



Message from the PTA Council Howard County

June 4, 2020

Yesterday our State PTA president released a letter describing an action plan by National PTA to resolve issues at the State PTA level. There are indications that not all PTA officers received this message; some received the message and noted that portions were marked confidential. This letter was also posted on the PTACHC Officers Facebook group.

The document outlines steps the State PTA is taking and dates of compliance required. Of particular note is the section relating to elections. Early feedback from our local PTA survey indicates this is an item of growing concern. Earlier this year, we forwarded advice from the State PTA to place a hold on elections due to meeting restrictions from the COVID-19 virus. Later, an additional option for mail-based elections was provided by the State and posted on the PTACHC website. The most recent letter provided to our membership indicates that National PTA has provided advice for the State to develop electronic elections guidance and to deliver this advice by June 12, 2020.

There have been several inquiries about expediting the process. We hope that details and information arrive prior to the deadline, but in the meantime, we are still obliged to follow State guidance, just as they are obliged to follow National PTA guidance. It is suggested that local PTA units (including the Council) continue to operate their nominating committees to be best prepared for elections with the least amount of additional delay. PTACHC will share information as soon as it becomes available.

In regards to timely communications, this is an ideal time to remind officers that, although PTACHC maintains a social media account for officers to share information and ideas, the preferred method to communicate with the board for response outside of general meetings is by email. Recently PTACHC updated its email provider while retaining its mailing lists and addresses. For routine items and general inquiries, please contact our part-time office administrator at office@ptachc.org. For more formal requests and guidance, please contact the PTACHC board – board@ptachc.org. Board members are volunteer members who are elected. They hold monthly board and general meetings; volunteer significant time to advocate at BOE, County, and State functions; and may also participate in multiple local PTA and State PTA roles. All inquiries should be handled expeditiously; however, complex items that require board review like bylaws interpretation, legal or external coordination should be expected to take longer. Please ensure your board members have transmitted and updated contact information to the PTACHC office so PTA communications can respond without difficulty. As always, our ability to support a broad spectrum of advocacy items is directly related to the amount of volunteerism that is offered.

Graduations start today for our senior students, which marks a major milestone in their lives, and is coupled with some of the most unusual circumstances of our age. Please take time to recognize their accomplishments and resiliency. We also thank all education advocates for theirs in this time as well.

Brent Loveless
President – PTACHC
President@ptachc.org