



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Free State PTA: www.fspta.org
National PTA: www.pta.org

My January 2021 message started off with concerns about the effects of COVID-19 on all of us by way of quarantine, loss of income, personal loss, or illness. I hoped things would be better by the end of 2021, but improvements were short-lived. So my January 2022 message is similar to last year's, unfortunately.

The physical and mental health of students, families, and school communities have been affected by this virus. Check the County Health Department, BCPS website, and www.NPTA.org for resources.

The theme of our January Virtual General Meeting scheduled for 1/27/22 at 7pm will be Health and Safety in the Time of Covid-19.

We have amazing speakers lined up! See page 2 for details.

There's been progress with **the new Free State PTA and the former Maryland PTA**. Free State PTA is up and running, and federal/state

court cases are advancing against the former Maryland PTA. We recently shared (email and BCPS interoffice mail) information about protecting your unit; this information is available on Free State PTA's homepage, <https://www.fspta.org/> and on page 2 of this bulletin.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE CONSENT FORM TO BE TEMPORARILY UNDER THE DELAWARE PTA GROUP EXEMPTION TO AVOID LOSING YOUR TAX-EXEMPT STATUS!

Free State PTA has its tax-exempt status, but due to a federal IRS moratorium, can't currently use a group exemption. Since you're a PTA and the **old** state organization isn't, you risk losing your tax-exempt status unless you fill out the form.

Despite the change from the old state PTA organization to Free State PTA, your **financial responsibilities** haven't changed. You're still

responsible for filing all tax forms, as well as your Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act filing. For help, contact Emory Young (extension@bcptacouncil.org) or feel free to contact me.

Our **Awards Committee** is looking for your nominees for Volunteer recognition, as well as Seniors looking for scholarships. Information is in this bulletin and on our website.

Thank you for your commitment to the children of Baltimore County, especially in these trying times.

We're here to be a resource to you.

Please let us know how we can help.

Every child. One voice,
Jayne Lee
President, PTA Council of Baltimore County
410-446-1459
president@bcptacouncil.org

PTA COUNCIL ELECTIONS, SPRING 2022

All officer positions are open (President, 1st VP, VP for Leadership, Secretary, Treasurer, and Area VPs (Central, Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest). Nominations will be presented at our March General Meeting and elections will take place at our April General Meeting.

If interested in serving, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Frances Craig at nominatrice@bcptacouncil.org

**PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING &
HEALTH & SAFETY ROUNDTABLE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27 @ 7PM**

Health & Safety in the Time of COVID-19

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87174907630?pwd=SFVxSndHdU1nSlpzMHZaK002ZEFXdz09>

Our meetings are open to the public; you don't need to be a PTA member to attend!

Following a brief General Meeting, our program will feature the following panel:

- ⇒ Dr. Scott Krugman, Chair, BCPS School Health Council, Vice Chair of Pediatrics, Sinai Hospital: **The current state of COVID in our community**
- ⇒ Deborah Somerville, Director, BCPS Office of Health Services: **BCPS COVID mitigation efforts**
- ⇒ Trish Mustipher, LCSW-C, Coordinator, BCPS Mental Health Services: **Student social-emotional health supports**

To RSVP, please email president@bcptacouncil.org by 1/26/22!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO PROTECT YOUR UNIT!

In early January, we resent **important documents from National PTA and Free State PTA**. We also printed them and put them into BCPS interoffice mail before winter break.

PLEASE KNOW that these complicated matters created by the former Maryland PTA are being resolved and that your unit is safe and supported. You simply need to take some steps to assist in the transition. Guidance is available on the Free State PTA website, www.fspta.org.

⇒ **Review your bank account for any unauthorized withdrawals:** Withdrawals (likely \$98 and \$3) from “Maryland Interac MD GovPay” have been reported to Free State PTA. Neither National PTA nor Free State PTA made them.

⇒ **IRS Letter of Determination (proof of non-profit status):** Free State PTA can't currently use a group exemption due to an IRS moratorium. National PTA has proposed a *temporary solution* to allow PTA units to be covered by Delaware PTA's group exemption. You'll still be a Maryland corporation and file all Maryland tax forms. There will be no obligations to Delaware or changes in your day-to-day operations. **EVERY UNIT PRESIDENT** must complete, sign, and email to Free State PTA the **CONSENT FORM** found on the Free State PTA website's homepage.

⇒ **IRS Form 990 (due on 11/15/21):** Despite inappropriate actions by the former Maryland PTA to delete local units and councils in Maryland from the existing group exemption (National PTA is addressing this issue via the court system), your annual Form 990 must still be filed. When filling out the form, use the **Group Exemption Number 1999** for the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers Association, Inc.

**BOOK DONATION PROJECT:
ARBOR INITIATIVE**

In Summer 2020, a group of Dulaney High students started the non-profit Arbor Initiative to collect and donate books to K-8 students.

Arbor Initiative has partnered with over 15 different schools and non-profits to donate over 5,000 books to children in need.

Any PTAs interested in partnering with Arbor Initiative can contact Sue Hahn (shahn2@bcps.org) of the BCPS [Office of Family and Community Engagement](#).

**ADVANCED CHILD
TAX CREDIT**

[Advance Child Tax Credit Payments in 2021 | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

Information can be found on the main page of www.irs.gov by clicking on the banner marked "Get Details on the Advanced Child Tax Credit."

**SIGN UP FOR THE WEEKLY
BCPS E-NEWSLETTER**

[eNewsletter - Baltimore County Public Schools \(bcps.org\)](#)

BCPS PARENT UNIVERSITY

To access Parent University's bi-weekly newsletter, event calendar, and resources, visit:

https://cos.bcps.org/departments/communications/family_and_community_engagement/parent_university

**BCPS STAKEHOLDER
CLIMATE SURVEY OPENS ON
1/31/22****BCPS COMMUNICATIONS
QUESTIONNAIRE DUE 1/21/22**

How do you like to receive BCPS news and information?

<https://www.bcps.org/system/news/communicationsquestionnaire>

UPDATE FROM PTA COUNCIL REFLECTIONS CHAIR

Hope Metzler (reflections@bcptacouncil.org)

Local unit PTA submissions are at the county level for judging and will be submitted to FSPTA in late January. FSPTA announces recipients in March; NPTA announces recipients in May.

The PTA Council Reflections Ceremony is planned for Sunday, March 20 at 2pm. We'll keep you posted on whether the event will be in-person or virtual.

Watch the **National PTA Virtual Reflections Students Arts Showcase** on January 25 at 7pm. This event honors last year's winners. Get details and RSVP [here](#).

Slogan: "Reflect, Create, Celebrate!"

Website: <https://bcptacouncil.org/resources/reflections/> with link to <https://sites.google.com/view/bcreflect/home>

Facebook: @bcreflect ~ **Twitter:** @bcptareflec

**PTA COUNCIL RECOGNITION/SERVICE AWARDS
NOMINATIONS DUE 3/31/22**

Recipients recognized on April 28, 2022 at 7pm
PTA Council General Meeting, Elections, and Awards Ceremony

These awards are so meaningful to recipients, especially the Distinguished Service Award plaque!

PTAs having paid Council dues can submit nomination forms, which can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.bcptacouncil.org/awards/top-program-awards/>

Each local PTA/PTSA may **nominate ONE individual** (parent, teacher, administrator, staff member, PTA volunteer, etc.) for recognition, which is awarded at three levels (PTA Council Awards Committee determines which level is warranted):

Certificate of Appreciation: awarded for outstanding service to a local PTA/PTSA

Special Recognition Award: awarded to those whose work has had a positive effect beyond the local unit

Distinguished Service Award: awarded to those who have served in a variety of PTA/PTSA activities for a long time and have accomplished a great deal, or those who managed to do something truly outstanding in a very short period of time

For more information, email awards@bcptacouncil.org or visit our website: <http://bcptacouncil.org/awards/top-program-awards/>

PTA COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer scholarships to BCPS high school seniors; selections are made in May based on the following factors:

Student's membership in a Baltimore County PTA in good standing ~ Financial Need
Academic Record ~ Student Resume ~ Essay

In addition to regular scholarships, PTA Council grants two special scholarships:

- ⇒ **The Georgie Clevenger Memorial Scholarship** for a graduating senior planning on a career in nursing
- ⇒ **The Marilyn Ryan Memorial Scholarship** for a graduating senior with exceptional volunteering or community service

Application due on 4/28/2022! Find application & details here:
<http://bcptacouncil.org/scholarships/>

2021-22 PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR*General Meetings and Special Events*

January 27, 2022: Meeting and Program (see page 2 for details)

March 20, 2022: Reflections Ceremony, 2pm

March 31, 2022: Meeting and Program, 7pm

April 28, 2022: Meeting, Elections, Awards, 7pm

June 6, 2022: Council Leadership Training, 7pm

Board of Directors' Meeting

Thursdays @ 7pm in
Greenwood Mansion Boardroom
6901 Charles St., Towson
(virtual until further notice)

2022:

January 6, February 3, March 3,
April 7, May 5, June 2

HOW TO FIND US!

Mailing address: c/o President Jayne Lee
2311 Sugarcone Rd., Baltimore MD 21209

Website: www.bcptacouncil.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCPTAC>

President: Jayne Lee, president@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Central Area Christina Pumphrey
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Area VP Northeast Area Frances Craig
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Area VP Northwest Area: Ryan Coleman
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Area VP Southeast Area: Will Feuer
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Secretary: Leslie Weber
secretary@bcptacouncil.org

Treasurer: John Ryan
treasurer@bcptacouncil.org

LEADER'S TO-DO LIST**JANUARY**

- Pay FSPTA and NPTA dues
- Review awards packet.
- Review bylaws to determine date and process for selection of local PTA Nominating Committee
- Start thinking about filing MD Annual Report and/or Personal Property Tax Return (see <http://bcptacouncil.org/personal-property-taxes/> for details)
- If not yet done, file 990 and MD Charitable Solicitations Form (for help, contact Jayne Lee or John Ryan; forms must be filed to retain status as active PTA and fundraise in Maryland)

FEBRUARY

- Pay FSPTA and NPTA membership dues
- Review awards packet
- 990 form due if extension was filed in November

**NATIONAL PTA CONVENTION
JUNE 14-19, NATIONAL HARBOR**

Meet your Legislators on June 14th, "Hill Day"

More details to follow!