



Tennessee PTA's Science, Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) event is part of National PTA's [STEM Plus Families initiative](#). STEM Plus Families is focused on engaging entire families in STEM experiences at school, at home, in the community and with digital learning environments to empower them to support student success in STEM and inspire their children to pursue STEM careers. The goal of the initiative is to fill a critical gap in STEM education, increase access to STEM experiences for all students and inspire the next generation of STEM professionals.

### STEM+ Families Nights were held at

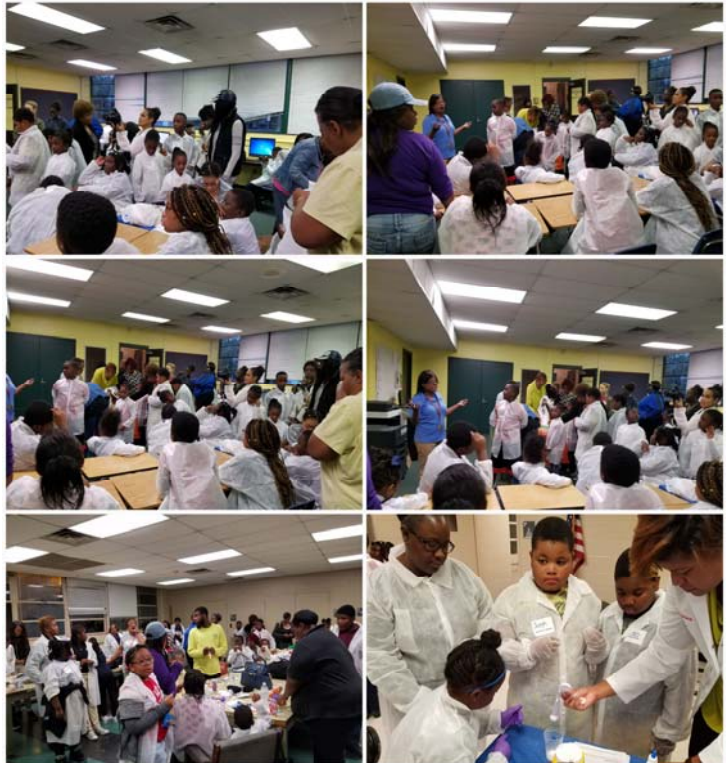
Frayser Community PTSA — October 26, 2017

W.E.B. Dubois PTA — November 9, 2017

Douglas High School PTSA — November 16, 2017

Over 500 students participated in the STEM + Families Night of learning and imagination.

Special thanks to Bayer for the grant and to our many volunteers and supporters.



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- DCI
- Steps to Good Standing
- Award changes
-



### Message from the President

Membership Time is Here! Rise up and be counted and let your voices be heard. Membership is a small cost but the impact it will make a difference in the lives of many children. Being a member is not for name recognition, nor fame, nor fortune, but for the reality that children can succeed. That by lending your voices, your talents, your time and commitment is what it will take to ensure funding, open discussion and a constant guard to hold accountable those who make decisions on behalf of the health and welfare of our children are in their best interest.

How we do that is through our membership. I have my card, my voice is being heard, is yours? Join with us. Rise up and be counted. Do you have your card? Ask me how to get one.

Cheryl Floyd  
A Proud PTA Member

## What's New

- Students getting ready to Storm the Hill
- Upcoming Webinars
- Award changes
- Tennessee Tip to Tip Tour— Convention 2018

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."  
Margaret Mead**



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Legislative Day on the Hill**



**Tennessee PTA**  
**Students Storm the Hill**  
**February 21, 2018 10:00 am – 3:30 pm**  
(Alternative Date to be Announced)

**Students will have an opportunity to meet face-to-face with their elected representatives, learn about how bills become law, and see the state government in action by attending a session or committee meeting. In addition, they will gain an understanding of how to approach government officials and advocate for issues that are important to them.**

For more information go to [www.tnpta.org](http://www.tnpta.org) or email Debbie Boles at [dboles@tnpta.org](mailto:dboles@tnpta.org) or call the Tennessee PTA State Office at (615) 383-9740.

## Contact Us

For more information, assistance, questions and support, contact us, we are here for you.

**Tennessee PTA**  
1905 Acklen Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37212

(615) 383-9740

Visit us on the web at  
[www.tnpta.com](http://www.tnpta.com)

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## Membership

### **Reporting dates to remember:**

**December 1st - Annual (REQUIRED)**

**March 1st - Award Qualification**

**May 1st - Final**

### **Important PTA Financial Documents**

#### **Deadlines in November**

**November 1st - on or before, Audit Report Form in State Office**

**November 15th - absolute last day to file 990-N post card with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**

**November 20th - on or before, receipt of filing 990 in State Office**

Audit form link: <http://tnpta.org/news/>

## **Diversity and Cultural Inclusion**

An article in September's edition in *Our Children* magazine gave four benefits of fathers being engaged in children's education:

- Encourages children's exploration of the world around them.
- Increases a student's attendance.
- Increases student participation in school activities.
- Reduces the chances of delinquency and substance abuse.

These benefits and others are a part of why TNPTA implemented the 300 Hours of Power program. We want to recognize local unit efforts that encourage male engagement. The process is simple, each unit that has at least 300 hours from male volunteers will be recognized at the state convention. Each unit completes an application and send to the state headquarters by March 1<sup>st</sup>. That's it!

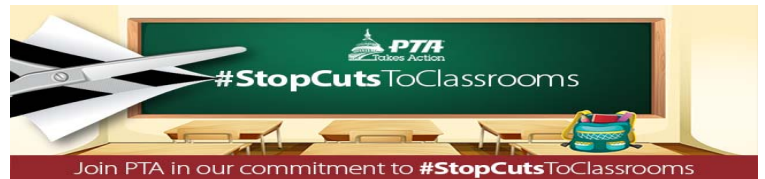
Here's the link for more info <http://tnpta.org/300-hours-of-power.html>

Wayne Brown, Diversity and Cultural Inclusion Chair

## SPOTLIGHT CORNER

### Tennessee PTA welcomes the following units to the PTA Family

Apollo Middle Prep PTA  
Berclair Elementary PTA  
Bordeaux-North Nashville Community PTA  
Cumberland Elementary PTA  
Goodlettsville Middle School PTSA  
Hamilton County Teachers Supply Depot PTSA  
Harris Hillman Elementary PTA  
Montvale Elementary PTA  
Orchard Knob Community PTA  
Rosebank Elementary PTA (reinstated)  
Soddy Daisy High Community PTSA  
Wallace A Smith Community PTA



## Coming Soon

- Upcoming Webinars
- eLearning Challenges
- January Packet
- Tennessee Tip to Tip Tour

## Early Childhood Education & Family Development

Check out the [Healthy Children's web page](#) on the Tennessee PTA website with links to Healthy Lifestyles, Safety, Allergies, Special Education Toolkit, and more.

My name is Tara Voit, and I am the current chair for the committee. On behalf of the committee, we want to personally invite you to celebrate with us as we welcome our members and stakeholders to



our website. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to share with you the latest research, practices and understanding that guide awareness to the importance of high-quality education for early learners.

## **What is the health of your unit?**

### **Important PTA Financial Documents Deadlines in November are you healthy?**

November 1st - on or before, Audit Report Form in State Office

November 15th - absolute last day to file 990-N post card with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

November 20th - on or before, receipt of filing 990 in State Office

Audit form link: <http://tnpta.org/news/auditreportform.pdf>

## **Did you know PTA and school administrators have been deliberating raising funds for schools for decades??**

Would you believe nearly a hundred years ago, school administrators were dealing with parents raising money for schools creating a quandary for them? “The National PTA, Race and Civic Engagement, 1897-1970” explains that during the 1920’s PTA leaders were doing more than their fair share of fundraising. Parents were so successful that administrators were concerned about the impact on school funding formulas. That’s a switch from what many PTAs experience today, or is it?

Each PTA is a separate, legal entity that bases all decisions and programs on our mission, “to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children”. Budgets are developed and approved, becoming operating guidelines for the year. The board members are held accountable to the general membership to ensure that they are focused on the mission.

Today, local PTAs and school administrators/personnel are still taking up the issue only this time it is because the school budgets have a deficit. School staff may ask for funds for a project or item that is not in line with the mission and part of the budget. It is important that PTAs to be trained in the proper expenses and follow good financial practices.

Another potential land mine for PTAs is hosting a joint fundraiser with the school. PTA funds and school funds should always remain separate. Once a fundraiser is completed, funds need to be divided and deposited. More information can be found on the PTA website.

There are resources available on the PTA website – [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org). The Back To school Kit is a wealth of information for all board members. The Finance tab has information that explains budgeting and fundraising efforts and the 2017-2018 Finance Quick Reference Guide. The Templates and Tools tab has a letter “clarifying schools vs PTA”. Another resource that is useful is the Local PTA treasurer elearning course. Each board member can register for the both and learn proper nonprofit and PTA guidelines.

Keeping your PTA out of trouble is vital. All board members should understand financial rules to provide good oversight. Our goal is to promote the mission of PTA through our programs and financial decisions. If you have questions, please reach out to the Tennessee PTA for additional assistance.

Mary Jo Neil, NSR National PTA

## MAKING CHANGE – PTA RESOLUTIONS

Tennessee PTA is part of the largest child advocacy group in the world. One of the tools utilized to speak on behalf of children is Resolutions.

Are you aware of a situation or concern that impacts youth statewide and requires statewide action for solution? The Resolution Committee encourages PTA members, local units and councils to propose resolutions of interest on which they wish the Tennessee PTA to take a position. Those resolutions, which must meet criteria listed below, will be presented at the 2018 Tennessee PTA 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, to be held April 20<sup>st</sup> – 22nd in Johnson City, TN.

You may be wondering if Tennessee PTA already has a position or resolution on a certain topic. The Tennessee PTA website, [www.tnpta.org](http://www.tnpta.org), has all adopted resolutions of the Tennessee PTA, listed under the Advocacy tab. Check it out for ideas and information. National PTA also offers a training course, "Writing and Proposing PTA Resolutions", to guide you. If you would like some help, please feel free to contact me at the email address or phone number below.

To be considered, all resolutions **with all supporting documentation and indexing** must be **mailed** to the Tennessee PTA office, and **postmarked no later than midnight, February 15, 2017**. Please follow up with a phone call to see that they were received.

1. **Identify Your Issue**
2. **Research Your Issue**
3. **Draft Your Resolution**
4. **Submit Your Resolution**

For more information on HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION; go to the Tennessee PTA website at [www.tnpta.org](http://www.tnpta.org)

Provide at least two (2) copies of the resolution and the background documentation and indexing to the state office at Tennessee PTA, 1905 Acklen Avenue, Nashville, TN, 37212, and don't forget the Resolutions Submittal Cover Sheet. Make sure it is postmarked no later than midnight February 15, 2017. You will be contacted about the results of your submission by the Resolutions Committee.

Charles Everett, Resolutions Chair

### *Make your Dreams a Reality*

Have you ever dreamed of being on the stage? What about being the greatest and most loved leader? Or maybe you just want a certificate and some bling. Well you can work towards those goals by participating in the Tennessee PTA **Notes of Success** program. The Notes of Success program promotes training and leadership development in the areas of PTA management, advocacy, education, and engagement. Participate in workshops, attend PTA events, complete projects to earn your certificate. When you complete the program, you will be recognized and get to come up on the state at the annual Tennessee PTA convention and get some bling. But more importantly, you will learn about the many aspects of PTA and learn leadership skills that will help you become a great leader. Visit the Tennessee PTA website page <http://www.tnpta.org/leadership.html> to get all the details and to get started. I am looking forward to having y'all on the stage with me at the next convention.

Kim Henderson, President-Elect

## National PTA's resources, guides and tips can help you achieve our mission.

[2017-2018 Back-to-School Kit \(PTAKit.org\)](#) Use this thorough guide to walk through every step of being a PTA leader, from Finance to Advocacy.

[E-Learning \(PTA.org/ELearning\)](#) New to being a PTA Leader or want to sharpen your skills? Watch one of our e-learning courses.

[Parent Guides to Student Success \(PTA.org/ParentGuides\)](#) These guides provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning in each grade.

[Family Guides \(PTA.org/Family Guides\)](#) See how you can support your child's learning at any age.

[State Assessment Guides \(PTA.org/AssessmentGuides\)](#) Get a breakdown of when and how students are assessed in your state.

[BeALearningHero.org](#) Use these tips and tricks to help reinforce what your child is learning at school, at home.

[Our Children Magazine \(PTAOurChildren.org\)](#) Read articles on everything from How to Raise a Leader to Launching a Homemade Rocket.

[Every Student Succeeds Act \(PTA.org/ESSA\)](#) If you haven't heard, there's a new law governing K-12 education this year. We break down what this means for you.

[Career and College Ready Member Event and Toolkit](#) This toolkit is designed to help child advocates learn the facts about college and career-readiness and speak up to ensure that every child's potential becomes a reality! It contains every-

**Tennessee PTA - Advocating Everyday, in Everyway, for Every Child**

**Tennessee PTA**  
1905 Acklen Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37212

PLACE  
STAMP  
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