

MISSOURI PTA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2016

These legislative priorities are based on the issues that the Missouri PTA Legislative Department expects to target for the 2016 legislative session. As unexpected issues emerge, Missouri PTA will act in accordance with the resolution and position statements that have been approved by the membership. A complete list of resolutions and position statements are available on our website (www.mopta.org). Missouri PTA supports:

Legislation that protects and calls for local control of schools.

Legislation to strengthen laws designed to protect minors from abuse and increase funding for programs and services aimed at the prevention of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment.

Legislation that supports increased access to mental health services for children.

Opposition to tax credits or tax deductions for tuition paid by a parent or sponsors for non-public elementary or secondary school children.

Enforcement of legislation requiring school districts to have policies that promote increased parental engagement in their children's education.

Legislation that will maintain or generate local and state funding for public education.

Legislation that will safeguard the educational and personal records of students.

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Missouri
PTA[®]
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Letter From the President– Carrie Windes

Since this is the season for reflection and thanksgiving, I would like to say thank you...
 To our legislators who serve us and are giving their time to be here with us this evening.
 To our PTA/PTSA unit officers and members who are working hard for our SPS students, staff and schools. We are off to a great start!
 To our SPS administration, school board, principals, teachers and staff who are investing their talents, time, patience, love, resources and so much more in the education of our children.
 To my fellow council officers and members, including those whose children have been out of our school system for several years! Your dedication to and love of kids is greatly appreciated and admired. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Our Founders' Day committee had its first meeting this past week. Preparations are underway! Mark your calendars--the banquet will be held on Thursday, February 18. We hold this event each year to celebrate our volunteers, past and present. Hillcrest High School will host this time at Central High School. Watch for more details, ticket prices and ticket ordering forms in our December newsletter. Also, now is the time to start thinking about your Volunteer of the Year. Each unit is asked to select an individual from its unit who will be honored at the banquet.

I'd like to give you a preview of our next meeting which will be Wednesday, December 2nd, at 9:15 a.m. at Delaware Elementary, 1505 S. Delaware. Refreshments will be available at 9. Dale Krumm will be updating us on our Major Saver Fundraiser. Please sign up soon. Assemblies are scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis--so the sooner, the better! Remember, this is the only fundraiser that council has. Funds raised support leadership training (Officer Orientation and School of Information), and programs (The Clothing Bank, 4th Grade Play, RIF, Reflections, Project Graduation, scholarships and much more) that council offers. Your units/schools share in the proceeds, as well. It is a safe and effective way to raise money. Participation is key to its success.

Rhonda Mammen will also be with us. Rhonda be telling us about mental health issues facing our students. She will be presenting multiple opportunities to sign up for YMHFA (Youth Mental Health First Aid) training sessions. Any one who works with children will benefit from attending one of these workshops.

Have a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving!

PTA Mission:

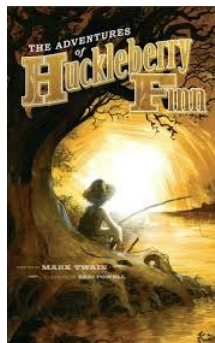
The overall purpose of PTA is to be
 A powerful voice for all children
 A relevant resource for families and communities, and
 A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

"Sorrow
 looks back,
 worry looks
 around,
 faith looks
 up."

~ Ralph
 Waldo
 Emerson



Council General Meeting minutes are approved by the Executive Committee as directed in the bylaws. Minutes are available online at <http://scptamo.com/category/meetings/>.



4th Grade Play

Our SPS fourth graders had a great time at *Huck Finn*. The production was a huge hit! What a fantastic opportunity for our students to see a live production like this!

Thank you to Springfield Little Theater in partnering with us to make this possible for our students. Special thanks to Flo Graham for her hard work in coordinating this event!

Agenda

Thursday, November 5th, 2015
Kickapoo High School

- I) Welcome
- II) Council Reports, including Financial Report, are printed in this newsletter. Please look for important information and deadlines to pass on to your Chair people!
- III) Legislative Rally
- IV) Adjourn



Reading Is
Fundamental

RIF has held our first distribution and the books will be going to the 1st and 2nd graders soon in your buildings. Thanks to everyone for finding coordinators in your schools. A special appreciation goes to these PTAs which have been able to make a contribution this school year: Delaware, Disney, Field, Hickory Hills Elementary, Pittman, Pleasant View, Robberson, Sequiota, Sherwood, and the Springfield Council of PTAs. It takes about 4700 books per distribution at about \$2 a book and we must raise all funds locally. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated. Be looking for more news about Holiday Happenings coming soon.

Amy Hicks RIF PTA Representative

Is your PTA/PTSA “In Good Standing”?

One of the most important things we do as a Council is to ensure that every PTA or PTSA member stays in good standing with the state and national PTA in order to participate in the programs and benefits offered by the association. A PTA unit is “in good standing” if it:

- Adheres to the purposes and basic policies of Missouri PTA (MOPTA);
- Remits national and state dues to MOPTA by date required;
- Has bylaws approved every three years according to the procedures of MOPTA;
- Submits a copy of the unit’s fiscal year-end report to MOPTA by December 1st of each year;
- Submits a copy of the unit’s annual financial review to MOPTA by December 1st of each year;
- Submits a copy of the required IRS tax form to the MOPTA by December 1st of each year;
- Submits the names and addresses of officers to the MOPTA by March 31st of each year; and
- Meets other criteria as may be prescribed by MOPTA.

These are minimal requirements of Missouri PTA and also help uphold the integrity of the business of your PTA/PTSA as well as fulfill IRS guidelines to maintain your PTA/PTSA’s 501(c)3 status with the IRS.

In addition to these minimal requirements of Missouri PTA, Springfield Council of PTAs requires unit council dues (\$35) to be paid by November 1 of each calendar year (\$45 if paid after November 1).

If a local PTA becomes “not in good standing,” as soon as it has fulfilled the necessary requirements, it is again considered “in good standing.”

Treasurer's Report

Account	8/31/2015	9/30/2015
CARE Fund	138.30	158.31
Clothing Bank	3,824.47	2,676.54
General Checking	79,567.43	79,631.36
Gertrude McBride Fund	3,763.92	3,819.11
Scholarship Checking	2,838.81	1,403.09
Total Unrestricted Funds	90,132.93	87,688.41
Scholarship CD (Restricted)	47,476.00	47,476.00
Total Funds	\$137,608.93	\$135,164.41

Tips for Treasurers

Council dues went up to \$45 after October 31. If you are not sure if your unit has paid, please email SCPTA treasurer, Becky Volz, at treasurer@scptamo.com.

Make sure your unit has filed the appropriate 990 form by November 15, 2015.

- 990N Receipts under \$50,000 www.epostcard.form990.org
- 990EZ Receipts over \$50,000 www.irs.gov/eo

Review your Unit's budget for upcoming ticket purchases for Founders Day Banquet. And, remember your Unit can make donations to SCPTA accounts: CARE Fund, Clothing Bank, Gertrude McBride Fund, and Scholarship Fund. Email treasurer@scptamo.com for details or questions.



Detailed financial records are available on-line at <http://www.nonprofitcentral.biz>. Use SCPTA as the username and password.

These last few months have flown by. I can't believe it's already time to collect the city Reflections art pieces. Please remember to review how to package your art for the collection. We will be collecting on November 10th at the Creamery from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Aaron Mrad
417-619-7533



CLOTHING BANK

Burrrr! It's starting to get chilly and our kiddos are needing winter coats! We have been handing out coats for three weeks now and our supply is quickly dwindling. We had 8 wardrobe boxes stuffed with winter coats and we are down to the point where there is very little for our kids to choose from. Please, please send us your gently used coats that your little ones (or not so little) have outgrown. Our shoppers are size 4 children - XXL adult so basically we need coats in all sizes. We are still in need of new socks and underwear, too.

Now that being said, Jennifer and I are constantly amazed at the amount of donations and volunteers we have been blessed with!! We have served close to 900 children so far this school year and the need has not slowed down. We couldn't have done this without our volunteers and donations. There are only 4 shopping days left this semester. The last day is Saturday, December 5, then we are closed until January 14th. We estimate another 200 visits between now and the 5th and most of those will need a winter coat so please keep us in mind when going through your closets. The volunteer schedule is on our www.scptamo.com website so please send us your volunteers. We don't have school volunteers lined up for Saturday, December 5th, 9-11 am, so check your schedules and see if you can help us on that day. We welcome teachers and principals to help us, as well!

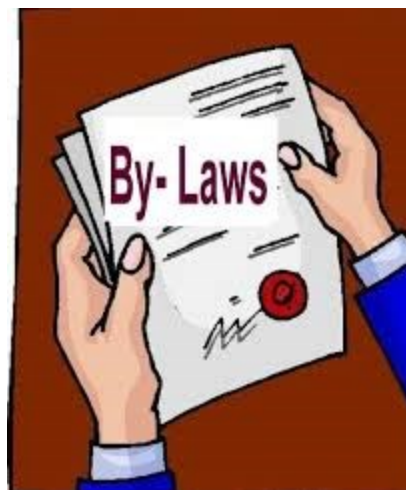
Thanks for your help this fall,
Patty Dunn and Jennifer Penny



2015-16 Bylaw Revisions Due

The following schools have by-law revisions due this year. If you've already completed revising your bylaws- congratulations! If you still need to complete your revisions and have questions, please contact Michele Boswell at micheleboswell@mac.com.

<u>School</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Harrison	8/26/2015
Cowden	9/2/2015
Carver	9/3/2015
McBride	12/3/2015
Pleasant View Middle School	2/21/2015
Mark Twain	2/27/2015
Horace Mann	1/29/2016
Portland	1/31/2016
Westport	2/17/2016
Kickapoo	2/13/2016
Hickory Hills Elementary	5/1/2016





Since our November meeting is going to be a Legislative rally, we are extending our Membership Challenges deadline. Be sure to get your memberships turned into state in time to get your school into a drawing for a great prize.

MEMBER CHALLENGE – Every PTA Unit who has increased their membership over last year will be entered into a drawing for a great prize. **Deadline is Wednesday, November 11, 2015.**

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE – Increase your school's business membership total from last year and your school goes into a drawing for a wonderful prize. **Deadline is Wednesday, November 11, 2015.** Drawing for prizes will be at the December Council meeting. Totals will be based on state office totals received from units by November 11, 2015.



FOUNDER'S DAY

Founders' Day will be Thursday, February 18, 2016. Hillcrest High School will host this event at Central High School. Watch for more information, ticket orders and ticket prices in the December council newsletter!



PROJECT GRADUATION FUNDRAISER

A special districtwide basketball tournament will raise funds for Project Graduation.

The event, which begins at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, November 6, at Parkview High School, will include a mini basketball

tournament between faculty/staff teams from each SPS high school. The tournament has been dubbed the Tournament of Teachers.

The main event at the tournament fundraiser will be a full basketball game between Springfield Police Officers and guards from the Federal Medical Center. The second game is dubbed the Cops vs. Guards game. The game proceeds will help sponsor Springfield Public Schools' Project Graduation for the Class of 2016.

The evening will include food and a silent auction! Last year, the match-up raised several thousand dollars for Project Graduation.

Parliamentary Tip of the Month

What is advocacy?

PTA® defines advocacy as supporting and speaking up for children—in schools, in communities, and before legislative bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

What an advocate does

A child advocate works with policy makers (at the federal, state, and local levels) to ensure sound policies that promote the health and well-being of all children.

Stay informed with advocacy resources on the SCPTA website:

<http://scptamo.com/category/advocacy-legislation/>

Communicating With Elected Officials

There are several ways that PTA recommends you can connect with your elected officials. First and foremost, know who they are and how to reach them. Keep a list of all of your state and federal representatives and senators handy so that as issues arise, you are ready to connect. Emails, phone calls and personal visits are among the best and most effective means of communicating with these decision makers. Emails are easy and effective, while phone calls are especially efficient when an important vote is coming up. By far, the most impressive communication is a personal visit, not only does this make the message personal, it helps build relationships and establishes you as someone who can be a resource to that member of congress or the state legislature on issues important to children.

Keep in mind these tips when contacting elected officials:

E-Mail

Emails should contain the basics of effective, professional letter writing. Do not use abbreviations, trendy letter combinations or symbols to make your message heard. Have another person proofread your letter before you send it. Use spell check if available, and copy others that need or want to be kept informed of the situation. If a legislator wants to print your email, you want a document that will get the respect it deserves. National PTA will provide a template letter with requests for action, however, it is important that you personalize these letters so that your audience knows where you stand on the issue and why this is important to you. (I've been told by my representative that he can spot a form letter, so the more you can make the template sound like you-the better). ***Anonymous communications are not read so don't forget to include your name and title, address, phone number and email address on all communication.***

Phone Calls

Before you place your call, remember that it is not the member of Congress themselves answering the phone; it will most likely be a legislative staff member with whom you speak. Make sure to prepare beforehand for your call. Make notes of particular legislation and research for each issue. Identify yourself as one of the member's constituents and explain to the staff member what it is you are calling about and what action you would like to see taken.

Personal Visits

Meeting in person to discuss a particular bill or issue is the BEST way to influence your legislator. Prepare for your visit beforehand, make an appointment ahead of time and arrive promptly. Always be respectful in your tone and language and present yourself in a professional manner.

Whether your communication is by email, phone or in person, always be polite, courteous and concise. Take time to thank these public servants for their service to your community and try to illustrate the connection between the legislation being voted on in Washington or Jefferson City with the effects it will have locally. This will help bring the point home to the member and provide further encouragement for their office to take your requests and concerns seriously. Remember, they were elected by a vote of the people and are where they are to represent you. If presented well, you will find that these elected officials will welcome your advice.



LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

Investing in Missouri: Creating a Better Future for Our Families

An abundance of research indicates that quality early learning programs are critical to creating a foundation upon which all children can thrive. High-quality early care and education fosters the development of the cognitive and social skills that are central for children to succeed in school and life. Studies show that children who receive quality early education do better in school, have higher incomes and improved health outcomes as adults compared to their peers. Studies also indicate that public investments in preschool and other early learning initiatives provide a significant return to taxpayers, resulting in as much as a \$7 return for every \$1 invested due to decreased public expense for remedial education, criminal justice and social services. **“Invest in Early Childhood Development: Reduce Deficits, Strengthen the Economy”, and “Four Big Benefits of Investing in Early Childhood Development,” both by James J. Heckman, Henry Schultz Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, a Nobel laureate in economics and an expert in the economics of human development, available at www.heckmanequation.org, retrieved 9/27/2015)**

“The quality of life for a child and the contributions the child makes to society as an adult can be traced back to the first few years of life. From birth until about 5 years old a child undergoes tremendous growth and change. If this period of life includes support for growth in cognition, language, motor skills, adaptive skills and social-emotional functioning, the child is more likely to succeed in school and later contribute to society.” **Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, “Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return” Arthur J. Rolnick, Senior Vice President and Director of Research, & Rob Grunewald, Economist, March 1, 2003**

Investing in Missouri: Investing in our Students’ Futures

In the current school year, the amount of funding provided through Missouri’s “Foundation Formula”, which distributes state support to local schools, remains \$400 million under the statutorily required level.

Had state funding increased at the same rate as inflation between the 2001 and 2014 school years, state funding would have been \$361 million greater in FY 2014. That’s the equivalent of our local schools having an additional \$554 per student to enhance educational opportunities.

All of Missouri’s children deserve an opportunity to thrive. A solid education is a fundamental building block to a better future. We can – and must – do better by fully funding our local schools. **Missouri Budget Project**



SCPTA Meeting Incentive Program - \$250

If you send a PTA/PTSA member to every Springfield Council meeting (this includes tonight’s Legislative Rally) this school year, your unit will receive \$250 from SCPTA at our May 2016 meeting. ***The program will begin with October’s meeting.*** Principal attendance does not count. It must be a member of your unit who attends. Be sure to sign in each time when you arrive!

Kiwanis Club of Ozark Empire

A 65 Year Ozark Tradition

The club's mission to build children's dignity through new school shoes has continued uninterrupted for over 65 years, making it one of the longest running community service projects in the state of Missouri. The club raises all monies, buys and stocks different styles of new shoes, and even operates a city-wide, free shoe bank in collaboration with the SCPTA Clothing Bank at Study School. Each child gets to express their individual "style" by picking out their own hand-fitted shoes. During this last school year, the Kiwanis Shoe Bank hand fitted over 1,100 pairs of new shoes. That brings the grand total, since 1950, to over 30,000 pairs of free shoes!



—A \$30 donation will gets you 1 Kiwanis Shoe Buddy Gift Box (8 Washington Red Delicious Apples, Hershey® Chocolates, hard candy, and a client gift letter. Nestled in colorful spring paper and hand packed in a new Kiwanis Shoe Buddy Box. The perfect "community conscious" gift to a "community involved" client. Your donation buys 2 pairs of brand new shoes for Springfield school kids.

—A \$100 donation gets you FOUR (4) Kiwanis Shoe Buddy Gift Boxes. Your donation buys 6 pairs of new shoes for school kids.

—A \$75 donation gets you one full bulk case of fresh, Washington Apples (88 Red or Golden Delicious). Your donation buys 4 pairs of new shoes.

—A \$40 donation gets you 1/2 bulk case of fresh, Washington Apples (44 Red or Golden Delicious). Your donation buys 2 pairs of new shoes.

All gift boxes, apples, etc. are purchased from/through LOCAL Springfield businesses, with handling, packaging, and delivery done by Kiwanis Club of Ozark Empire volunteers, since 1950.



You can make a donation by any of the following methods. OakStar Bank on Battlefield Road, West of National.

Scramblers Restaurant on Republic Road at National. Phone 417-885-9191 and leave a message to call. Mail this form and payment to Kiwanis Club of Ozark Empire, P.O. Box 5032, Springfield, MO 65801.

Donation	Size	Description	Qty
\$30	Shoe Buddy Gift Box	Apples, Chocolate Candy	
\$100	4 Shoe Buddy Gift Boxes	"Best Deal	
\$75	Full Case (Red or Golden Delicious)		
\$40	Half Case (Red or Golden delicious)		
No Apples – Donation of:			

Name:

Phone ()

Email:

Delivery Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Other Info:

Kiwanis Club of Ozark Empire is a not-for-profit organization under IRS Section 501(c) (4). Please consult your tax advisor as to the deductibility of any payments made to the Club.