

President's Midweek Message

PTA Mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.



Feb. 25, 2022

[National PTA Highlights and News For the Presidents](#)
[Suicide Prevention Hotline](#)

Greetings PTA Family, Friends and Supporters,

There is an abundance of news to report. First, congratulations to National PTA on its 125th Anniversary. Your Free State PTA is working hard for you. Under the About tab of the fspta.org website, you will find references and templates for the [local unit PTA and Council PTA bylaws as well as Standards of Affiliation](#) for both levels of the Association. Additionally, the Free State PTA bylaws template for amending our original Free State PTA bylaws is available. Use your PTA voice to help implement school policy, practices, and decisions of your local board of education as well as school. This is a great time to recruit a Vice President or Chair for Advocacy for future efforts at the local unit level.



Food for Thought – The time is now to start establishing a nominating committee if your PTA leadership terms expire going into the 2022-2023 school year. Typically, a nominating committee seeks candidates for the offices to be filled, reports at the meeting when there's an election while the chair takes nominations from the floor.



Quote of the Day
“When the world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.”
~Malala Yousafzai

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Headlines

Tuesday, Feb. 22, the Maryland State Board of Education voted to rescind an emergency regulation mandating the use of face masks in schools. The vote lifts the statewide masking mandate by March 1, pending approval from the Maryland General Assembly's administrative, executive, and legislative review committee. Watch the Board meeting [here](#).

Apply for MSDE's [Maryland Pre-K Grant Programs for Schools](#)

Membership – National PTA is assisting local PTAs boost membership by posting the URL of PTAs on their [look-up page](#). If your local unit has a website through which members can join, please visit the [Online PTA Membership Join URL](#) and place in your URL to increase visibility and membership potential for your local PTA.

Advocacy – Our Association is tracking and taking positions on bills of the [Maryland General Assembly](#) in Annapolis. Senate testimony and hearings are in person, but that of the House of Delegates is virtual.

Training – The recording of the Winter Training of Free State PTA on Saturday, Feb. 19 will be posted soon.

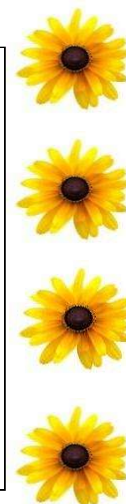
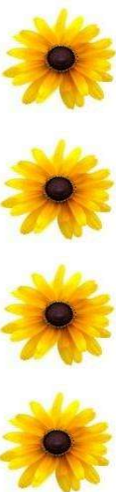
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - February is Black History Month. Feel free to use these [STEM posters](#) to promote accomplishments and view our Facebook page for [educational links](#).

Share the Wealth – Know Your PTA History

In January, we began to look at programming centered on National PTA's 125th Anniversary coupled with Black History Month. It featured a webinar entitled: [PTA History 101: The National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers and Unification](#).

This February, in recognition of Black History Month, you are encouraged to learn the history of your PTA and explore efforts of how your PTA can celebrate National PTA's 125th Anniversary. This month we recognize the Havre de Grace Colored School in Harford County. [They established a PTA beginning in 1930](#).

If your local unit PTA or Council PTA is doing something well or that you are proud of, please make Free State PTA aware so that we can share the wealth and highlight best practices.



Free State PTA is the official state constituent congress of National PTA[®] in Maryland.
Visit the Free State PTA website at [fspta.org](#).

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National PTA



To celebrate the 125th Anniversary of National PTA, Free State PTA encourages all our constituent units to participate in the festivities. Feel free to post PTA pictures or videos of activities such as an anniversary gathering, an awards celebration, a family engagement event or your leadership/volunteers in action and tag us @FreeStatePTA. It's nice to educate your membership on PTA history.



Spotlight On National PTA

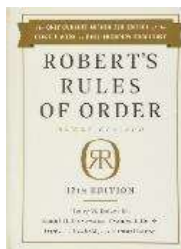


Show Me the Money - Being shared with you is the [February Listing of Financial Resources](#), programs, scholarships and opportunities for our youth in the primary and secondary levels. Please research and apply as desired.

What does it mean?

Regarding reports by the treasurer, refer to **Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR), 12th edition, page 454, sections 48:20 – 48:24.**

In the local bylaws template, a written financial statement is required by the treasurer. This written financial statement is commonly referred to as a treasurer's report. Unless standard operating procedures dictate otherwise, a treasurer's report requires no action (motion for acceptance). **After the treasurer's report, the President may ask if there are any questions for the treasurer and upon conclusion, state that the report will be filed.**



Fun Fact – The [QR](#) in **QR Code** stands for **Quick Response** and is a two-dimensional bar code invented in 1994 by Masahiro Hara from **the Japanese company, Denso Wave.**

Special Notice – Vacancy in the President-Elect Position

The Free State PTA elects their president one term in advance and this person is called, president-elect. The president-elect automatically becomes president after serving a term. Once a person has been elected president-elect, the Free State PTA membership cannot alter its decision regarding the succession of that person to the presidency, unless the seat is vacated, or grounds arise for removing the incumbent. Because the former President-Elect has resigned, the Free State PTA will elect a new President-Elect at the annual convention July 26th – July 31st.

Useful Resources

- ✓ [MD Dept. Health Covid Dashboard](#)
- ✓ [Maryland Suicide Prevention Program](#)

Sincerely,
Marla Posey-Moss [President, Free State PTA](#)

Contact the Board Anytime

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