



A Word from CO PTA President Nora Brown

Colorado PTA Convention

We are excited to announce that the 99th Annual Colorado PTA Convention will be held April 17-18, 2021 VIRTUALLY!!!

Some of our workshop offerings from this year include:

PTA/PTSA Officer Training
PTA Reflections Program
Digital Learning
MemberHub Membership
Engagement Tool
Suicide Prevention
Fundraising/Meeting Digitally
Supporting Students in Pandemic

PLUS we will elect and install our 2021-2023 Colorado PTA Officers and vote on Colorado PTA bylaws amendments!

CLICK HERE to register today!
FIRST 100 registrants will receive a "Spy Box" full of exciting items and a convention t-shirt!

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU
THERE!!!**



Dear PTA officers,

Hopefully everyone is staying warm and healthy. Colorado PTA appreciates all you are doing for your school community. PTA leaders are stepping up to meet the moment, lift up your communities, and show the power of PTA. Need help with your virtual PTA? Check out [these resources](#) from National PTA.

Colorado PTA has joined with other state associations to learn, discuss and gather input regarding education issues to be addressed this legislative session. The Parent Advocacy Network is a collaboration of CO PTA, Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), Colorado Education Association (CEA), the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance, and Colorado School Executive Association (CASE). This is a critical time for our schools and they need PTA at the table. The network is meeting at least once a month for one-hour meetings. You will hear from the experts in key topic areas and learn how to advocate on behalf of some exciting initiatives involving CMAS testing, school accreditation, and the READ Act. Fill out [this sign-up form](#) -- the education community needs your voice in the legislative process this year. The next meeting is February 26, 5-6 pm (6-7 in Spanish).

Colorado PTA Convention is coming to you virtually this year! We are putting together an incredible convention full of workshops and speakers to inform and motivate you! Don't miss out. With minimal costs and no travel, you can get more members engaged this year. There are also scholarships available if needed. See details in this newsletter and [get registered](#) now!

Know someone who has been an outstanding advocate for public education? Consider nominating him/her for the Colorado PTA Sue Anderson Education Advocate Award, to be announced during the CO PTA Convention. This award is intended to recognize anyone who is actively involved in the education of youth in an exceptional way, is a PTA member, and who has contributed to education in Colorado public schools within the past three years. Fill out the nomination form [HERE](#) by March 10th.

Colorado PTA is headed to the National PTA Legislative Conference in March. This virtual conference makes it possible for several members of our state legislative committee to learn and meet with federal legislators on your behalf. I look forward to seeing you all – via Zoom - at our convention in April!

Together we are PTA: for every child – one awesome voice!

Nora Brown
Colorado PTA President

Please Share with Your Members!

Colorado PTA Scholarships

Since 1948, the Colorado PTA has awarded over 300 scholarships to graduating students who attend PTA/PTSA affiliated high schools. In order to apply a student must:

1. Be a graduating high school senior and a member of an affiliated PTA/PTSA high school in good standing.
 2. Have been a Colorado resident for the last two (2) years.
 3. Plan to enroll as a full-time college student taking a minimum of 12 semester hours at a college or a vocational school.
 4. Have maintained a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0-point scale.
- Criteria used to determine the scholarship awards are:

1. Scholastic Record
2. School/community service/work experiences
3. Financial need
4. Recommendations
5. Student's plan as described in their 500-word essay. Completed [applications](#) must be postmarked by March 1, 2021. Winners will be notified in late March and will be invited to attend, as our guest, the Colorado PTA Convention in April 2021. The scholarship is awarded for one year, split equally by semester. A formal letter, accompanied by the application was sent to all PTA High School Principals and PTA Presidents the first week of January.

In the past, the Colorado Scholarship Application required SAT or ACT test results. However, this year, with all the disruptions and test cancellations due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Colorado PTA Scholarship Committee will waive SAT and ACT requirements for 2021 applicants.



National PTA Podcast

A Podcast for Parents, by Parents

PTA is working to ensure our public schools provide a high-quality and equitable education for every child to reach their full potential. *Notes from the Backpack* is a PTA podcast designed for millions of parents and the decisionmakers they influence.

Through the unique combination of expert, parent and educator guests, each episode features engaging conversations that offer real-life advice and ideas on how to support children's learning and development—all in parent-friendly language.



Save the Date!

Legislative Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month, May through December, and adds an additional meeting on the 4th Monday, January through April. Join us by conference call. Click [here](#) to learn more about this committee, or send an email, legislative@copta.org

Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee meets 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (excluding December). Join us by conference call. Click [here](#) to learn more about this committee, or send an email, HWS@copta.org

It is not Too Late to PTA!

"It's been a school year like no other. Many schools remain closed, offer hybrid attendance or are open one day and closed the next due to increased cases of COVID-19 in the community. But PTAs don't need a school building to support their families" [Click here to read more...](#)

Zooming into Membership February

If you missed this special event, you missed two great presentations by Ameilia at Kullerstrand Elementary PTA and Jackie Lesh at Chinook Trail Middle School PTSA. They both talked about what they have done this year to recruit and retain membership. You can view the event [here](#) for some great ideas. You definitely won't want to miss our ZIM on March 10th!!

Zooming into Membership March

The theme for our next Zooming into Membership meeting will be Community Engagement. Each event highlights PTA membership success stories, tips, and ideas for growing your PTA. Every PTA member is encouraged to attend!

You are invited to the Zoom meeting. March 10, 2021 6:30 PM
Please register in advance for this meeting at:

<https://pta.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJM1deurzorvHNPeQ3pXA Foo8uUe PoXUTpd>

Elections

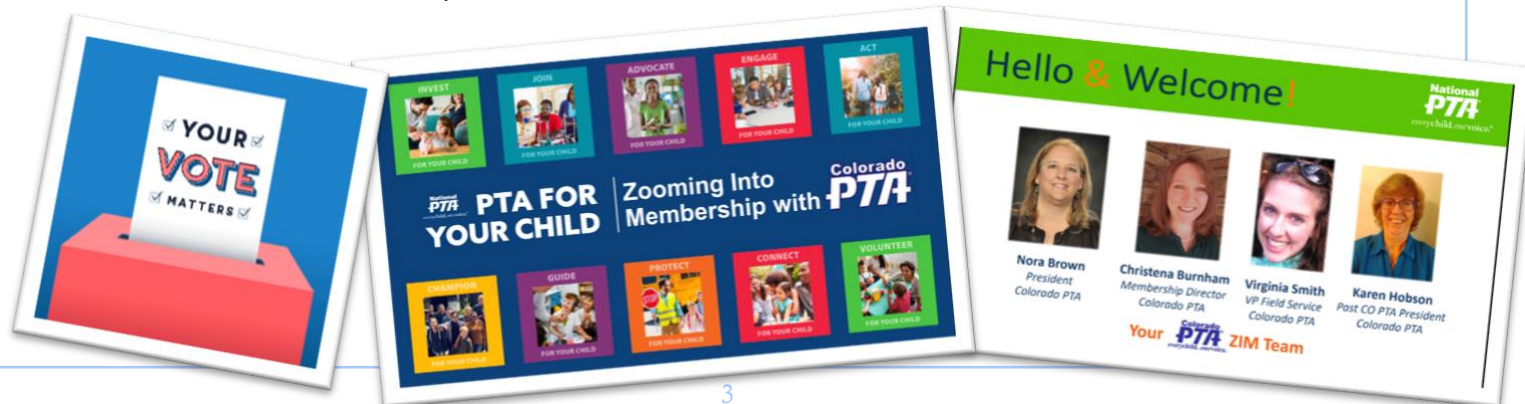
How does your state or local PTA prepare for the elections of new officers?

You should first look at the bylaws of your PTA to see what they say. Under normal circumstances, there are usually two ways; one that has been used for years at your local PTA (this may be different than what your bylaws state) and the one that is designated through Robert's Rules of Order that are the standard to use when your organization has not set up a process.

Timing is crucial! Set your date of the scheduled election meeting, based on your bylaws and work backwards to meet any and all requirements found there. If your bylaws establish a nominating process either through a nominating committee or board leadership, that group should assemble a list of diverse, willing and qualified candidates for office.

This can greatly benefit members when the time comes to select their leaders. If the committee does its job well, the membership can enjoy some basic assurance that the candidates nominated have at least expressed interest in the job, have agreed to serve, and are qualified for the offices for which they're nominated.

For more information on Nominations and Elections see Robert's Rules of Order Article 11-B, section 66 A. Nominations and section 66 B. Elections. Please [contact your state PTA](#) for additional assistance.



Parent Advocacy Network

CO PTA is working with our partners: Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance, and Colorado Education Association (CEA) to convene a Parent Advocacy Network. We need you — the parents/guardians/teachers who are ready to learn and eager to take action.

Fill out [this sign-up form](#) --

The Network is focused on these three bills that all associations are in agreement with:

- Pause statewide CMAS Testing for the Spring of 2021,
- Conduct a third-party audit of our State Accreditation System, and
- Give teachers one more year to complete important course work required by the READ Act.

The Parent Advocacy Network will convene at least once a month for one-hour virtual meetings:

Thursday, March 4, 2021, 5:00-6:00 pm, Zoom

Thursday, March 11, 2021, 5:00-6:00 pm, Zoom

Thursday, April 1, 2021, 5:00-6:00 pm, Zoom

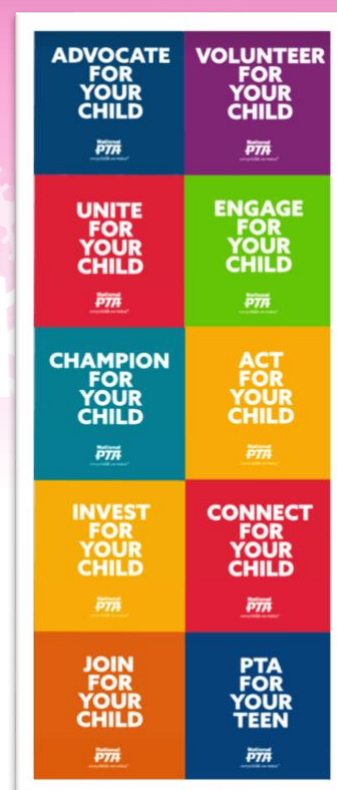
Thursday, April 15, 2021, 5:00-6:00 pm, Zoom

Thursday, April 29, 2021, 5:00-6:00 pm, Zoom

PTA Legislative Committee

The Colorado [PTA Legislative Committee](#) normally meets on both the 2nd and 4th Mondays from January through April, during the annual session of the State Legislature (Colorado General Assembly), and on the 2nd Mondays during the other months. The current period of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to make for unusual goings-on. The last few meetings of the Legislative Committee have been canceled, but meetings will resume on Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. (via Zoom) because the Legislature will resume on Feb. 16.

Anyone interested in joining meetings of the committee who is not already receiving messages about them should contact Evie Hudak, Public Policy Director, at legislative@copta.org to receive announcements from the committee. PTA members who attend 3 or more meetings per year are entitled to vote at the meetings. Every PTA Council is supposed to have a Legislative Chair and every PTA local unit is supposed to have an Advocacy Liaison. These are the people who automatically receive information from the Legislative Committee with the agenda, minutes, and other relevant committee information.



PTA's Position on School Reopening

The Colorado PTA Board of Directors approved a position statement on School Reopening and COVID. In brief, the statement includes the following:

- Recommends that school buildings remain closed during the COVID-19 pandemic unless they are open in accordance with all public health guidelines.
- Urges state and federal government officials to provide funding for improvements that allow conformance with public health guidelines and funding for reliable broadband internet access.
- Advocates for high-quality remote learning options to be available for all students and families.
- Supports parents, educators, and students having input and involvement in decision-making for school reopening.
- Recommends other specific components we would like to see in school reopening plans. Specifics of this position statement can be found on the Colorado PTA website.