



April 18, 2020

Message from the PTA Council

The PTA Council has a prime mission to advocate for children by supporting the State and National PTA and by providing support to the local units.

As the response to COVID-19 has been extended, many have sought guidance on how to operate their Local PTA. The PTACHC has been in contact with the state as they have authored official guidance to be applied to all units consistently statewide. We thank the state for taking the time and resources to review dozens of key issues and provide clear instructions. Many of you may have received the guidance through the state email lists. If not, a copy is available on the PTACHC website. Please consider this the official guidance under which to operate until further notice.

Some highlights are:

- Federal, State and Local safety laws are still paramount.
- You may conduct Board of director meetings and committee meetings, but NOT general membership or annual meetings. This does not preclude informational communications with your members; rather it references meetings that require quorum, and official procedures such as voting.
- Elections – The short version is that you should continue with preparation tasks; however, the actual election may be delayed until official general meetings can be re-established. This means that there is a possibility that elected members will remain in their present positions until elections can be performed. We appreciate all who are willing to extend their service to minimize position vacancies.
- Membership – please see guidance provided by the state and familiarize yourself with the electronic MemberHub transition.
- Bylaws – The period to update bylaws is extended until the response has subsided.
- As of now, all financial and tax filing requirements are still applicable.

The mission of the PTA remains unchanged with many functions able to continue in a modified fashion. The Council is actively participating in policy and legislative events and welcomes inquiries from local units on methods to maintain effectiveness throughout the pandemic and beyond.

On a brighter note, the council would like to recognize Antoinette Brown of Gorman Crossing Elementary for her excellent presentation of what local PTAs are doing to help their community through the virus response period. Over 55,000 listeners dialed into the National PTA conference call to hear a sampling of the hundreds of great efforts Howard County PTA members are doing at their individual schools. Please continue to exercise safety and use your best judgement as we work to advocate for children together.

Brent Loveless

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