



## #COPTA100 Convention

Events will include several workshops to train, equip, and inspire you to be amazing PTA leaders, as well as keynote speakers, general/regional meetings, opportunities to network with other Colorado units, exhibitors, and the 100th Celebration party and much more! You do not want to miss this event!

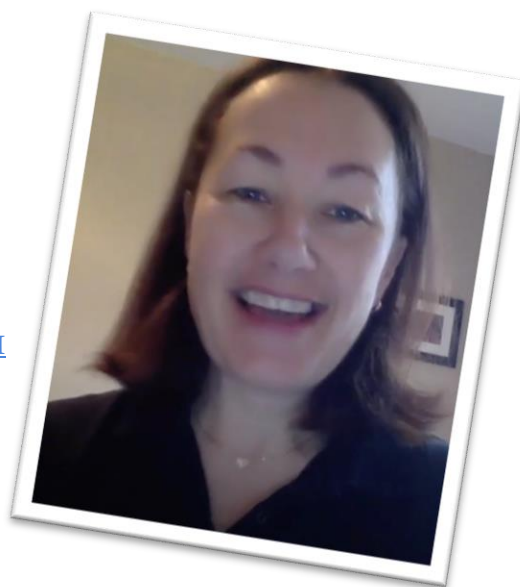
Registration information on the convention will be coming to your inboxes very soon

Bookmark [copta.org/convention](https://copta.org/convention) to stay *"in the know"* about this year's convention. We hope to see you there.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Please click on the link below to access this month's welcome message from Colorado PTA President Staci Ruddy.

[https://youtu.be/xz8eVdH\\_HOvU](https://youtu.be/xz8eVdH_HOvU)



Please click the link to hear Colorado PTA President Staci Ruddy and El Paso Council President, Karen Hobson's discussion about Founders Day.

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=BmGIozayNYk&feature=share>



PTA was founded **on February 17, 1897**, when Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst organized the first convocation of the National Congress of Mothers in Washington, DC. Over 2,000 people – mostly mothers, but also fathers, teachers, laborers, and legislators – attended the event.

Twenty years later, 37 chartered state congresses existed, including **Colorado PTA**, which was established in **1907** in Denver. In 1970, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers (National PTA) and the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT) – founded by Selena Sloan Butler in Atlanta, Georgia – merged to serve all children.

As the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation, National PTA is the conscience of the country for children and youth issues. Through advocacy, as well as family and community education, National PTA has established programs and called for legislation that improves our children's lives, such as:

- Creation of Kindergarten classes
- Child labor laws
- Public health service
- Hot and healthy lunch programs
- Juvenile justice system
- Mandatory immunization
- Arts in education
- School safety

For over 120 years, PTA has been encouraging families to get more involved in their children's education. Research shows that family engagement supports student success. Students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades and pass their classes, attend school regularly, have better social skills, and go on to post-secondary education. National PTA's **Take Your Family to School Week** is designed to provide families with an opportunity to get more involved in their child's education and strengthen their partnerships with teachers and

administrators. The timing of the week honors the day PTA was founded. We hope you will help us celebrate PTA's long legacy of family engagement during **National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week – Feb. 14-18, 2022**, by hosting a PTA program at your school.

Colorado's **El Paso Council PTA** is proud of its 101-year history; one of its annual traditions is hosting a **Founders Day** celebration in February each year. When Founders Day was established by National PTA to recognize the founding of National PTA, all levels of PTA were encouraged to make a donation.

Founders Day has become an El Paso Council PTA event to recognize awesome volunteers in its PTA schools. The Council hosts a dinner and encourages PTA schools to submit two volunteers for recognition. The volunteers are presented a certificate with the write-up of their accomplishments and a small gift at the dinner. Invitations go to school board members, superintendents, and principals so that all can see the incredible work and value of PTA and its volunteers. The dinner has been expanded by recognizing units with membership awards, highlighting talented students by showing Reflections entries and featuring a performance by a local school band or choir. Former El Paso Council PTA presidents are invited as well.

In addition, El Paso Council's Founders Day celebration has provided an opportunity to collect books to support literacy and donations to help Colorado PTA purchase a brick as part of National PTA's **Legacy Project**. If you're ever in Alexandria, Virginia, visit the National PTA headquarters and look for the **Colorado PTA brick**!

Due to the pandemic, the El Paso Council was unable to hold a 100-year celebration in 2021. However, they purchased two Little Free Libraries to commemorate their 100<sup>th</sup> year. This year's celebration will be held virtually on February 15.

## JOIN US FOR FOUNDERS DAY

The Colorado PTA Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Field Service team hope you will join us virtually to celebrate our PTA founders and chat with our leadership team!

Thursday, February 17, 2022 ~ 6:30pm

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5980712947?pwd=QnJUMXU0eE12NVRiYmQ5QnQxM05ndz09>

Meeting ID: 598 071 2947



# SEEKING NOMINEES FOR AWARDS AT CONVENTION

## COLORADO PTA SUE ANDERSON EDUCATION ADVOCATE AWARD

The Colorado PTA's Sue Anderson Education Advocate Award is granted to recognize outstanding contributions to public education in Colorado. While educators are often thought of first, this award is intended to recognize anyone who is actively involved in the education of youth in an exceptional way. Nominations must come from Colorado PTA members, local units, or councils. The recipient must be a PTA member and an individual who has contributed to education in Colorado public schools. The contribution must be ongoing or have occurred within the past three years. Find the form [here](#).

## PTA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Colorado PTA is now accepting scholarship applications! Don't delay – we want to help you make your potential a reality. Applications must be postmarked by March 1!

To apply, a student must:

- Be a graduating high school senior and a member of an affiliated PTA/PTSA high school which is in good standing.
- Plan to enroll as a full-time college student taking a minimum of 12 semester hours or the equivalent at an eligible post-secondary institution (*an eligible post-secondary institution is defined as any college, university, trade school, or other post-secondary educational institution eligible to participate in a student aid program run by the U.S. Department of Education*).
- Have maintained a 2.5-grade point average on a 4.0-point scale.
- Have been a Colorado resident for the last 2 years.

The following information should be submitted to be considered:

- Current transcript including GPA and ACT or SAT scores (where available).
- School/community service/work experiences.
- Financial need – this will be the key determining factor, so students must submit a copy of their FAFSA.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation (non-relatives only).
- A 500-word essay explaining why he or she should be a recipient.

Completed applications must be in the Colorado PTA office, postmarked by March 1, 2022. Winners will be notified in April and invited to attend, along with a guest, the Colorado PTA Awards Ceremony at the [Colorado PTA Convention](#). The Colorado PTA Scholarship is awarded for one year and may be split equally by term. When applicable, PTA's Brown and Taylor Scholarships are awarded for two years, paid annually (Brown Scholarship is for in-state institutions only). Only current application forms will be accepted. [Download the application here!](#)





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



On January 12, 2022, the [Colorado General Assembly](#) legislative session kicked off! As of this writing, our Representatives and Senators have introduced 205 Bills, of which 40 fall under the umbrella of our [2022 Legislative Priorities](#).

Our January 24 Legislative Committee meeting was jam-packed with members discussing a whopping 25 bills. Here are some of the bills that are of highest significance to COPTA based on our Legislative Priorities:

## 1. PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

- HB22-1019 [Modifications to Qualified State Tuition Programs](#) — OPPOSE
- HB22-1021 [Reduce State Income Tax Rate](#) — OPPOSE
- HB22-1125 [Income Tax Reduction](#) — OPPOSE
- HB22-1126 [Eligible Educator Classroom Expenses Tax Credit](#) — OPPOSE
- SB22-039 [Funding for Educational Opportunities](#) — OPPOSE
- SB22-071 [Learning Pods for Home-school Programs](#) — OPPOSE

## 2. SCHOOL/DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY

- HB22-1069 [Parent Authority to Request Public School Reforms](#) — OPPOSE
- SB22-054 [Recommend Community School for Turnaround Plan](#) — SUPPORT

## 3. EDUCATOR ACCOUNTABILITY

- HB22-1010 [Concerning an Income Tax Credit for Eligible Early Childhood Educators](#) — SUPPORT
- SB22-069 [Learning Disruption Effect on Teacher Evaluation](#) — SUPPORT

## 4. EQUITY

- HB22-1066 [Public Education Curriculum and Professional Development Information](#) — OPPOSE
- SB22-008 [Higher Education Support for Foster Youth](#) — SUPPORT

## 5. SAFETY & HEALTH

- HB22-1064 [Prohibit Flavored Tobacco Regulate Synthetic Nicotine](#) — SUPPORT
- HB22-1106 [Concealed Handguns in Schools](#) — OPPOSE
- SB22-087 [Healthy Meals for All Public School Students](#) — SUPPORT

The [Colorado PTA Legislative Committee](#) meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays from January through April, during the annual session of the Colorado General Assembly (State Legislature), and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays during the other months. PTA members who attend 3 or more meetings per year are entitled to vote at the meetings. If you would like to sign up for the Legislative Committee email list – which will allow you to receive information from the committee including meeting invitations, agenda, minutes, and other relevant information – please sign up [HERE](#).

See also National PTA [Position Statements](#); [Resolutions](#)  
See also Colorado PTA [Resolutions and Positions](#);  
[Legislative Priorities for 2022](#)

## Health Wellness & Safety Corner

Childhood vaccination was one of the founding principles of National PTA over 120 years ago. Establishing routine vaccinations has enabled eradication of smallpox, an extremely contagious and life-threatening infection, as well as control of other serious infections such as polio, measles, rubella, and chicken pox. Indeed, vaccinations are regarded as one of the greatest contributions to global health of any human invention. National PTA's concern about this topic led to their issuance of this position statement: [Required Immunizations](#).

National PTA is putting on a webinar you might be interesting in viewing on Feb. 2, 5:00 p.m., [What Your PTA Can Do to Address Vaccine Hesitancy](#).



## COLORADO CEASEFIRE OFFERS FREE PROGRAMS ON GUN SAFETY

PTA has a long history of advocacy on gun safety. To help our members become more familiar with the topic and better advocates on it, we are offering an opportunity to host speakers from Colorado Ceasefire. Colorado Ceasefire is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to reducing gun violence through legislative advocacy, education, and outreach. It is committed to sharing its knowledge and expertise to engage and educate others on issues, laws, and effects of both gun violence and gun safety on society. Its new speakers bureau provides programs to community groups free of charge – including PTAs.

Some of the programs that speakers can present on include:

- History of gun violence and laws in Colorado
- Current state/federal laws, their effect, and what more is needed
- Safe storage of guns/suicide prevention
- Youth violence and guns
- Gun violence as a public health issue
- Whether guns make us safer



How to book a speaker: Go to the website: <https://www.coloradoceasefire.org/request-a-speaker/>. You will be able to submit a completed form online at least 30 days before your event.

## COLORADO PTA REFLECTIONS CORNER

Colorado PTA honors Don Green who passed away October 19, 2021. Don was an artist/sculptor and art teacher in Colorado Springs. His iconic steel-clad sculptures can be found across Colorado, but specifically at the Colorado Springs airport, University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, the Pikes Peak Center, and in Fort Collins and Greeley. He taught art for 30 years in Colorado Springs District 11, including at Wasson and Doherty High Schools. His sculptures can also be found on several D11 school campuses.

Don was a good friend of PTA Reflections' founder Mary Lou Anderson, helping her develop the Reflections program and the name itself! He crafted a beautiful tree sculpture to symbolize the program which Colorado PTA still has and cherishes.

[Colorado PTA's Reflections](#)

[Important Dates](#)

