

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Free State PTA: [www.fspta.org](http://www.fspta.org)  
National PTA: [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

Happy (almost) Spring! Things seem to finally be getting back to normal after a very long and difficult 2 years.

Even though the COVID-19 situation has improved, we plan to hold **our March 31st General Meeting** virtually since we've found that attendance is much better among local leaders who are busy running their own units (in addition to work and family demands).

If your unit is holding **elections** this Spring, it's time to put your nominating committee in place. This committee identifies new leaders to keep your unit moving forward. If you need help with nominations or the election process, contact us.

**Regarding important fiduciary duties**, if your PTA hasn't filed its IRS 990 Form (due 11/15) or Maryland Charitable Tax Form (due 12/31), or you need help filing your

Maryland Personal Property Tax Form (due 4/15), we can help.

**National PTA and Free State PTA membership dues:** while you should continue selling memberships and collecting dues, to be in "good standing," you must remit dues for at least 10 members by March 31! See page 3 for details.

So March 31st continues to be an important day. It's also the day PTAs must submit a **consent form to Free State PTA to fall under Delaware PTA's group exemption.** See page 2 for details.

**PTA Council elections** will be held at our April General Meeting and all positions are open. Consider stepping up to help us serve local units. Or let us know of a former leader who could help. Contact our nominating committee at [nominat@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:nominat@bcptacouncil.org)

See page 4 for information on PTA Council **scholarships** and submitting nominees for **Council Recognition/Service Awards.** Every PTA should submit people for recognition!

Use this [link](#) to get an update from National PTA regarding litigation involving the former Maryland PTA.

Lastly, we're looking for YOUR input on future programs, forums, and events. This is your Council, and we take direction from membership. Let us know what you need, want, or suggest by writing to [baltimorecountyppta@gmail.com](mailto:baltimorecountyppta@gmail.com).

*Every child. One voice,*  
Jayne Lee  
President, PTA Council of Baltimore County  
410-446-1459  
[president@bcptacouncil.org](mailto: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 31st General Meeting and elections will take place at our April 28th General Meeting.

If interested in serving, please contact  
Nominating Committee Chair Frances Craig at [nominat@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:nominat@bcptacouncil.org)

**PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM  
THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022 AT 7PM**

After a brief General Meeting (nominations for PTA Council elections will be discussed), we'll break out into 3 sessions:

- ⇒ Bylaws
- ⇒ Holding elections (in-person, virtual, or hybrid)
- ⇒ BCPS's Community Schools Initiative

**To RSVP, please email [president@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:president@bcptacouncil.org) by 3/30/22!**

**NATIONAL PTA'S DAY OF SERVICE**

<https://www.pta.org/home/events/125th-anniversary/day-of-service>

You can host service projects focused on one of these themes:

**Health and Wellness ~ Arts and Education ~ A Better Environment**

PTAs can host service projects between Feb. 17 and June 30 in honor of PTA's 125 years of legacy and impact as an advocate for every child's education and well-being, a leader in family, school and community partnerships, and a champion for a more equitable future for all children.

Registration is open from Feb. 17 to June 10. Register your project early, because the first 125 PTAs to register will receive \$300 to use for your PTA Day of Service event and a Celebration Kit.

National PTA will recognize PTAs for their event. You'll earn a badge when you register to share on your website and social media channels and your PTA will be recognized at the National PTA Convention.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO PROTECT YOUR UNIT!**

In early January, we emailed and mailed **important documents from National PTA and Free State PTA**.

**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](http://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 NPTA nor FSPTA made them.

⇒ **IRS Letter of Determination (proof of non-profit status):** FSPTA can't currently use a group exemption due to an IRS moratorium. NPTA 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 FSPTA the **CONSENT FORM** found on the FSPTA website's homepage.

***THIS CONSENT FORM IS DUE TO FREE STATE PTA BY MARCH 31!***

## **LYRIC BALTIMORE'S EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S 5th ANNUAL DREAM BIG CONTEST**

The Dream Big Contest, open to all Baltimore City and Baltimore County students in Grades 5– 12, encourages students to imagine creative solutions to real-life inequities experienced by them and others. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s I Have a Dream speech, the contest asks students to consider their big dreams for their lives, communities, and schools then submit:

- ⇒ **1-page poem;**
- ⇒ **300-word essay; OR**
- ⇒ **1-minute video bringing that dream to life**

Contest finalists, known as "Visionaries," will share their works on the Lyric's stage at an Awards Celebration on **Monday, April 18, 2022**, hosted by WBAL-TV anchor Jason Newton, and aired on WBAL-TV 11. Maryland State Senator, Cory V. McCray, District 45, will provide the keynote address, and an opening performance will be given by local spoken word artist, Sha-Shonna Rogers.

The six Visionaries will receive a prize package estimated at \$750 in value. The other notable contest winners, acknowledged in 2022 as "Dreamers," will also be in attendance and receive awards.

- ⇒ Entries accepted until March 11, 2022
- ⇒ One entry per student
- ⇒ For more information and contest rules, go to [lyriceducation.com](http://lyriceducation.com) or [lyricbaltimore.com](http://lyricbaltimore.com)

## **SOUTHEAST AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDY INPUT NEEDED**

Baltimore County Public Schools is currently evaluating options for improving facility conditions and providing capacity relief to high schools in the Southeast Area (Dundalk, Patapsco, and Sparrows Point)

### **Virtual Community Forum Dates:**

Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 6:30 – 8 p.m. AND Thursday, April 21, 2022, 6:30 – 8 p.m

More details at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org) under Highlights

## **MSDE VIRTUAL FAMILY ROUNDTABLE**

In January, MSDE's Office of Communications and Community Engagement held a Virtual Family Roundtable featuring State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury and State Board of Education Representative Lori Morrow who talked with parents and guardians about the future of education in Maryland.

You can watch the YouTube livestream at [youtube.com/watch?v=Asa36mPxmzY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Asa36mPxmzY)

### **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](https://cos.bcps.org/departments/communications/family_and_community_engagement/parent_university)

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

[eNewsletter - Baltimore County Public Schools  
\(bcps.org\)](http://bcps.org)

## **NATIONAL PTA & FREE STATE PTA MEMBERSHIP DUES!**

To remain in "good standing," your unit must pay National PTA and Free State dues for **at least 10 members by March 31!** You should still continue to sell memberships and collect dues.

Dues can be remitted by using the form at this link: <https://www.fspta.org/membership>

**UPDATE FROM PTA COUNCIL REFLECTIONS CHAIR**Hope Metzler ([reflections@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:reflections@bcptacouncil.org))

PTA Council has submitted entries to Free State PTA, which announces recipients in March;  
National PTA announces recipients in May.

**The PTA Council Reflections Ceremony is planned for Sunday, March 20 at 2pm.**

**We're hoping to hold a hybrid event at Cockeysville Middle's multi-purpose room.  
Invitations will be coming soon!**

**Website:** <https://bcptacouncil.org/resources/reflections/> with link to:

<https://sites.google.com/view/bcreflect/home>

**Facebook:** @bcreflect

**Twitter:** @bcptareflec

**COUNCIL RECOGNITION/SERVICE AWARD 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, awarded at 3 levels (PTA Council Awards Committee determines level warranted):

**Certificate of Appreciation:** for outstanding service to a local PTA

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

**Distinguished Service Award:** for those who've served in a variety of PTA activities for a long time and have accomplished a great deal, or those who did something truly outstanding in a very short period of time

For more information, email [awards@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:awards@bcptacouncil.org) or visit our website:

<http://bcptacouncil.org/awards/top-program-awards/>

**PTA COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BCPS GRADUATING SENIORS**

We offer scholarships to BCPS high school seniors; the following factors are considered:

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:**

⇒ **Georgie Clevenger Memorial Scholarship** for a senior planning on a nursing career

⇒ **Marilyn Ryan Memorial Scholarship** for a senior with exceptional volunteering or community service

**Application due on 4/28/2022; selections made in May. Find application & details here:**

<http://bcptacouncil.org/scholarships/>

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

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' Meetings*

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

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](http://www.bcptacouncil.org)

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

President: Jayne Lee, [president@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:president@bcptacouncil.org)

Area VP Central Area Christina Pumphrey

[avpcanc@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:avpcanc@bcptacouncil.org)

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

[avpsenc@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:avpsenc@bcptacouncil.org)

Secretary: Leslie Weber

[secretary@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:secretary@bcptacouncil.org)

Treasurer: John Ryan

[treasurer@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:treasurer@bcptacouncil.org)

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

- Pay FSPTA and National PTA dues
- Review bylaws to determine date and process for selection of local unit PTA Nominating Committee
- Council award nominations due 3/31

**APRIL**

- Pay FSPTA and National PTA dues
- Personal Property Tax Returns due by 4/15; all PTAs must file to maintain incorporation status (<http://bcptacouncil.org/personal-property-taxes/>)
- Council scholarship nominations due 4/28
- Publish your nominating committee's slate of officers; check your bylaws for specifics
- Elect officers for next school year; see bylaws for correct election

**SAVE THE DATES:  
FREE STATE PTA AND NATIONAL PTA CONVENTIONS**

Free State PTA VIRTUAL Convention: July 28-31

National PTA Convention: June 14-19 at National Harbor

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

**More details to follow!**