

IMPACT OF REVOCATION ON LOCAL AND COUNCIL PTAS: What impact does the revocation of the former state PTA's charter have on the locals and council PTAs in Maryland? What about our nonprofit status?

For the time being, local and council PTAs continue operating as they have in the past. The new state entity for Maryland, Free State PTA, has its own federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) and has filed a Form 1023 with the IRS to obtain its tax-exempt status. Local and council PTAs in Maryland will continue to use their existing EIN.

If a local unit or council PTA fails/failed to file the IRS Form 990 for three consecutive years, their tax-exempt status will be or would have been revoked by the IRS. National PTA can work directly with the local unit to have its tax-exempt status reinstated going forward. Please contact the support team (see below) for further information.

IMPACT OF REVOCATION ON MY PTA MEMBERS: How does the revocation affect the members of my PTA? Do we have to do anything?

The state PTA's revocation did not impact the status of the local or council PTAs. For the average member, they will not be aware of anything different. All members are still members of their local PTA and National PTA. Members are still advocates for children in their school(s) and community. Great things will continue to be done for the children you serve. We all remain focused on the mission of PTA.

WHY REMAIN PTA: What is the value of continuing as a PTA in Maryland?

While there are many differences between PTAs and other parent groups, the most fundamental is our mission: to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. PTA is a nationwide network of families advocating for children at all levels of decision making, and other parent groups are comprised of families working only at an individual school. Families and communities must interact and communicate beyond the school campus. The broader community must be involved. PTA provides the avenue for that to occur. The network of local, council, state and National PTAs creates the powerful voice necessary to reach and accomplish goals both in Maryland and in Washington, DC that can have an impact on the children served by PTA.

Additionally, there are many opportunities for students to experience, such as the arts in the Reflections program, STEM grant programs, digital safety grants, and many other opportunities. For PTA members and leaders, there are similar resources available to develop individually as a parent and/or a leader. Many resources are online at www.pta.org and available for use by all local PTAs.

Being part of the PTA family connects to you many resources, from both the National PTA and your state PTA. National PTA provides training and resources for local PTA leaders to help them run their PTA. Here are some of the resources provided: Local Leader Kit, PTA Bootcamp, PTSA resources, eLearning courses, membership resources, One Voice Blog, virtual resources, etc. Now that the Free State PTA has been established, it will start to develop services and support specifically for PTAs in the state of Maryland.

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT: Where do I go for help? Who can answer my additional questions? How do I stay informed about the status of the new state PTA being formed?

The National PTA-assigned support team will remain in place to provide aid and support and answer your questions. Please understand that National PTA has only revoked one state PTA charter prior to

this time, and that state PTA did not have the number of local and council PTAs that exist in Maryland. The processes and protocols are being developed daily. Ongoing support and communication with the leaders and members in Maryland are at the very top of importance.

The major challenge to communication is the lack of an accurate, comprehensive distribution list. Please complete this Google Form for your PTA board, so that you can stay informed: [Officer Form](#)

Be assured that National PTA does not share any contact information outside of the association.

Send your questions to the support team at mdpta@pta.org.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHARTERED PTA AND CORPORATION: If the National PTA revoked the Charter of the Maryland PTA and it no longer exists, why can't we use the name Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers?

When National PTA charters a state PTA, it is providing a nonprofit corporation with certain rights and privileges, including access to use the PTA name and brand and with certain obligations under the National PTA Standards of Affiliation.

The nonprofit state-level corporation is separately established by filing Articles of Incorporation with its Secretary of State.

When National PTA revokes the charter of a state PTA, it does not impact their free-standing corporation. It does, however, end the corporation's privileges and access to use the PTA name and brand. National PTA can and will enforce our trademark and any violations that may occur subsequently. This process is currently being addressed.

National PTA attempted to resolve the violations of the National PTA Standards of Affiliation Policy, for which there was no cooperation, and the National PTA Board revoked their charter. National PTA attempted to seek the resignation of all the board members of the former Maryland PTA and utilize the existing corporation for the benefit of PTAs in Maryland. Four of the board members chose not to resign. So, their corporation continues, even though their charter was revoked, losing the privilege of serving as the state PTA within Maryland. By law, we can't use the names Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers or Maryland PTA, and neither can they. So, the new name of the chartered entity in Maryland is the Free State PTA.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE PTA NAME AND BRAND: Why are the leaders of the former state entity still using the PTA name in position titles and on websites, social media, etc.?

The leaders of the former state entity and their attorney have been advised of their violations of PTA's names and brands. They have been told to cease and desist and have not responded. We are tracking those violations and will pursue their willful negligence in correcting their communication vehicles through legal action as necessary. Please feel free to share any violations you observe to the support team at mdpta@pta.org.

PROPERTY, DATA AND ASSETS: What will happen to the building at 5 Central Ave., Glen Burnie, MD? Will the data and records be available to the locals? What guarantees are there that the information will not be shared and/or used for non-PTA purposes?

Unfortunately, the building, its contents and data are owned by the corporation that was Maryland PTA. National PTA is working with the Maryland Attorney General in requesting that this office provide oversight to ensure that those assets are used for the benefit of Maryland's children, according to their corporation charter, and not for personal inurement. It is unlikely that PTA will benefit from the recovery of any assets.

DUES: How do we now pay dues? How much are the dues? Where do we send the dues?

Dues will continue to be \$4.25, which includes the national portion of \$2.25 and the state portion of \$2.00, for the balance of this membership year. National PTA will keep the state portion in an account to be used for expenses related to supporting PTAs in Maryland. Local and council PTAs can download this [form](#) to complete and submit with a check to National PTA. If dues were paid to National PTA, we do have the funds and a record of the payment. A summary of dues that National PTA has recorded for your PTA was recently distributed. If there is a discrepancy in those numbers, your PTA can verify submission of additional dues to the previous state PTA by submitting a canceled check or other means of payment to mdpta@pta.org.

MEMBERHUB: Are we able to continue to use the free MemberHub account? What are the features?

The relationship between MemberHub and the former state PTA is governed through a contractual agreement allowing MemberHub to be the sole membership management platform for a period of time. MemberHub is not affiliated with the former state PTA in any other way. MemberHub is a private for-profit organization that works with 40 state PTAs to provide membership management and fundraising tools to all their partner organizations. Free State PTA has recently reached out to explore its opportunities to work directly with MemberHub going forward.

We realize there may still be some unanswered questions about your PTA's relationship with MemberHub and your ability to use all of its features. You can review MemberHub's FAQ regarding PTAs in Maryland [here](#). If you have any further questions or need training, please contact MemberHub directly at Support@MemberHub.com.

STANDARDS OF CONTINUING AFFILIATION (SOCA) REQUIREMENTS: Who is maintaining and assisting with all the specific SOCA requirements under the previous state PTA?

Since Maryland PTA no longer exists, the Maryland PTA bylaws, policies and SOCA also no longer exist. New bylaws, policies and SOCA will need to be developed and approved under Free State PTA Corporation. Each local and council PTA must follow their governance documents (bylaws, rules and procedures, etc.) last approved by their members until new governance documents are in place.

REPORTS THAT ARE STILL REQUIRED: What do we still need to submit and to whom?

Local and council PTAs are required to continue submitting any forms required by the State of Maryland or the IRS. These forms must be completed and submitted in a timely manner to the requesting agency.

BYLAWS: What do we do about our bylaws that have not been approved by the state PTA? If we need to update our bylaws this year, how do we do that and should we send them to National PTA?

Continue operating according to the most recent set of bylaws approved by your local or council PTA members, even if you were previously notified that they had not been approved by the former state

PTA, until a new state entity is established. Temporarily, pause any new amendments until a new set of state PTA bylaws are adopted and a template for local and council PTA bylaws is distributed. At this time, bylaws do not need to be sent to the National PTA.

INSURANCE: Does the insurance that local and council PTAs have through Association Insurance Management, Inc. (AIM) continue, or does it stop since the policy and premium was negotiated by the former state affiliate?

There are NO changes to insurance through AIM for any local or council PTAs. The coverage package and pricing as negotiated by the former Maryland PTA will stay the same and are unaffected by the revocation of the charter of the Maryland PTA. Renewal notices will be sent around May 1 for the July 1, 2021 renewal. If you do not have insurance currently, your unit is still eligible to purchase the local PTA package at any time through AIM. AIM can be contacted at <https://aim-companies.com> or 1-800-876-4044.

REFLECTIONS: What is the status of the student work that was submitted to the previous organization? Was it submitted to National PTA for consideration? What happens now?

All children in Maryland are important to PTA. Even though the old Maryland state entity requested to be able to submit Reflection entries, and National PTA approved that request, National PTA does not believe they ever held a state-level review of entries. The state entity did not submit any entries to the National PTA level. National PTA is saddened that the state-level issue has now directly affected local PTAs and, ultimately, the children and youth in the state of Maryland. The National PTA support team is committed to work with volunteers of the new statewide entity to complete a state-level review of entries, select state-level winners and celebrate the state-level winners within Maryland this year. Unfortunately, Maryland entries will not be included in the national-level recognition this year. We look forward to having local unit participation in the full Reflections program next year.

The Free State PTA plans to schedule a virtual event to recognize the students who submitted entries to the 2021 program.

TRAINING: How will we train our leaders and boards for the new school year?

Until a new state PTA can be chartered, the National PTA-assigned Support Team will work with the local and council PTA leaders to make training opportunities available. Resources within the state as well as virtual training programs will be utilized. Everyone can support each other, within Maryland and National PTA, as we ensure that PTA leaders and boards have the knowledge and skills to meet the new year ahead.

MEETINGS: Can our PTAs hold electronic and/or virtual meetings?

Yes, both electronic and virtual meetings can be held. In January 2021, National PTA worked with the National PTA attorney and Parliamentarian to develop the Virtual Meeting Guidelines for PTAs in Maryland. The previous state PTA distributed the guidelines and informed the locals and councils that, temporarily, virtual meetings could be held until further notice. In the document is information on voting at meetings and for elections, as well as a list of FAQs. If you currently are not aware of these guidelines, please contact the National PTA Support Team at mdpta@pta.org.

NATIONAL PTA CONVENTION: How will members be credentialed as delegates to the National PTA Convention?

Effective with the revocation of the state PTA charter on March 26, 2021, all locals in Maryland came under the direct authority of the National PTA until a new state PTA could be chartered.

According to the National PTA Bylaws, Article XII—Annual Meeting and Convention, Section 2.B.6.: “The voting body of the annual meeting shall be composed of one (1) delegate per thousand (1,000) members, or major fraction thereof, of a local constituent association PTA organized under direct authority of National PTA, as shown on the books of the secretary-treasurer of National PTA as of March 31 preceding an annual meeting, and accredited by National PTA.”

Since the revocation of the state constituent association in Maryland occurred prior to the April reporting deadline, National PTA provided a one-time extension to the local PTAs in Maryland. The deadline for dues to be received by National PTA to be counted in the calculation for delegates was no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern on Monday, April 19, 2021.

National PTA’s goal is to provide members’ voices at convention; however, we must follow the National PTA Bylaws as written. The number of delegates eligible to be named by individual constituent associations under National PTA is not equal to that of a state constituent association. National PTA has never faced this situation before. We are all charting new territory, but, together, we will be successful.

Remember, you can register for convention as a member of any local PTA in any state PTA across the nation. Whether you are a voting delegate or not, we encourage you to attend the event and take advantage of many opportunities to learn and grow in your leadership and knowledge of PTA.

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions remaining that have not been answered by this FAQ, contact the National PTA Support Team for Maryland at mdpta@pta.org. Additional answers will be provided as questions are asked and as additional information becomes available.