

Baltimore County Council

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PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc. | Established 1950

<https://www.bcptacouncil.org> Free State PTA: <https://www.fspta.org> National PTA: <https://www.pta.org>

MARCH 2024 | BULLETIN

President's Letter

It's hard to believe that this is the next-to-last PTA Council bulletin. We'll publish our last one in May. Here are a few key items:

- PTA Council General Meeting on 3/21 (virtual)
- Reflections Ceremony on 4/7 (date change)
- Maryland Personal Property Report due on 4/15 - this is **CRUCIAL** to remain an active corporation in Maryland and needs to be filed by **ALL UNITS even if they own no personal property!**
- PTA Council General Meeting and Elections on 4/25
- PTA Council Scholarships (applications due 5/10)

Mark your calendars for our **March General Meeting** on Thursday, 3/21 at 7pm via Zoom. After a brief business meeting, attendees will take part in a health and safety forum which is being planned. Hope to see you there!

Thanks to the Presidents who attended our February and March **BCPS Leadership-PTA Meetings**. We hope you continue to find them useful.

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.

National PTA and Free State PTA membership dues: while you should continue selling memberships and collecting dues, to be in "good standing" and to determine the number of delegates you may send to the Free State PTA Convention, you must remit dues for at least 10 members by March 31!

Thank you for all you do to help "make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."

Feel free to contact me or any of our board members for ANY HELP YOU NEED!

Every child. One voice,

President

Leslie Weber, President president@bcptacouncil.org 410-227-7631

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Leaders' To-Do List

MARCH

- Pay FSPTA and National PTA dues
- Review bylaws to determine date/process for selecting PTA Nominating Committee
- Share Council Scholarship Application (due 5/10)

APRIL

- Celebrate Reflections participants at the award ceremony 4/7
- Pay FSPTA and National PTA dues
- Personal Property Report due by 4/15; all PTAs must file ONLINE to maintain incorporation status (<http://bcptacouncil.org/personal-property-taxes/>)
- Share Council Scholarship Application due 5/10
- Publish your nominating committee's slate of officers; check your bylaws for specifics
- Elect officers for next school year; see bylaws for correct election month

Standards Of Affiliation (SoA)

In addition to paying member dues and providing officer contact information to Free State PTA (FSPTA), you must take care of the following:

- ✓ **BYLAWS:** Bylaws need to be reviewed at least every 3 years and submitted to FSPTA for approval. All units should have submitted bylaws to FSPTA by 6/1/23. If you still need to do this, use the template here: <https://www.fspta.org/bylaws>
- ✓ **FINANCIAL REVIEW (AUDIT):** All PTAs must conduct an annual financial review (due 10/30) and email a copy to FSPTA at soa@fspta.org. Refer to Free State PTA Financial Guide (where) in the Finances section of our website for a sample report.
- ✓ **INSURANCE:** Every PTA unit in Maryland must have insurance coverage through AIM. Enrollment forms were emailed to all PTAs. Coverage ended 6/30/23. See the PTA Council website's Finances/Insurance section for details.
- ✓ **IRS 990:** Every PTA must file annually by 11/15. If annual gross income was \$50,000 or less, you can submit the 990 e-postcard. Provide a copy of the 990 filing to FSPTA at soa@fspta.org. More details here: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-and-nonprofits>.
- ✓ **MARYLAND CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS ACT UPDATE:** As a charitable organization soliciting in Maryland, your unit must file documents with the Office of the Secretary of State. Registration is required prior to the commencement of solicitations (for new units) and an annual update is required. <https://sos.maryland.gov/Charity/Pages/Registering-Charity.aspx>
- ✓ **INCORPORATION/MARYLAND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RETURN:** All local PTAs must be incorporated in Maryland. To maintain your incorporation status, a Personal Property Tax Return must be filed by April 15 each year if your PTA owns any property or not. Send a copy to FSPTA at soa@fspta.org. Check your status here: www.dat.state.md.us. If your unit is not incorporated or the incorporation needs to be revived, contact FSPTA.

For all shared documents, be sure to keep copies for yourself!

FSPTA strongly encourages units to submit SoA documents via GiveBacks (formerly MemberHub)!

MARYLAND PERSONAL PROPERTY REPORT

Even though your unit likely owns no personal property, you must submit (online form) a Maryland Personal Property Report every year to remain a corporation in "good standing" with the state. This report is due on April 15.

Filing this report is one of your unit's Standards of Affiliation (SoA). You need to file to make sure the state knows your unit/corporation is still in operation.

- The Annual Report must be filed by all PTAs. [NOTE: The Annual Report form does not solicit income information and must be filed regardless of income.]
- The Personal Property Tax return must be filed only by those PTAs, if any, that actually own personal property.

Info here: <https://dat.maryland.gov/Pages/sdatforms.aspx#BPP>

ANNUAL REPORTS & PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RETURNS

Email: SDAT.PersProp@Maryland.gov for questions regarding Personal Property Tax Return

The simplest and easiest method to file both the Annual Report and Personal Property Tax Return is through [Maryland Business Express \(MBE\)](#). As you answer the prompts in filing the Annual Report electronically, MBE will automatically identify whether a Personal Property Tax Return is required.

All business entities formed, qualified, or registered to do business in Maryland MUST file an Annual Report and, if they answer 'Yes' to either of the following questions, MUST ALSO file a Personal Property Tax Return. If this applies to your business entity, please file both the Annual Report and Business Personal Property Return together.

- Does the business own, lease, or use personal property located in Maryland?
- Does the business maintain a trader's license with a local unit of government in Maryland?

To file electronically, go to Maryland Business Express at <https://egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress> – search on your unit's name.

You'll need to register the first time you visit, but the process is quick and easy.

In the red box on the left, you'll find a link to file your report:

Please go [HERE](#) to file your Annual Report. A 2-month **extension request** for filing the Annual Report and Personal Property Tax Return may be filed [here](#).

All PTAs are "Domestic Non-Stock Corporations."

Once you've filed for your unit online, the SDAT's online filing system allows you to pull up that information as your starting point the next year. You also can print copies of filings or save them as pdfs, which is highly advisable, even though it's easy to confirm filing and access the information included in the report at any time using that feature of SDAT's website.

Please forward a copy to Free State PTA at soa@fspta.org or upload into GiveBacks.

*In accordance with Maryland PTA bylaws, all local PTA units are required to be incorporated, meaning that, at a minimum, an Annual Report must be filed with SDAT annually (by April 15, unless you have obtained an extension). Failure to file can result in financial penalties and loss of corporate status. If you find your PTA's charter has been forfeited, please contact Free State PTA or PTA Council for help reviving your unit. If you'd like to check on the status of your PTA, you can do that using the Entity Search feature of Maryland Business Express: <https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch>.

QUESTIONS?: Please contact John Ryan, Treasurer (410-665-4450 or e-mail treasurer@bcptacouncil.org)

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; Essay; Academic Record; Student Resume

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 5/10/2024! The application is on our website!

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

The application will also be shared with BCPS Guidance Departments.

Awardees will be recognized at our in-person Leadership Training Event on June 10 at 7pm, location to be determined.

PTA COUNCIL AWARDS

Due to diminishing interest, PTA Council will not conduct its award program this year. We hope to revamp the program over the summer. We need a dynamic Committee Chair to fill this vacant position on our board. Please contact us if you're interested in serving!



BCPS Parent University FACEtime Newsletter

Access resources and read their monthly newsletter here!

https://www.bcps.org/cos/communications/FACE/parent_university/f_a_c_etim_e_newslet

FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (FSCP)

Chair Ramona Basilio (familyschool@bcptacouncil.org)

We're proud to announce that a member of our Multilingual Community Partnership (MLCP) Subcommittee, Parkville High School Spanish teacher Edwin Pérez, was honored as the 2024 Latinx Educator of the Year by the Latinx Education Collaborative (LEC)!

The award was presented during the Latinx Educator Awards Reception held on Friday, March 8, in Kansas City, MO.

This year, 116 educators from many states were nominated for the Educator of the Year honor. Mr. Pérez was selected as the award recipient by a review committee comprised of LEC Educator Advisory Board members who are past recipients of the award. Reviewers considered how nominees reflected the "Latinx Educator Values" of community, authenticity, impact, personal growth, and integrity.

Mr. Pérez has a working knowledge of how discrimination affects all students, but especially students of color and Latinx students. He uses his voice and his pen to speak up and out for his students. Also, he encourages his students to be leaders in the schoolhouse and the local community. He deeply believes that all students have the right to a first-rate education to compete in this global society. He not only speaks out for his students, but Mr. Pérez is a leader for educators: he is the chairperson for the Minority Affairs Committee of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County (TABCO).

Update from PTA Council's Reflections Chair



Reflections Open House Art Exhibition and Awards Ceremony will be held

Sunday, April 7, 2-4pm

StarTUp at the Armory

307 Washington Ave., Towson, MD 21204

Come to the event to view artwork from our young artists, learn more about the program, and watch them receive recognition for their artistic creations. You are welcome to stay for the exhibition only or for the exhibition and the awards.

**** EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A FREE EVENT, YOU MUST REGISTER EACH PERSON ATTENDING USING THIS LINK:**

[HTTPS://PTA-REFLECTIONS.TICKETLEAP.COM/2024/DETAILS](https://pta-reflections.ticketleap.com/2024/details)

Reflections Theme: 2023-24 "I am Hopeful Because..."

Website: <https://bcptacouncil.org/resources/reflections/>

Facebook: @bcreflect ~ Twitter: @bcptareflec

PTA Council Advocacy and Legislation Committee

Chair Beth Jarrett has offered this update on what her committee has been involved with recently:

1. Attended Advocacy Day in Annapolis with Free State PTA. Discussed legislative priorities, attended committee meetings, and held a dinner/reception with legislators and other MD PTA leaders.
2. Attended LegCon in Washington, DC with Free State PTA. Legislative Priorities:
 - gun violence prevention
 - supportive and inclusive schools
 - digital safety
 - family engagement
 - Met with Jamie Raskin, David Trone, and Chris Van Hollen, and with staffers from the offices of Dutch Ruppersberger, Andrew Harris, Steny Hoyer, Ben Cardin.
3. MD Bills we are following
 - HB0198; SB126 - allowing school volunteers to receive a \$20 credit for each volunteer hour worked.
 - HB495; SB078 - making the School Board Nominating Commission records subject to disclosure requirements and open to the public.
 - HB416; SB432 - requiring schools to notify parents before active shooter drills, and to follow certain requirements to ensure the safety of students' mental health. Also requiring schools to send home information about safe gun storage.
 - HB1147 - putting restrictions around the type of play surface used when installing playgrounds in order to reduce childhood exposure to lead, PAH and PFAS.
 - HB1007; SB766 - Allowing the state to collect funds and fully fund public services such as educational programs.
 - HB1418 - encouraging Maryland schools to start middle school after 8am, and high school after 8:30am.

2023-24 PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR

General Meetings and Special Events (virtual or in-person, to be decided based on BCPS policy and health conditions)

- March 21, 2024: Meeting/Program, 7pm
- April 7, 2024: Reflections Open House Art Exhibition and Awards Ceremony, 2pm
- April 25, 2024: Meeting, Council Elections, 7pm
- June 10, 2024: Officer Training, 7pm

Board of Directors' Virtual Meetings

First Thursday of the month @ 7pm (if interested in attending, please request a link):

- April 4
- May 2
- June 6

PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING & PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 @ 7PM VIA ZOOM

Following a brief General Meeting, which includes our Nominating Committee announcing our slate of officers, we will host a health and safety program.

Topics will include

- Social Media & Teens: Do you think your kids are safe on their phones? Think again!
- BCPS Meals Improvements
- And MORE!

Our meetings are open to the public; you don't need to be a PTA member to attend! Only voting delegates (up to 4) named by a PTA/PTSA unit president may vote in the business portion of the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3948082958>

To RSVP, email president@bcptacouncil.org by 3/20/24!

PTA Council Leadership Contacts

Officers:

President: Leslie Weber, president@bcptacouncil.org

VP for Leadership: Jayne Lee, baltimorecountyppta@gmail.com

Area VP Northwest Area: Ryan Coleman, avpnwnc@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Southeast Area: Will Feuer, avpsenc@bcptacouncil.org

Secretary: Andra Broadwater, secretary@bcptacouncil.org

Treasurer: John Ryan, treasurer@bcptacouncil.org



Committees:

Advocacy & Legislation: Beth Jarrett, legislation@bcptacouncil.org

Awards, Recognition & Scholarships: Open

Communications: Hope Metzler, communications@bcptacouncil.org

Curriculum & Instruction: Open

 Exceptional Students Subcommittee: Jason Dowell, exceptional@bcptacouncil.org

Extension: Emory Young, extension@bcptacouncil.org

Family, School & Community Partnerships: Ramona Basilio, familyschool@bcptacouncil.org

Health & Safety: Andra Broadwater, health@bcptacouncil.org

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion: Tyrone Bullock, Jr., diversity@bcptacouncil.org

Nominating Committee: Beth Jarrett, legislation@bcptacouncil.org

Reflections: Hope Metzler, reflections@bcptacouncil.org

Representatives:

Baltimore County Student Councils: Open

Baltimore County Public Schools: Sue Hahn, shahn2@bcps.org

Teachers' Association of Baltimore County: Kelly Olds