find resources to help.

Just like physical health, taking care of mental health struggles early can help to prevent more serious problems from developing in the future. If you are concerned that you or someone you know may be experiencing a mental health problem, it is important to act before Stage 4. Start the conversation. Seek help from a trusted adult. Remember there is nothing to be ashamed of and that there is help and hope.

There are also serious signs that someone is in crisis and needs more immediate help. These include thoughts or plans of hurting oneself or another person. If you think a child or teen is in immediate danger of taking suicidal action, call the national suicide hotline at 1-800-273-TALK. Their trained crisis counselors can help you find local resources or suggest next steps. You can also look up information for a local mobile crisis team, psychiatric hospital, or psychiatric unit and call or go to the hospital for immediate support.

TEACHERS AND PARENTS: WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE VIRTUAL LEARNING WORK

For those districts that have decided to continue distance/virtual learning, parents and teachers will have to work even more closely together to make sure kids and teens are learning and to monitor their mental health.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- SET UP AN INITIAL MEETING.
- DISCUSS THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.
- ESTABLISH EXPECTATIONS.
- IDENTIFY RESOURCES.
- DISCUSS EXISTING CONCERNS OR CHALLENGES.
- SHOW SUPPORT FOR EACH OTHER.
- GET ON THE SAME PAGE ABOUT WARNING SIGNS.

LEARN MORE AT
MHANATIONAL.ORG/BACKTOSCHOOL



DID YOU KNOW?

50%
OF ALL PEOPLE WHO WILL HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER IN THEIR LIFETIME START TO EXPERIENCE SYMPTOMS BY AGE 14.²


THE MEDIAN AGE OF ONSET FOR ANXIETY DISORDERS IS 6 YEARS OLD³

OF 11-TO-17-YEAR-OLDS WHO TOOK A SCREEN AT MHASCREENING.ORG SINCE MARCH 2020:⁴

83% (11,000) SCREENED POSITIVE OR AT-RISK FOR ANXIETY.

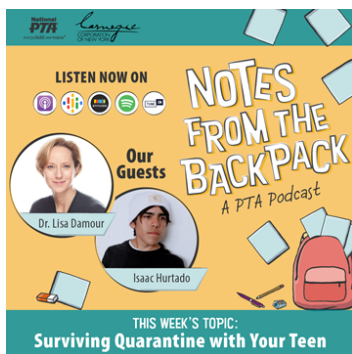
91% (23,000) SCREENED POSITIVE OR AT-RISK FOR DEPRESSION.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Problems with concentration, memory, or ability to think clearly
- Changes in appetite
- Feeling sad, empty, hopeless, or worthless
- Loss of interest in things that they used to enjoy
- Excessive worry
- Irritability or restlessness
- Changes in sleep
- Angry outbursts
- Not wanting to be around people or take part in activities

LEARN MORE AT
MHANATIONAL.ORG/BACKTOSCHOOL





Raising a teenager can be difficult—even under normal circumstances—and COVID-19 has added new challenges. Listen to the latest episode of National PTA's podcast, Notes from the Backpack, to get tips from adolescent psychologist Dr. Lisa Damour and teen podcaster Isaac Hurtado.



Do not miss this grant opportunity!
National PTA has extended the deadline,
so apply NOW at PTA.org/Grants



REQUEST A MASK

Residents can pick up a free mask from more than 100 partner sites across the state, including most local DHHS offices and Community Action Agencies. Find the list of locations at the link below. Please call before you visit to understand their pick-up process and ensure they still have masks available. Residents who need additional assistance can call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136.

[FIND A MASK DISTRIBUTION SITE](#)

MI Mask Aid allows Michigan residents to receive free face masks.

For distribution locations and details visit michigan.gov/coronavirus then search for MI Mask Aid

NATIONAL PTA® REFLECTIONS®

Notes and updates

The submission deadline to Michigan PTA is Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021.

Specific rules for each category can be found on our website <https://www.michiganpta.org/reflections> and on our Facebook page "Michigan PTA Reflections Network" under the files section.

New!!! National PTA has reduced the acceptable file types this year:

- Dance/Film are only AVI and MP4
- Music is only MP3 and WAV
- Photography/Visual Arts are only JPEG, JPG and PNG
- Literature is the same as last year, just PDF.

While you can still use the other file types at your local level, we'll likely see these enforced when we are ready to upload to Fluid Review. Thanks to Pal Ki for sharing this on the Facebook page!!

Reflections Resources:

- Reflections has gone virtual this year (org/docs/default-source/files/programs/reflections/reflections-2020-2021/virtual-reflections_f1.pdf)
- General Reflections information (pta.org/home/programs/reflections)
- Local Leader's Guide (pta.org/home/programs/reflections/startyourprogram#promotions)
- Questions? email Reflections@MichiganPTA.org or call Michigan PTA at (734) 975-9500



MICHIGAN PTA ADVOCACY UPDATE

Thank you to all the PTA volunteers and students across our state who conducted "GET out the VOTE Campaigns" for this most recent election. Every county in Michigan, except one (Dickinson County), had a higher voter turnout for this election than the last Presidential election.

THIS IS FANTASTIC!!!!!!

Advocacy and being part of the political process is an important part of PTA at the STATE and NATIONAL level. We support the lifelong involvement of every person in exercising their right to vote and having their voice heard. Many local PTAs/ PTSAs have shared with us in our effort for "Getting out the VOTE" and we want to thank you for those efforts. Send us a note if your PTA, PTSA, Council, or students in your school conducted a GET out the VOTE message or campaign. To have our entire state have such an improvement in voter turnout is incredible and we want to thank you and recognize your efforts. Please send us an email to childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org. We will send a special recognition certificate back to you and thank you for such an outstanding achievement. We especially would love to recognize students who worked hard on getting out the vote.

Did your local PTA/PTSA and/or students in your school conduct a "GET OUT the VOTE (GOTV) CAMPAIGN"? We want to know about it! Send an email to childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org telling us what you did. All submissions will receive a certificate from the State PTA with a thank you for making this a record achievement in Michigan.

What is coming up with Michigan PTA Advocacy

There are some state laws that may be coming soon that will impact more school funding, resource allocation, services to special needs, and required school testing. We need to have advocacy contact people at every local PTA/PTSA for information that will arise quickly in the future. Please make sure you have updated your officer listings in MemberHub so we may communicate with you in the future. If you do not have a specific Advocacy Contact person, another officer can take on that role for communication, and be listed in your MemberHub officer listing. Need help working with MemberHub? Email info@michiganpta.org or reach out to childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org. Look forward to electronic announcements and breaking news on bills that impact children's education in Michigan at both the State and Federal Level.

Be courteous

Remember as this election closes that your fellow PTA members may be a different political party than you personally or of their own neighbor. It is important that we as PTA leaders celebrate the involvement in the process, the greater voter turnout, and our respect for every person's personal opinion.

We appreciate you!

Thank you to all our PTA Leaders who are doing so much in communications with members, school districts, school leadership, and their great community during COVID-19. Advocacy is more important than ever as we all navigate through the pandemic. We appreciate all your efforts and please reach out to any member of our Michigan PTA State Board if we can help you at any time.

Marcy Dwyer
Michigan PTA VP Child Advocacy
248.506.4574
childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org



**ENGAGE FOR
YOUR CHILD**



Congratulations!
Hamlin Elementary School PTA
Rochester Community Schools
\$250 Grand Prize Winner
Michigan PTA Early Bird Membership Challenge!

Thank you to the following Units for submitting their entry:

Cass Technical High School PTSA
DPSCD

Country Oaks Elementary PTA
Huron Valley School District

Delta Kelley PTA
Rochester Community Schools

Emerson Middle School PTSA
Livonia Public Schools

Frost PTSA
Livonia Public Schools

Hamlin Elementary PTA
Rochester Community Schools

Hart Middle School
Rochester Community Schools

Hillside Middle School
Northville Schools

James R. Geisler Middle School PTSA
Walled Lake Consolidated School District

John F. Kennedy Elementary PTA
Livonia Public Schools

Johnson Upper Elementary PTA
Livonia Public Schools

Long Meadow Elementary PTA
Rochester Community Schools

Mary Helen Guest Elementary PTA
Walled Lake Schools

Norup International School PTSA
Berkley School District

Oak Ridge Elementary PTA
Royal Oak School District

Pickford PTA
Pickford Public Schools

Ulysses S. Grant Elementary PTA
Livonia Public Schools

Van Hoosen Middle School
Rochester Community Schools

Walled Lake Central High School PTSA
Walled Lake Consolidated School District

Webster PTA
Livonia Public Schools

West Middle School PTSA
Rochester Community Schools

Winchester PTA
Northville Public Schools



LEGCON 2021



Apply for PTA
ADVOCACY AWARDS
by Jan. 4



National PTA is now accepting nominations for the 2021 Advocacy Awards! [PTA.org/AdvocacyAwards](https://pta.org/AdvocacyAwards)

The Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Advocacy Award will be presented to one local, district, council or regional PTA that through their dedication, leadership and efforts positively affected legislative and/or regulatory policy aligned with National PTA's DEI Priorities.

The Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award is presented to an individual PTA member who, through their leadership and advocacy efforts, affected federal policy priorities within PTA's annual Public Policy Agenda.

Other awards include Outstanding Youth Advocate of the Year Award, Outstanding State PTA Advocacy Award, Outstanding Local PTA Advocacy Award and PTA Congressional Voice for Children Award.

many
thanks

"I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks,
and ever thanks." – William Shakespeare

As we enter this
holiday season, we
thank you and
wish you well.

From Kathy Carter
and the Michigan
PTA Board of
Directors

Important Dates to Remember

Unit and Council Renewal and Officer Updates Begins June 1, 2020
in MemberHub (for 2020/21 this deadline is extended to Oct.1st)

Submit Board of Directors
Speaking/Visit Requests for Fall 2020 September 15
and Founders' Day Schedule

990 filing date with IRS (for most Units/Councils) November 15

Standards of Affiliation (SOA)* deadline
(Dues, Audit, Budget, Copy of 990, Officers, Bylaw, Insurance) December 1

Submitting Board of Directors January 15
Speaking/Visit Requests for Spring/Summer 2021

Submitting Resolutions for
consideration at Convention March 1

Fran Anderson Scholarship
Deadline April 1

Michigan PTA Awards Deadline April 15

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

PTA Blog Posts

How to Get the Technology Your Local PTA Needs:

<http://onevoice.pta.org/local-ptatechnology-needs/>

- Tips for how to find free or low-cost technology solutions for PTAs to operate in a virtual world.

How to Show Your PTA Value to Sustain and Grow Membership:

<http://onevoice.pta.org/show-your-ptavalue-to-sustain-and-grow-your-membership/>

- How to host virtual programs, stay connected virtually, and use available resources.

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
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Treasurer- Dianna Sharpe
treasurer@michiganpta.org

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

VP of Student Involvement- Jennifer Johnson
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VP of Membership- Brian Johnson
membershipvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Advocacy- Marcy Dwyer
childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org