

NEWSFLASH

Michigan PTA's Newsletter For Leaders

December 2022/January 2023

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Convention 2023**
- **Grant Winners**
- **Standards of Affiliation**
- **Membership**
- **National PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships**
- **OK2SAY**
- **Resolutions Update**
- **Advocacy Day 2023**
- **Federal Legislative Update**
- **State Committees**
- **A Holiday Message from Michigan PTA**

INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION AND PROGRAMMING DURING THE HOLIDAYS

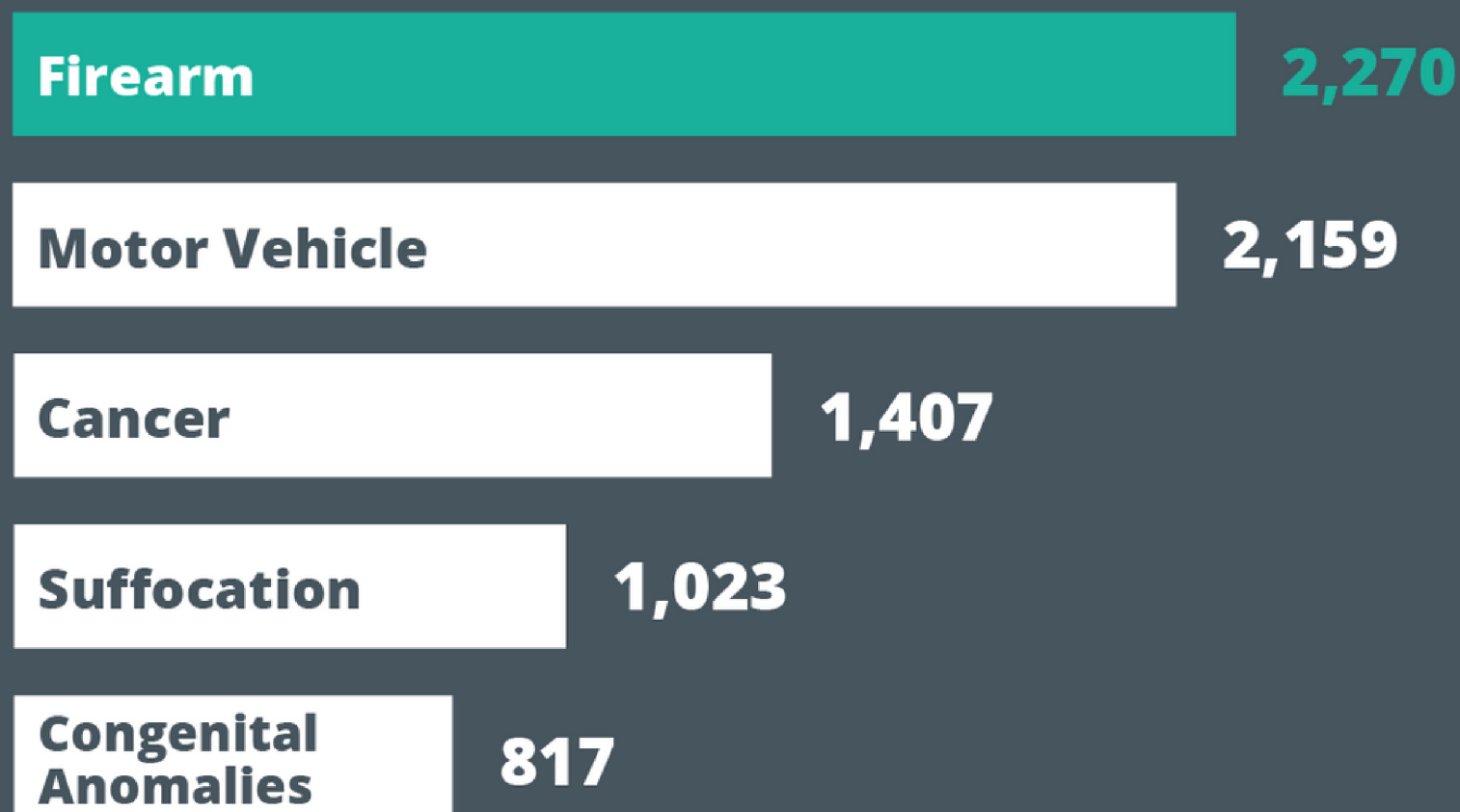
Holidays and traditions play a significant role in shaping our identity and values. During the holiday season, it is important to remember that not all students and families celebrate the same holidays or have the same annual traditions. This makes the holiday season an ideal time to celebrate and learn about our communities' various holidays and traditions!

Making posts on social media and writing blurbs in your newsletters that acknowledge different cultural traditions or holidays is a great way to show that your PTA is welcoming and celebrates your community's diversity.

Additionally, hosting inclusive holiday programming can be a fun and effective way to create a strong sense of community. As a PTA, you can host your own programming or partner with your school to support integrated, inclusive programming for all your students and families. Jump to page 4 for tips on creating communications and programming during the holiday season:



Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children.



Learn more about secure gun storage
BeSMARTforKids.org

Michigan PTA Convention 2023 - Don't Miss It!

Why should I attend?

The annual convention is the foundation of the state PTA. You will have the opportunity to shape the direction of the organization and how we support you in Councils and Local Units. But, more importantly, you will have the opportunity to learn from, connect with, and be inspired by other dedicated PTA members from across the state. It's almost impossible to not leave energized with new ideas!

Whom is it for?

In short: EVERYONE! There are sessions related to volunteering and running your PTA, parent and family engagement (Title 1), health and wellness, and so much more! Parents in your school can benefit from attending and learning about resources available to them. And don't forget about students (the "S" in "PTSA"); the Youth Engagement Summit is designed specifically to cater to the needs of 6th through 12th graders.

What can I expect?

A jam-packed couple of days! The convention is a mix of all the things that you want and need. There are workshops, business meetings, featured speakers, a vendor fair (think fundraising and assembly ideas!), contests, great food, and even a dance party! There is something for everyone. You don't want to miss it!

When is it happening?

Friday evening, April 28 - Sunday afternoon, April 29th

Where is it located?

Best Western Premier Executive Residency Detroit Southfield Hotel
26555 Telegraph Rd, Southfield, MI 48033

We recommend staying at the hotel so you don't miss anything! Call 248-358-7600 by 4/14 and say you are with Michigan PTA to get the group rate.

How can I reserve a spot?

The deadline for pre-registration is March 15th! You can get more details on the convention webpage here michiganpta.org/2023-convention



Congratulations to these National PTA Grant winners!

- Ferndale Elementary PTA
- Southeastern High School PTA
- McGregor Elementary School PTA
- DeWitt Elementary PTA
- Hamlin PTA
- Royal Oak Middle School PTSA
- West Middle School PTSA

Standards of Affiliation

The Standards of Affiliation deadline was December 1. If you missed the deadline, please be sure to submit and upload your compliance documents in Memberhub right as soon as possible. Be sure to select “Enter State Submissions (Form 990s, Financials)” from the purple bar on the left. Once all required submissions have been made, your unit’s tax-exempt status letter will be generated and uploaded to Memberhub. Check all of the following off your list:

- Update officers and their contact information in Memberhub
- Submit your unit’s approved budget
- Verify that your unit maintains a current insurance policy
- Upload the audit/financial report from the 21-22 fiscal year
- Verify that your unit has filed a 990 with the IRS for the 21-22 fiscal year
- Have all current members’ contacts entered into Memberhub and the corresponding payments submitted
- Unit dues in the amount of \$40 paid in the Michigan PTA Memberhub store <https://mipta.memberhub.com/store> or by check* sent to Michigan PTA, P.O. Box 510535, Livonia, MI 48151
- Remember that bylaws must be reviewed every three (3) years. When uploading the approved bylaws in Memberhub, you will need to include the meeting minutes reflecting that approval vote as a part of the bylaws document; Memberhub will only accept one file in the submission portal

* If you elect to send payment to Michigan PTA by check please be sure to include your unit ID #. When submitting payment for Memberships be sure to include the number of members that are being paid for. Don’t forget to add the Membership Dues payment in Memberhub and our volunteers will make sure to record the date on which it was received.

We know that this can often seem like an overwhelming process. Remember we are here to help!
secretary@michiganpta.org



STANDARDS OF AFFILIATION CHECKLIST 2022-2023

The Standards of Affiliation (SOA) Agreement checklist exists to help PTA Units and Councils remain current with all IRS, state, insurance, and PTA requirements. For assistance with this checklist or help understanding any of the SOA agreement requirements, please contact council leaders (if applicable) or a state director.

Please share this checklist with your board of directors and membership.

Required by	#	Requirement	Due by	Best Practice/Specifics	Responsible PTA Leader	Date(s) Completed
State of Michigan	1.	Officers Elected	June 1	Officers were elected at a membership meeting (recommended before previous fiscal year-end). Michigan State law requires president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary.		
IRS	2.	Form 990 filed	Dec 1 Nov 15	File the appropriate IRS form 990 no later than November 15 th (or file the necessary extension and file by the deadline).		
	3.	Form 8822-8 updated	Nov 15	File Form 8822-B when PTA's mailing address changes or the identity of the "responsible party" as listed on the IRS form 990 changes (usually the president or treasurer). Form requires a personal social security number		
Insurance	4.	Year-end financial Review	Dec 1	Year-end financial review was conducted.*		
	5.	Annual Unit Dues Paid	Dec 1	Annual unit dues payment (\$40) made to Michigan PTA.		
Michigan PTA	6.	Officer names/contact info	June 1	Enter names and contact information for all elected officers (and key non-elected positions such as membership, advocacy/legislative, Reflections, fundraising, student involvement, volunteers, health/safety)*		
	7.	Budget Approved	June 1	Budget was approved by the membership (recommended before previous fiscal year-end)*		
	8.	Bylaws submitted/approved	Every 3 years	Review and submit membership approved unit bylaws for review/approval every three years, or as needed.* Last Submitted:		
	9.	Insurance	Dec 1	Evaluate and purchase appropriate insurance		
	10.	Membership Invoices Paid	Monthly	Membership invoices paid in full for the previous fiscal year. Current fiscal year memberships shall be paid by the 28 th of each month.		
MIPTA Councils Only	11.	Council Reflections Programs	Annually	Offer a Reflections program for your local PTAs		

Per the MIPTA Bylaws, a unit or council in good standing is the one that meets the criteria in the SOA agreement. While this checklist is for your internal monitoring purposes and does not need to be turned into MIPTA. Your unit or council is responsible for completing all SOA requirements

Tips on writing social media posts and newsletter blurbs during the holiday season continued

1. Make them inclusive. Although some holidays are more common or well-known than others, that doesn't mean they should get all the spotlight. Be inclusive by either posting something broad (e.g., Happy Holidays) or by making sure you include all of the holidays celebrated in your school community.
2. Make them informative. Use your social media posts as a form of sharing interesting or fun facts about the holidays or traditions taking place. Consider creating a series of social media posts with holiday facts that continues throughout the year.
3. Make them interactive. Ask questions and open the floor for families and students to share and discuss the holidays and traditions that they celebrate. This is a great way to have your families engage in discussion and learn from one another.
4. Make them timely. Use the National PTA Multicultural Calendar to stay on top of holidays, heritage months and awareness months throughout the year. The calendar can help guide your PTA in deciding what is relevant to acknowledge and share in your communications.

Sample Newsletter Blurb

The wide array of holidays and traditions celebrated across our community highlights our rich diversity. Some families might spend the season gathering for meals, decorating their homes, or volunteering in their community. During this time of year, practice engaging in conversation with your friends and neighbors to learn what they celebrate or how they honor family traditions.

Sample Social Media Posts

Inclusive

Happy December and happy holidays! This is a month full of celebration. We challenge you to learn about a holiday you don't celebrate this month.

Inclusive Communication During the Holidays

Informative

Did you know? A seven-prong candle called a Kinara is used to celebrate Kwanzaa. Each of the candles represents a different principle. There is one black candle which stands for unity, three red candles that represent struggle, and three green candles which represent hope for the future.

Interactive

The holiday season is upon us! What's your family's favorite tradition during this time of the year?

Timely

Today marks the beginning of Hanukkah, the eight-day Festival of Lights. Happy Hanukkah to those in our community observing and beginning celebrations today!



Examples of Inclusive Programming

Virtual or In-Person Read Aloud

A read-aloud event is a great opportunity to create community partnerships, engage families in literacy, and facilitate meaningful conversations about holidays or topics that are less widely celebrated.

Instructions:

1. Ask a parent, teacher, administrator, community leader or author to be the guest reader for a read-aloud night.
2. Choose books that highlight a variety of holidays and celebrations.
3. If there is a holiday or tradition that is particularly prominent within your school community, partner with someone within that community to identify a book with accurate representation.
4. Plan a post read aloud activity or discussion that can further educate your community on the holidays and traditions outlined in the book.

Virtual Cooking Class

Food is a cornerstone of most holidays celebrated around the globe. When you think of a holiday that you celebrate, you are likely to also think about your favorite dish that comes along with it. A virtual cooking class is a fun way for families in your community to share some of their most cherished holiday traditions through recipes.

Instructions:

1. Ask for volunteers who might want to host the cooking class and provide them with guidelines to help them select a recipe within the restrictions of reasonable time commitment and cooking skill-level.
2. Keep dietary and allergy restrictions in mind. Prioritize recipes that are more inclusive in terms of ingredients list (e.g., nut free, vegan, gluten free, etc.).
3. Ask volunteers to share facts, memories and traditions associated with their recipe throughout the event to ensure that participants are engaged and learning.



Congratulations to

Garden City High School PTSA

for completing the membership challenge for October! Your PTA Submitted your membership Chairperson and now your PTA Board of Directors will receive cider and donuts at your future PTA BOARD meeting!

Membership Leaders

Your participation is appreciated and welcomed. This 5 minute survey will help us to help you!

The SIP & CHAT is a monthly conversation with local unit 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 Link or Scan the QR Code:
<https://bit.ly/miptamembershipsurvey2022>



Sign Up For Membership Mania Today!

Membership Mania is a year-round initiative for local PTA leaders to focus on membership. It provides a fun and engaging opportunity for local PTA leaders to connect with leaders across the country and overseas, explore the many National PTA resources and identify ways to connect membership to everyday PTA activities. Any PTA leader can sign up.



Those who register by **December 15, 2022** and send confirmation to membershipvp@michiganpta.org will be entered into a drawing for a **restaurant.com** gift certificate.

Sign up here or scan the QR Code!
<https://bit.ly/ptamembershipmania>



National Standards *for* **FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS**

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.

Resolutions Update

In July, at the 2022 Michigan PTA Convention, our members ratified these three Resolutions:

- **Resolution on Safe Storage of Firearms**
- **Resolution on Safe, Supportive and Inclusive Schools**
- **Resolution on Seizure Safe Schools**

In September, the Michigan PTA Resolutions Committee submitted two of these resolutions to the National PTA Resolutions Committee (there is already an existing National PTA Resolution on Inclusive Practices):

- Resolution on Safe Storage of Firearms
- Resolution on Seizure Safe Schools

In October, the National PTA Resolutions Committee advised us that Illinois PTA has also submitted a resolution to National PTA regarding safe firearm storage:

- Resolution on Child Safe Firearm Storage

What happens now:

National PTA has asked the Michigan PTA Resolutions Committee to work with the Illinois PTA Resolutions Committee to combine the two state-approved resolutions into one joint resolution which will be from both states – Illinois and Michigan. This work must be completed by early December, so that the National PTA Resolutions Committee can prepare it for submission to the National PTA Board of Directors, who will vote at their January board meeting. If approved at that meeting, both the Michigan PTA Resolution on Seizure Safe Schools and the new joint Illinois PTA/Michigan PTA Resolution on Firearm Safe Storage will be presented for membership approval as part of the 2023 National PTA Convention. Stay tuned!

What is a resolution?

PTA resolutions and position statements are official documents outlining the opinion, will, or intent of the association to address national problems, situations, or concerns that affect children and youth and require national action to seek resolution on the issue.

The documents serve an important purpose in formalizing and focusing the positions of the organization on various important and relevant issues.

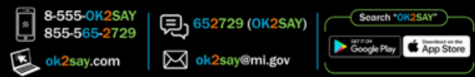


I always wondered why somebody didn't do something, then I realized ...

I AM SOMEBODY.



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.



Michigan's student safety program, OK2SAY, is a national model that ensures every student, parent, teacher, and community member has access to a safe and confidential way to report any concerns about their safety or the safety of others. OK2SAY operates as an early warning system in our schools to help stop tragedies before they start. Remind your students that they have a confidential way to report a tip about safety threats. Tips can be submitted 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.

- Telephone: 8-555-OK2SAY (855-565-2729)
- Text: 652729 (OK2SAY)
- Email: ok2say@mi.gov
- Website: ok2say.com
- Mobile app: Available in the app stores for iPhone and Android devices

When students make the courageous decision to break the code of silence and speak out against harmful behavior, they equip authorities with the information needed to respond to threats and avert tragedy. And that's a good thing for Michigan schools, communities, and families.



Michigan PTA Advocacy Day in Lansing

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

At the Capitol!

We are currently finalizing details and hope to have registration open by the new year. Plan to join us! If you have any questions or suggestions, please email childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org

Federal Legislative Chair Update by Carin Meyer

Put National PTA's Virtual Advocacy Day on Your Calendar! Coming March 7th & 8th, 2023, these dates will be here before we know it! The Michigan PTA would love to have you join us! Each year National PTA has an Advocacy Day where we meet with Federal Members of Congress to discuss our public policy platform. Issues we have addressed with our Michigan policymakers in the past have included infrastructure, student nutrition, and school safety – just to name a few. Advocacy Day 2021 was also virtual and we were fortunate to have 25 PTA members join in. It would be wonderful if we could have that many again from all around Michigan! Whether you have been to an Advocacy Day or not, do not worry. We will share with you how the meetings are run, and you will not be alone! If you would like more information please go to pta.org/home/events/National-PTA-Legislative-Conference. Michigan PTA will be sending out a notification when the sign-up is ready.

Hope to see YOU in March!

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!

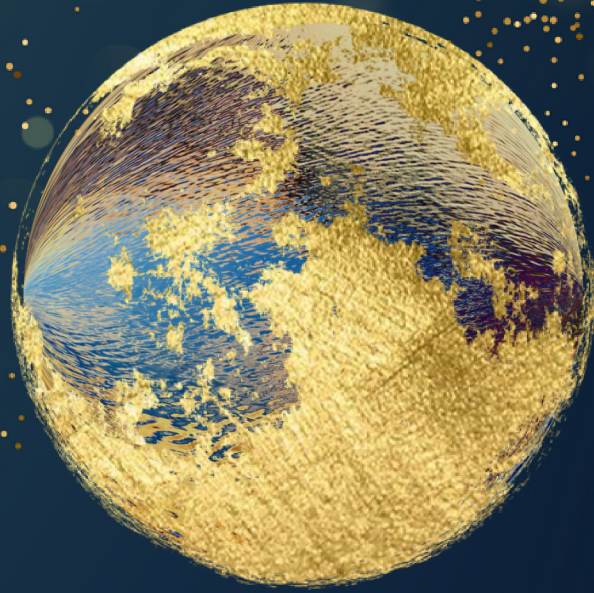
Current State-Level General Committees accepting applications (*italics mean a committee Chair is needed, and student volunteers may only apply for those with an asterisk*):

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

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



*Season's Greetings
to all.*

Happy December and happy holidays!

December is a month full of celebration. The wide array of holidays and traditions observed across our communities highlights our rich diversity.

We send our best wishes to you and your family in all that you do to celebrate renewal, family bonds, and being together with loved ones.

-Michigan PTA

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	February 15, 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**





FEELING STRESSED OR OVERWHELMED WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON?

Get help by telling a trusted adult or contact **OK2SAY**.
OK2SAY is confidential and available **24/7**.



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

 8-555-
OK2SAY 855-
565-2729
 ok2say.com

 **652729 (OK2SAY)**
 ok2say@mi.gov

Search "OK2SAY"



President- Tracey Troy
president@michiganpta.org

President-Elect
Vacant

Secretary- Jenna McMechan
secretary@michiganpta.org

Treasurer- Meredith Blixt
treasurer@michiganpta.org

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

Michigan
PTA
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