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SEASON'S GREETINGS!

Welcome to the season of gratitude and giving. This time of year, with so many traditional things returning, can be hectic and hurried. I constantly have to remind myself to take the time to catch my breath and reflect.

I have been reflecting on gratitude this season. It has filled my spirit (and my Facebook feed) to see so many PTAs and PTSAs step back into traditions of fun runs, fall activities and membership drives. I love to see you bringing activities and engagement to our students and communities. These activities fuel and inspire and bring students meaningful engagement that's been sorely missed.

I am so grateful for the countless, tireless PTA volunteers that keep the mission moving. During this hectic holiday season know that I deeply appreciate the contributions each of you make. Your dedication, your time and your efforts makes such a significant and meaningful impact. I am celebrating all of you in my gratitude this season. Thank you.

Tracey Troy President, Michigan PTA



Lachelle Thomas Appointed Vice President for Student Involvement for Michigan PTA

The Michigan PTA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Lachelle Thomas has been appointed as their new Vice President for Student Involvement.

Lachelle is a passionate educational and community advocate. Her motivation is fueled by a genuine care for people and their well-being. Thomas has impacted the lives of children, families, and communities through her nearly 40 years of PTA involvement. She has worked with local schools and districts on educational reforms, family engagement, student involvement, community outreach, and DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). She has held a variety of positions with the PTA, including president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, as well as chair of several committees. She was also instrumental in implementing Reflections at the high school level in Detroit to promote the arts, and those students were the first in the city to participate and receive an award. As an active PTA parent and community leader, Thomas is looking forward to assisting students throughout the state, communicating with the youth, and supporting their initiatives and goals.

As Vice President of Student Involvement, Lachelle's first goal is to enhance student involvement by including them in the planning and presentation of student involvement workshops, with a focus on communication. She believes students are a valuable resource in creating long-term healthy systems of change, from their home to school to federal policy. Their participation leverages family engagement to ensure the success of every child.

Lachelle's second goal is to provide student communication forums for discussions. With a focus on "listening," the forums will develop a bridge for students to connect, communicate and learn about each other's diverse perspectives, empowering them to agree or disagree in a healthy manner.

Please join us in welcoming Lachelle to this new role!

The Michigan PTA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that

Lachelle Thomas

has been appointed as their new Vice President for Student Involvement.

Please join us in welcoming Lachelle to her new role!

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CONGRATULATIONS GRANT WINNERS

See the full list of grantees at PTA.org/Grants

PT/A

Congratulations

to West Middle PTSA in Rochester Hills for being 1 of 30 PTA units across the country to receive a \$1000 for the 2021 - 2022 PTA Connected Smart Talk Grant sponsored by NortonLifeLock!

Your PTA can also host a Smart Talk Conversation. This program provides your PTA with resources to foster an interactive online safety conversation that ends with families completing their own Smart Talk at home. Your PTA can help families discuss:

• How to determine who should "friend" or "follow" your account?

• When to share photos or videos online?

• How to respond to negative comments or posts on social media?

• Whether to use location-based services on apps?

• How much screen time is appropriate?

Visit TheSmartTalk.org to get started



Update on Bills that Would Authorize a School Voucher-Style System in Michigan.

These bills are part of a legislative package to create scholarship funds for Michigan private schools that receive funding from residents. On the morning of November 2nd, both bill packages passed through the House and Senate Education Committees respectively, without further committee hearings or debate. The House bills were approved by the Senate 20-16 shortly after. The House voted 55-48 on a separate, similar package from the Senate.

Governor Whitmer vetoed Senate Bills 687 and 688 and House Bills 5404 and 5405 on Friday, November 5, 2021. Some organizations have now started a petition drive and other grassroots efforts to have the Michigan legislature overturn Governor Whitmer's veto of these bills. It is therefore important to understand the following:

The program would not directly allocate state funds to the scholarship accounts, but the state School Aid Fund would lose revenue due to tax exemptions. This legislation allows for tax write-offs for large donors (who can already donate to private schools now, if they wish, without harming public school funding). Let's say someone decides to donate \$10 million dollars to this fund, and then they write that donation off on their taxes, which would take \$10 million dollars out of the School Aid Fund. So, any donation would take money out of the public schools.

These bills represent another attempt to try to skirt Michigan's constitutional prohibition on spending public dollars on private schools and siphon money, directly or indirectly, away from public education. Vouchers undermine strong public education and student opportunity. They take scarce funding from public schools—which serve 90 percent of students—and give it to private schools—institutions that are not accountable to taxpayers.

Supporters of the bills say they would offer more flexibility and choices in education and would address disparities in educational options available to students. Opponents of the bills say they would take public money away from public school education and allow public money to be used for private and religious education. Whitmer has been vocal about closing the gap in K-12 education between private and public institutions, saying she believes it is important to rebuild the public school system. Her office released a statement regarding this legislation, specifically criticizing the tax deductions portion of the bill.

Update on Bills Concerning Critical Race Theory in Michigan

The Michigan PTA is watching HB 5097 which passed out of the Michigan House and is moving on to the Senate Education and Career Readiness Committee. You can find a summary here. This bill does not specifically refer to Critical Race Theory (CRT), however, if passed, it would prohibit any form of race or gender stereotyping, the teaching of certain historical events and anti-bias training.

The Michigan PTA works to advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Black, Indigenous and People of Color in Michigan Schools. We also support the Inclusion, Protection, and Affirmation of LGBTQ+ Students and Families in Michigan. To read both position statements please see our Advocacy page at michiganpta.org. Also, to listen to our discussion with Dr. Dorinda Carter Andrews regarding the Myths Surrounding CRT and the impact laws such as these would have in classrooms, please again refer to michiganpta.org or the MichiganPTA YouTube channel.

What do we do in response?

PTA Members communicate with their legislators and the Governor via VoterVoice, Michigan PTA's grassroots advocacy portal. Sign up for Michigan PTA VoterVoice at www.votervoice.net/MIPTA/home. Then you will receive any Michigan PTA VoterVoice Action Alerts we issue in response to these legislative developments.

Advocacy is a vital part of Michigan PTA, and all local PTAs are encouraged to make advocacy education and discussions part of their PTA meetings. If you need updates, trainings, and/or resources regarding involvement in PTA advocacy to present to your members, contact the Michigan PTA office via email at childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org

Thank you for all you do for PTA!

Jenn Garland Michigan PTA Vice President of Children's Advocacy

Federal Legislative Chair Update by Carin Meyer

Here is the latest update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as it applies to Michigan: The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is requiring all school districts to submit plans for the remaining funds by December 15th. This plan requires school districts to submit descriptions of meaningful stakeholder engagement regarding how this money will be spent in their schools. Your district can get an extension on this if requested, however they must meet this requirement at some point. Reach out to your district to see how they plan to do this: School Board meetings? Special meetings? Or in another way? PTA meetings might be a great opportunity to engage with your district on these funds. Watch out for information from your district on plans to engage with your community and for ARPA updates from Michigan PTA.

The latest National PTA Voter Voice Call to Action asked Congress to support sensible gun legislation. You can find more information about this at https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action/write-your-officials and at pta.org under the Advocacy tab. Please remember that while both the National PTA and Michigan PTA use Voter Voice, our alerts are not linked and so you must sign up to each one separately.

Unfortunately, the Federal infrastructure package that just passed does not include schools. This is disappointing because according to the American Society of Civil Engineers 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, school facilities were given a D+. We obviously have more work to do in this area to alert our public officials that our students deserve better. However, on the bright side, broadband was included in this package. This addresses the need which was heightened by this health crisis, and we advocated for it last spring at National PTA's Legislative Conference.

As the year 2021 comes to an end I want to let everyone know how grateful I am for the chance to work with so many amazing advocates – new and old. This has been a challenging year, but because of you I never feel alone and because of Michigan's children I always feel inspired. I saw a quote recently that said, "Maybe I cannot change the world, but I can make ripples." I know that together, we can make waves!

Michigan PTA Awards Support Student Scholarships

It's tme to select those special people to honor with a Michigan PTA award. Make some people feel "super appreciated" and add \$\$\$ to our scholarship fund at the same time. \$\$\$ generated from awards is directly used to provide scholarships for our high school seniors.

To order awards visit memberhub.store/store. Please remember to purchase corresponding shipping as well.









Would you please encourage your seniors who are PTA/PTSA members to apply for a scholarship? Details and application are available at michiganpta.org/scholarship Since the scholarship program began in 2007, we have presented 38 scholarships! These assist graduating seniors in furthering their education.

We also gladly accept donations to the scholarship fund! mipta.memberhub.com/store/items/41870

Join A.L.L. PTA to Support All Children

A note from Kathy Carter:

Hello everyone!! Just a reminder you can become an Advocate for children by joining ALL PTA. Be a voice for Children. Please follow this link: https://michiganallpta.memberhub.com/store

Advocate Leaders at Large (A.L.L.) is a state-level PTA membership that is designed for people who want to support the general mission of PTA at a broader level than one particular school PTA. As an A.L.L. PTA member, you support the Michigan PTA and all PTA/PTSAs in Michigan.



A.L.L. PTA members:

- Are part of an outreach community for improving education for children in Michigan
- · Are entitled to attend Michigan and National PTA events at the member rate
- Receive regular communication and Advocacy Alerts from Michigan PTA

Interested in joining?

- · No kids in school? Support public education by joining A.L.L. PTA
- Elected official? Support local parents/schools by joining A.L.L. PTA
- · Retired? Add your voice to our efforts by joining A.L.L. PTA
- Former A.L.L. Member? Renew today!
- College Student? Support public education by joining A.L.L. PTA
- Company owner? Supporting A.L.L. PTA helps all children
- · Superintendent? Join A.L.L. PTA and consider PTA's benefits for your district
- Don't want to volunteer? Perfect! A.L.L. PTA doesn't have a volunteer requirement
- Current Local PTA Member? Join A.L.L. PTA to support statewide advocacy



Listen to the conversation with 2019 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year Colleen Ryan about parent and teacher partnerships. PTA.org/PodcastEp36 #BackpackNotes

PTA Council Sponsors Scholarships

While we're not back to normal, things are getting more stable! Recently the Allen Park PTA/PTSA Council was thrilled to once again be able to host its annual Holiday Fever Craft & Vendor Show. Holiday Fever, along with Spring Fever (held in the spring, of course), is a fundraiser for scholarships for graduating seniors at Allen Park High School and Allen Park Community School. The AP PTA/PTSA Council scholarship fund began in 1959! The Council has awarded over \$393,000 in scholarships to 553 students over the past 63 years.

In 2020-2021 the pandemic led to a hiatus for HF and SF. Instead the Council held a virtual crowdfunding campaign using the MemberHub fundraiser platform and sold a "community favorites" e-cookbook. The Council is grateful to be back in-person with our friends in the community in 2021-2022.

Spring Fever has been the main scholarship funding source since the 1970s. Originally the event was a flea market, but it evolved over time to become a craft show and even included a live auction for many years in the 1980s. The Holiday Fever craft show was added in 2008, and a Mom 2 Mom sale became part of the events in 2010. Today the events are the place to catch up with old friends, enjoy lunch and win big at the tin-can raffle (fall) or silent auction (spring).

Holiday Fever and Spring Fever are the product of hard work by the members of the Council and the five PTAs/PTSAs in the Allen Park Council: Arno Elementary PTA, Bennie Elementary PTA, Lindemann Elementary PTA, Allen Park Middle School PTSA, and Allen Park High School PTSA. Council organizes the craft show vendors while the PTAs/PTSAs lead the organization of the supporting activities at the Fevers, including the Mom 2 Mom sale, concessions, bake sale, and raffle or silent auction.

This is truly a community effort. The PTA Council receives many generous donations from businesses in the community for the silent auction in the spring and for the concessions. PTA and PTSA members throughout the district volunteer their time, donate supplies and attend the events. APHS students in PTSA, NHS and Interact volunteer as well. With all this support, the events raise about \$10,000 per year.

Fundraising For a Cause

shoppta.com

ShopPTA.com sells official PTA and PTSA logo customizable apparel, membership items, awards, gifts and more.

















































Sign Up for National PTA e-Newsletters!

Be the first to hear about National PTA's advocacy efforts, grant opportunities and parenting advice.

- Advocacy Insider: Receive monthly news about legislative issues affecting education, National PTA's policy priorities and activities!
- Leadership Briefing: Receive monthly updates with the latest PTA programs, resources and leadership training!
- Our Children Magazine: Get the latest parenting, wellness and family fun articles from National PTA's magazine!
- **Weekend Update:** Get weekly updates with announcements, offers, deadlines and grant opportunities!

member.pta.org/Member-Login/Email-Signup

Still Working on Your Standards of Affiliation That Are Due by December 1?

Use this information to help with the process. Standards of Affiliation are requirements that need to be met by each PTA/PTSA/Council unit to ensure they are compliant with National PTA, Michigan PTA and Federal Laws. Each unit will need to complete Standards of Affiliation items to remain in Good Standing. These include:

- Submitting membership dues to MiPTA (\$5.50 per member)
- Paying Unit Renewal dues (\$40)
- Completing a financial review (audit) of the end of the fiscal year
- Filing your 990 with the IRS
- Completing and approving a budget for the new year Purchasing liability insurance
- Submitting bylaws, with or without modifications

Good Standing is critical, because to not be in Good Standing jeopardizes your tax-exempt status. The IRS grants tax-exempt status only to our subsidiaries who are in Good Standing. Units must send MiPTA a copy of each of these items upon their completion. Let's look at each of these.

Submitting membership dues: This amount (\$5.50 per member) is actually the dues for members for the Michigan PTA and the National PTA. You send the dues to MiPTA, and we forward the national portion on your behalf. Some units have not paid these dues for their members yet. Please either send a check, or pay electronically through MemberHub. Do it today. These dues should be paid by the 28th of each month, for the members who have joined that month.

Paying Unit Renewal dues: This helps us to register active units for the year, and to provide training and other materials for you. Typically, you register your new board and officers at the same time. Now, please update your officers and board in MemberHub. Board members who are staying in the same positions must be updated as well, every year. These are usually due June 1. This year, with schools having been closed, we are extending the deadline to October 1.

Completing a financial review (audit): This is not a formal audit by a CPA, although it can be. It is a way to track your financial health and security, and your insurance may require it, as well. We have a form for you to use, to review the year's financial activity. Some councils sponsor Audit Parties, where many units get together and review each other's books. The audit team will need to have monthly bank statements, receipts, checkbooks, and a calculator. Audits should be completed as soon as the fiscal year ends, and a copy should be sent to MiPTA by December 1.

Completing and approving a budget: This must be done each year, and the year's budget must be approved by the membership. How much money do you plan to make? How do you plan to spend it? Try to account for every dollar. You don't have to spend every dollar—you could have some money designated as start-up for the next year, or to go into savings. Just don't leave money unaccounted for. Then make sure the membership votes and approves the budget. The funds belong to the unit, and the unit approves how it is spent. Send a copy of your approved budget to MiPTA by December 1.

Purchasing liability insurance: This is the newest of the Standards of Affiliation. PTAs work hard, and should protect themselves each year with an annual insurance policy. More and more, site locations and vendors are requiring liability insurance. While everyone's policy will be different, we require you to have at least \$1 million of liability coverage. You could also get insurance to cover your officers, coverage to protect you if you have to cancel a major event (hello COVID), and more. MiPTA uses AIM for insurance, but you are welcome to shop around. Send a copy of your Certificate of Insurance as soon as it is issued.

Submitting bylaws: Each unit must have bylaws. This is your playbook, your rules, your how-to guide. They must be renewed at least once every three years, or any time they are changed. When is the last time you looked at your bylaws? Give a copy to each of your officers, so they know what is required of them. Discuss these at an exec board meeting.

Filing your 990 with the IRS: Tax-exempt organizations like PTA don't pay income tax, but they still have to file a form with the IRS. This is the 990, and for most PTAs, it is a simple fill-in-theblank page on the computer. It is due to the IRS within five months and 15 days after the end of your fiscal year. If you miss filing the 990, you could get in trouble with the IRS. This can be very expensive, and time consuming, to resolve. Send a copy of your confirmation form to MiPTA by December 1.

If your fiscal year ends June 30, you must file your 990 each year between July 1 and November 15. If your fiscal year ends December 31, you must file ýour 990 bétween January 1 and Máy 15. If you don't know when your fiscal year ends, call us at 734-975-9500.

How to file? Units whose total revenue is less than \$50,000 can use the electronic "postcard" 990N.
You can find directions here: can https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annualelectronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exemptorganizations-form-990-n-e-postcard. If your unit has revenues which exceed \$50,000, you must file the paper forms 990 or the 990EZ. Go here to learn which one: https://www.irs.gov/charities-nonprofits/form-990-series-which-forms-do-exemptorganizations-file-filing-phase-in

Why Does My Parent Group Need Insurance?

Why does my Parent Group need insurance?

Just like a business, your Parent Group is exposed to certain risks that you may or may not be aware of. You may do everything you can to prevent something from happening to your Parent Group, but in reality no one can guarantee that things are going to run smoothly all of the time. Parent Groups are not immune from liability. Your Parent Group insurance policy will protect not only the assets of the Parent Group, but the *personal assets* of its members. In the event of a lawsuit, your Parent Group insurance will also pay attorney fees to defend you, whether the lawsuit has merit or not. There are five separate risks that your Parent Group needs to be aware of:

<u>General Liability</u> - Protects your Parent Group if someone was injured at one of your events and held you responsible. Some of these activities include **concession stands**, **end of year parties**, **skating parties**, **swim parties**, **bounce houses**, **dunking booths**, **fun runs**, **auctions**, **and more**. The General Liability limit is \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000 with no deductible.

<u>Accident Medical</u> - Designed to compliment your General Liability policy, it provides medical coverage for risks that are specifically excluded from the liability policy such as mechanical rides, school buses, automobiles, and watercraft. The Accident Medical limits are \$10,000, \$25,000, and \$50,000 with no deductible.

<u>Bond</u> - Covers anyone that your Parent Group trusts with the money whether it's a President, Treasurer, board member, volunteer, or courier. If that person embezzles your money, this policy would replace those missing funds. The Bond limits are \$10,000, \$25,000, and \$50,000, with a \$250 deductible. Higher limits are available.

<u>Property</u> - Protects your raffle merchandise, auction items and fundraising supplies while it is in your possession. This policy also protects any personal property of your Parent Group such as popcorn machines, snow cone makers, school store supplies, emergency preparedness supplies, and more. The Property limit is \$10,000, with a \$250 deductible. Higher limits are available.

<u>Directors & Officers Liability</u> - Protects officers for any <u>decision making</u> that they do. If someone sues the officers for <u>mismanaging or misrepresenting the Parent Group</u>, this policy would pay your legal bills and provide protection for these allegations. The Directors and Officers Liability limit is \$1,000,000 with a \$1,500 deductible.

Provided by:



Association Insurance Management PO Box 742946 · Dallas, TX 75374-2946 1-800-876-4044 www.aim-companies.com



Updated Bylaws Templates for Local Units and Councils

Michigan PTA has released updated bylaws templates for your use. The new templates are attached to this email and are available for download at michiganpta.org/pta-leaderresources.

If you have questions about bylaws, you may direct them to Michigan PTA secretary Jenna McMechan at secretary@michiganpta.org.

Summary of changes:

1. New - Unit Dues of \$40 are due each year by December 1st. The prior date was June 1st, and payment was applied to the following fiscal year

2. New - Verbiage added to state that meetings shall be held in person and/or online to

include the need for virtual or hybrid meetings
3. Updated- Please note Article VI for a complete list of the Standards of Affiliation that must be completed

Bylaws are the document that contains the basic rules of the association; they are your contract with your membership, Michigan PTA and National PTA. Bylaws are so important that they cannot be amended without previous notice to the general membership and require a large majority of votes (2/3) to make any changes. When an item is not detailed within your bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, is the parliamentary authority. All PTA/PTSA units and councils should have a copy. Areas that are subject to amendment are noted on the template. Local unit and council bylaws must be reviewed and adopted at least every three years.

Bylaws:

Define the primary characteristics of your PTA/ PTSA and how it functions

Contain the name, purposes, members, officers and duties, meetings, committees, parliamentary authority and amendment procedures

Can never bé suspended

Access more helpful leadership resources at michiganpta.org/pta-leader-resources

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Important Dates to Remember

Unit and Council Renewal and Officer Updates

in MemberHub (for 2020/21 this deadline is extended to Oct.1st)

Begins June 1, 2020

Submit Board of Directors

Speaking/Visit Requests for Fall 2020

and Founders' Day Schedule

September 15

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

Speaking/Visit Requests for Spring/Summer 2021

January 15

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

Helpful Information

Tik Tok Tips For Parents: pta.org/docs/default-source/files/programs/pta-connected/tiktok-toolkit-2019-2020/tiktok-guide-for-parents-revised.pdf

Your Community: pta.org/home/programs/mental-health

Special Offers For PTA Members:

pta.org/home/run-your-pta/marketplace/Save-Money-with-Member-Offers

Scholarships from the National Center for Learning Disabilities: ncld.org/what-we-do/scholarships/

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
- Michigan PTA Leadership Community

We're Here to Help

Volunteers are available to help answer questions. How you can reach us:

734-975-9500

P.O. Box 510535 Livonia, MI 48151

President- Tracey Troy president@michiganpta.org

Secretary- Jenna McMechan secretary@michiganpta.org

Treasurer- Meredith Blixt treasurer@michiganpta.org

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

VP of Student Involvement- Lachelle Thomas studentinvolvementvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Membership- Vacant membershipvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Advocacy- Jenn Garland childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Communications- Beth Hulett CommunicationsVP@MichiganPTA.org



