



## CALENDAR for February

- Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. – Bylaws Committee meeting
- Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m. – Legislative Committee meeting
- Feb. 17 – PTA FOUNDERS DAY
- Feb. 20 – PRESIDENTS DAY
- Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. – Convention Committee meeting
- Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m. – Legislative Committee meeting
- Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m. – Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee meeting

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy February! This is one of our most meaningful months in PTA: it's the month that we celebrate our founders! It's a celebration and a rededication of impactful advocacy for the betterment of all children. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our achievements and renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children.

PTA was formed in 1897 as the National Congress of Mothers by Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. It was a time when women did not have the right to vote, and social activism was not popular. However, they believed that mothers would support their mission to eliminate threats that endangered children. They understood the power of individual action and worked beyond the accepted barriers of the day. They started a nationwide campaign to advocate for bettering the lives of children in education, health, and safety.

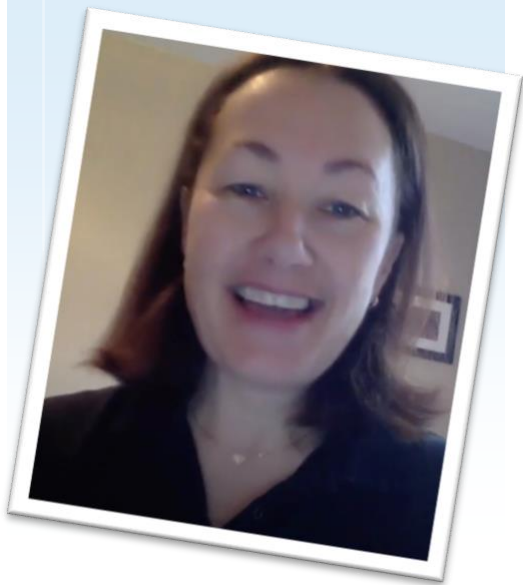
This led to the inclusion of all parents and the change of the name to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers (National PTA). In 1970, the National PTA merged with the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT) – founded by Selena Sloan Butler in Atlanta, Georgia – to serve all children.



These women were an amazing example of what we can do when we work together with one common goal. Whatever your goal, we hope these advocates, and the many others who have come after them, inspire you to keep pushing to make every child's potential a reality!

And as always, thank you for all that you do!

*Staci Rudoy*



## 2023 Colorado PTA Convention

This year's Convention features **KEYNOTE** by **STEVE SPANGLER - Best Day Ever: The Science of Creating Amazing Experiences that Inspire Children to Wonder, Discover, and Explore**

Steve Spangler is the science teacher you always wanted in school. Without warning, things would fizz, pop, and explode, and the next thing you know his students were chanting "Best day ever!" But something else happened... amidst all that fun, Steve discovered that his students engaged at a higher level, listened with greater intention and were eager to learn more.

During this entertaining and inspirational presentation, Steve will teach you that the best day ever is more than just a feeling or emotion, it's a powerful principle that helps educators create experiences that stimulate engagement at the highest levels and help students build connections that spark critical thinking and creativity.

In this presentation, attendees will...

- Explore simple engagement strategies to build amazing connections
- Unlock the power of the scientific mindset
- Decode the untapped elements of STEM
- Harness the power of purpose-driven engagement
- Leave with a rekindled sense of hope and purpose

You'll discover the secret to achieving higher student engagement is to create purpose-driven experiences that captivate, fascinate and stimulate inquiry... all at the same time. By the end of the presentation, you'll be inspired to connect differently, challenged to think differently and committed to engage differently as you set out to create your own BEST DAY EVER experiences.



Interested in volunteering?  
Contact:  
Christina Powell  
VP of Convention  
[christinapowell@copta.org](mailto:christinapowell@copta.org)

**Colorado**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild. onevoice.

**Colorado PTA 101<sup>st</sup>  
Annual Convention  
2023**

**SAVE THE  
DATE**

**Colorado PTA would love for you to join us  
for the 101st convention! Please watch for  
early bird information coming soon!**

DOUBLE TREE  
DENVER TECH CENTER  
APRIL 29&30, 2023

**CLICK** for more information

## Advocacy

While testifying in January on a bill to protect children from lead-based paint in Colorado's public buildings, our Public Policy Director stated that for **over 47 years**, PTA has advocated to protect our children from the risks associated with lead exposure. It is incredibly inspiring to stand with the work of our PTA predecessors while we build upon their work of making every child's potential a reality.

As some of you may know, the 2023 Legislative Session kicked off on January 9, 2023. The General Assembly works tirelessly during the 120-day session. It means that the Legislative Committee is hard at work too. In January, the committee considered 25 bills during its meetings.

Here are some of the bills that are of highest significance to Colorado PTA based on our [2023 Legislative Priorities](#)

### Priority #1, Public School Funding:

- SB23-030, [Eligible Educator Classroom Expenses Tax Credit](#) — OPPOSE
- HB23-1079, [Income Tax Credits for Nonpublic Education](#) — OPPOSE
- HB23-1063, [Reduction of State Income Tax Rate](#) — OPPOSE
- HB23-[*forthcoming*], Retain Excess State Revenues for Public Education — SUPPORT

### Priority #2, School/District Accountability:

- SB23-061, [Eliminate State Assessment in Social Studies](#) — SUPPORT

### Priority #4, Equity:

- HB23-1042, [Admissibility Standards for Juvenile Statements](#) — SUPPORT
- HB23-1057, [Amenities for All Genders In Public Buildings](#) — SUPPORT

### Priority #5, Health and Safety:

- SB23-011, [Minor Driver's Education Requirements](#) — SUPPORT
- HB23-1002, [Epinephrine Auto-injectors](#) — SUPPORT
- HB23-1040, [Prader-Willi Syndrome](#) — SUPPORT
- HB23-1043, [Emergency & Continued Placement with Relative or Kin](#) — SUPPORT
- HB23-1044, [Second Amendment Preservation Act](#) — OPPOSE
- HB23-1050, [Protection of Business From Unlawful Entry](#) — OPPOSE
- HB23-1058, [Child-Occupied Facility Lead-Based Paint Abatement](#) — SUPPORT

(Note: No bills have been introduced yet that fit under Priority #3, Educator Accountability.)

You can find CO PTA's full bill list [HERE](#).

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](#).



## HONORING PTA FOUNDERS DAY, FEBRUARY 17

El Paso Council PTA is proud to continue the Founders Day tradition. National PTA encourages Founders Day celebrations to honor the founding of National PTA in 1897. El Paso Council PTA was established in 1921, and history shows that as early as 1927 funds were collected and donated to National PTA.

El Paso Council PTA has expanded the celebration to include honoring two volunteers from each PTA/PTSA school. During the banquet, there is also a Reflections showcase, membership awards, and recognition of our past Council presidents in attendance. The Council purchased two Little Free Libraries in honor of their 100th year and has taken the opportunity to collect books for the LFLs, for districts' literacy efforts, and for one of our partners, the Black Educator Network. One-year donations were collected and donated to Colorado PTA for the purchase of a brick displayed at the National PTA Headquarters in Alexandria, VA.

Reflecting on our past has reinforced our commitment to PTA and the work accomplished for our children over the years. We should all reflect of the accomplishments of PTA throughout the years and stay dedicated to our mission to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

## See Students Shine



### REFLECTIONS PROGRAM UPDATE: "Show Your Voice"

Our amazing students have submitted artwork for this year's PTA Reflections program and have placed at the regional and council levels (see links below for a list of winners!) Congratulations to you all and good luck as your entries advance to state judging.

The Reflections program was founded by Mary Lou Anderson, Colorado PTA President from 1964-1966, and was adopted by National PTA in 1969. Reflections enhances quality arts education for students in preschool through 12th grade, encouraging student achievement, fostering creativity and artistic talent, and promoting the arts in homes, schools, and the community.

Colorado PTA selects one Gold Award and two Silver Awards to be recognized at an awards ceremony being held this year immediately after the CO PTA state convention, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Gold Award winners advance to National PTA for judging, and winners are announced May 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to our schools for promoting this outstanding program! For more information, visit [pta.org/reflections](http://pta.org/reflections).

**Winning entries:**     [Jeffco Council PTA](#)     [El Paso Council PTA](#)     [Regional PTAs](#)

## PTA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Colorado PTA offers amazing scholarships for graduating seniors! Since 1948, the Colorado PTA has awarded over 300 scholarships to graduating students who attend PTA/PTSA affiliated high schools. If you know a graduating senior, please pass on this information!

In order to apply for a PTA scholarship, a student must:

1. Be a graduating high school senior and a member of an affiliated PTA/PTSA high school in good standing and be a member of that PTA/PTSA.
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 or the equivalent at an eligible post-secondary institution.
4. Have maintained a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0-point scale.

Criteria used to determine the scholarship awards include the following:

- Scholastic Record
- School/community service/work experiences
- Financial need
- Recommendations
- Student's plan as described in their 500-word essay.

Completed applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2023. Winners will be notified in early April and will be invited to attend, as our guest, the Colorado PTA Convention in April 2023. The scholarship is awarded for one year, split equally by semester. [Download the application here!](#)

[Guidance for Colorado PTA Scholarship Applicants and Recommenders - An Online Resource, Issued 2022, by Colorado PTA](#)



## Membership Matters All Year

Remember: Membership is year-round. Units can submit members at any time through MemberHub.

PTA Units are always looking for ways to grow and recruit new members. There are many things we can do in order to attract new members. Here is a list of viable approaches that one could use in order to recruit more members



1. Ask someone
2. Bring a guest to meetings
3. Provide child care at all meetings
4. Serve food at the meetings
5. Sponsor an event at your school and provide dinner to members
6. Have a clear PTA Unit goal & a strategic plan
7. Letters or personal contact with local businesses
8. Contact with Chamber of Commerce
9. Place customized bookmarks in library books
10. Have a booth at fairs, festivals etc.
11. Place pamphlets at the main office, cafeterias, libraries, etc.
12. Host an Open House
13. Hold a PTA Unit assembly only on membership
14. Give the membership chair one minute at every PTA Unit meeting
15. Put together guest information packets
16. Service projects that serve a need in the community
17. Invite family members to join
18. Print PTA Unit business cards with PTA Unit meeting location and time
19. Hold receptions for prospective members
20. Have a special guest day
21. Make prospective members feel important
22. Honor outstanding community members with awards
23. Don't take age into consideration
24. Make some meetings social events
25. Use group email to promote your PTA Unit
26. Put posters in public areas
27. Have a reward program for those who bring in new members
28. Create more fun
29. Use word of mouth
30. Network with coworkers, friends, and family
31. Follow up with guests
32. Lead by example—how many members have you recruited?
33. Have members give talks at other organizations
34. Provide guests with free meals
35. Look for members in ethnic groups not represented in your PTA Unit
36. Provide brochures for new families to the school
37. Advertise at your school's sports events
38. Ask the district for help
39. Hold joint meetings with other groups
40. Share your PTA Unit experience with others
41. Participate in community events
42. Circulate the PTA Unit newsletter widely
43. Design a PTA Unit brochure
44. Wear your PTA Unit's pin
45. Mention your PTA Unit at meetings of other organizations during announcements
46. Send newsletter to guests
47. When asked about your leadership skills & career success, tell them about your PTA Unit
48. Ask every member to submit 3 prospects to the membership chair
49. Make it FUN
50. Give every member a PTA Unit decal or bumper stickers for their car
51. Give testimonials about your PTA Unit while guests are at the meeting
52. Repeatedly invite prospective members
53. Practice selling your PTA Unit at PTA Unit meetings—have a one-minute elevator speech ready
54. The PTA Unit president asks three PTA Unit members as a personal favor to each recruit one new member
55. Bring your boss to a PTA Unit meeting
56. Make direct contact with business associations
57. Bring your co-workers to a PTA Unit meeting
58. Bring your subordinates to a PTA Unit meeting
59. Have new member kits
60. Hand out invitation cards for a "Free" lunch (breakfast, dinner)
61. Have members constantly promote and rave about your PTA Unit
62. Meet at a good location and time that is beneficial to all
63. Assign every member to a 5 person recruitment team—each team brings in a new member every six months
64. Have incentives for recruitment
65. Have a large poster that lists all the members who have sponsored a new member in the past year
66. Display a thermometer showing progress towards PTA Unit membership goal
67. Feature a member's "benefit of the month" in the PTA Unit newsletter
68. Induct new members & invite spouse/partner
69. Develop a welcome letter from the president for all new members
70. Contact all members who have resigned in the past 3 years
71. Recognize new members in newsletters
72. Invite spouses to social functions
73. Pass out M & M candy to remind members that "Membership Matters" and that we need "More Members"

# HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND SAFETY

## Volunteer appreciation

A huge "thank you!" to all PTA members who volunteered to help pass Proposition FF, Healthy School Meals for All! More than 60,000 children in Colorado can't afford school meals, but don't qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, and 2 of every 5 Colorado families struggle to put food on the table for their children. Passing Proposition FF is a huge win for students and families who may be struggling in these challenging economic times, for our schools and nutrition service staff who work so hard to prepare and serve meals, and for local farmers and ranchers who will be supported in building partnerships with local schools to increase access to fresh produce, meat, and dairy. Moreover, establishing a school lunch program was one of the founding principles of the National PTA when it was founded over a century ago.

National PTA Urges Congress to Ban Sale and Possession of Assault Weapons for Individuals Under 21  
PTA members across the country have played a critical role in advocating for common sense solutions to gun violence, which remains a top priority for NPTA. Wrapping up the 117th Congress, nearly 1,000 PTA advocates took action and contacted their members of Congress calling for a ban on the sale and possession of assault weapons for individuals under the age of 21. NPTA will continue demanding action and change from this new Congress and push for solutions to eliminate gun violence and ensure every child learns in an environment that is safe. NPTA urges everyone to join. [Sign up for advocacy alerts.](#)

## School Bullying Prevention and Education Grant

The BPEG program is now accepting applications. Funding is available to support schools in reducing bullying by engaging students and families, implementing prevention best practices, and improving school climate. For more information, visit the BPEG program website at: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/mtss/bullying/bpeg> or contact Adam Collins at: [Collins\\_A@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Collins_A@cde.state.co.us)

## So many resources for you!

Colorado PTA offers a wide range of resources on health, wellness, and safety – available here: <https://bit.ly/COPTA-HWS-Resources> accepting applications. Funding is available to support schools in reducing bullying by engaging students and families, implementing prevention best practices, and improving school climate. For more information, visit the BPEG program website at: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/mtss/bullying/bpeg> or contact Adam Collins at: [Collins\\_A@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Collins_A@cde.state.co.us)

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## National PTA Resources

### Ways to Celebrate

**National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week, celebrated Feb. 13–17, 2023**, 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](#), Feb. 17, 1897.

Family Engagement Supports Student Success 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.

#### 1. Diversity Equity and Inclusion

Welcome all families into your PTA community. [Make your meetings more inclusive](#) and explore all of our [diversity, equity and inclusion materials!](#)

#### 2. National PTA Programs

Focus on supporting student success with PTA's Programs:

- [STEM+ Families](#)
- [Family Reading Experience](#)
- [PTA Connected](#)
- [Healthy Minds](#)

#### 3. Notes from the Backpack

Tune in to our [Notes from the Backpack podcast](#) for tips on:

- [helping your child manage stress](#)
- [understanding college admissions](#)
- [overcoming math anxiety](#) and [more!](#)

