



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

On Wednesday, May 12th, **council presidents met with National PTA President Leslie Boggs and the National Support Team for Maryland** to get updates on the new state unit and to have questions answered.

I am happy to report that **Free State PTA has been incorporated** and paperwork submitted for our nonprofit status.

Many questions were asked concerning statements made during a recent meeting called by a new alliance asking local PTAs to join them.

Another FAQ letter (see page 3 for the first National PTA FAQ document) will come out shortly, and National PTA will be inviting locals to another meeting at which you will have the opportunity to ask additional questions.

In the meantime, I want to assure you about a few issues on which many of you expressed concern.

First, each local PTA is its own corporation; you have your own EIN#, and your own corporate name.

Those names and numbers are yours as are your bank accounts and any other assets.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PAY ANY OTHER GROUP in order to keep your EIN#, name, or bank account.

Our National Association wants you to know that they have your back and will support you as we embark on an exciting new venture. You will be part of your new state PTA that will always answer to YOU, the membership.

National PTA has asked us to col-

lect officer names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses (PTA emails and/or personal ones), position and start/end dates of term of office.

As you hold your elections, please forward your list to me at baltimore-countypta@gmail.com and in the subject list your PTA's name. If this is not an election year, please send the information as well so we can make sure our information is accurate.

As a council, we will continue to be a resource to you. Feel free to contact us with any questions, thoughts or ideas.

Every child. One voice.
Jayne H. Lee
President
president@bcptacouncil.org
410-446-1549

LEADERSHIP TRAINING & PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING/ELECTIONS MONDAY, 6/14/21, 7-9PM

- ⇒ Training for Incoming Officers and Committee Chairs
- ⇒ PTA Council Officer Elections; nominations can be made from the floor for all positions
- ⇒ If your student is graduating or if you know a past leader who could help support local units by serving on the PTA Council Board, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Frances Craig at nominationne@bcptacouncil.org.

RSVP by 6/13/21 to baltimorecountyppta@gmail.com.
A Zoom link will be sent to registrants before the meeting.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL PTA

The National PTA-assigned Support Team for Maryland, as well as many National PTA staff members and volunteers, have been working on your behalf, and a lot has been accomplished.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Incorporation of New State Entity.** The Free State PTA has been created, and the Articles of Incorporation were accepted.
- **Nonprofit Status.** The IRS Form 1023 has been filed, and we are waiting for confirmation of acceptance and are prepared to file for group exemption once that confirmation has been received.
- **Cease and Desist Actions.** The leaders of the former state entity and their attorney have been advised of their violations of PTA's names and brands. They have been told to cease and desist. We are tracking violations and will pursue their willful negligence in correcting their communication vehicles through legal action as necessary.

COMING SOON: Website ~ Facebook Page ~ Free State PTA Meeting Announcement ~ Reflections Recognition ~ Resources and Training

NEEDS:

- **Bylaws Survey.** A link to a survey to gather your feedback about the Free State PTA Bylaws will be distributed soon. Please look for it and respond by the deadline. Your voice is needed.
- **Trademark Infringement.** We have been receiving notifications from many of you that infringements have been occurring. We need your help in continuing to receive this information. Please forward any received trademark infringements to mdpta@pta.org.
- **Use of PTA Information.** We are aware that many are concerned that they continue to receive emails from the former state PTA leaders, now under the name, The Alliance for Maryland Parents, Teachers, & Students. While we pursue trademark violations, the power to stop their access to you is in your hands. You may, if you choose:
 - ⇒ Unsubscribe from the distribution list.
 - ⇒ Follow the instructions from their communication platform, Constant Contact, Inc., and report the unwarranted use of your information. More information can be found here: <https://www.constantcontact.com/legal/customer-contact-data-notice>.
 - ⇒ Consider using the following statement if reporting abuse: *National PTA is the owner of multiple trademarks—including but not limited to PTA, PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION, PTSA, PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION, CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS, REFLECTIONS—and grants license to use those trademarks and the related logos only by those organizations directly affiliated with the National PTA. This group is not affiliated with National PTA, has been notified to cease and desist, and is considered as willfully violating use of National PTA trademarks.*

NATIONAL PTA'S FAQ FOR MARYLAND LEADERS[Frequently Asked Questions Maryland](#)

This is the document promised at the National PTA Virtual Meeting with Maryland leaders.

STANDARDS OF CONTINUING AFFILIATION (SoCA)

ALL local units are in "Good Standing" since the former Maryland PTA didn't offer training, services, or resources this school year. You must still carry out your legal/fiduciary responsibilities (file a federal tax return, file the MD Charitable Solicitations Act report, file your MD Personal Property Tax Report, and pay dues to National PTA).

**UPCOMING FREE STATE PTA MEETING/CONVENTION
PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING!**

PTA Council urges you to consider attending the State Convention being planned and think about what YOU want the new state PTA organization to be. Electing the right leaders and creating appropriate bylaws are crucial!

FIRE MARSHAL CROWD MANAGER TRAINING

Did you know that if your PTA hosts an event, some volunteers present need to be trained in crowd management? Here's the link to sign up for this training: <https://crowdmanagers.com>

SEND US YOUR OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION!

As noted in the president's letter, **PTA Council and National PTA need contact information** (name, mailing address, number(s), email (PTA email and/or personal), position, and start/end dates of term of office) for every unit's President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary. PTA Council will consolidate this information to pass on to National PTA.

As you hold your elections, send your list to baltimorecountyppta@gmail.com with your PTA's name in the subject line. Even if it's not an election year for your unit, please send the information for officers continuing in their positions.

NEWS FROM PTA COUNCIL'S HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

We still have donations of **cloth masks** to share with your teachers, staff, and students. **Please go to <https://masks4bc.org> to request masks**, organize donors, and leave comments. And feel free to share the link - we intend to service all BCPS schools, not just those with PTAs!

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Andra Broadwater or Hope Metzler
health@bcptacouncil.org

SUPERINTENDENT'S MAY 2021 LETTER

Dear Team BCPS educators and families,

In my last note to you for this school year, I offer a wealth of gratitude.

May begins each year with Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you to all educators for your hard work and your commitment to our children, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Our teachers make me so proud, and I enjoy witnessing your connections with students during my virtual and in-person visits. Our community will share support at #ThxBCPSTEACHERS from May 3 – 7, 2021.

Our teacher celebrations include last month's naming of Brianna Ross, a history teacher at Deer Park Middle Magnet School, as [BCPS 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year](#) by a selection committee composed of students, staff, and TABCO. Congratulations to Ms. Ross!

[Most of our schools nominated a teacher of the year](#), including three additional finalists for the BCPS title: Stephanie Lawrence of Milford Mill Academy, Sheryl Metzbower of Carroll Manor Elementary School, and Kristine Saja of Sparrows Point High School.

I would also like to thank our families for your partnership. Your feedback has guided our steps from virtual to hybrid learning. It is our pleasure to provide options aligned to national, state, and local guidelines, including the opportunity for four days of in-person learning for students at elementary and public separate day schools, as well as select middle and high school students.

From May 17 – 21, 2021, please join us in Celebrating BCPS Principal Excellence at #ThxBCPSprincipals, to show how much we appreciate all school leaders. This celebration will take the place of Principal of the Year.

There is still plenty of time for learning and growth during May and June. I encourage both educators and students to finish strong. We will continue to provide the latest updates related to COVID-19 on our [home page](#).

Please take care,
Darryl L. Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MEMBERHUB

- ⇒ **Raise more funds and keep them in your school** with your own fundraising channel. Send PTA emails to your families, and local businesses sponsor the emails.
- ⇒ **Engage families.** Tools keep everyone in the loop.
- ⇒ For the time being, **DO NOT PAY DUES** via Memberhub! The link below has the form to remit dues (National PTA and state) directly to National PTA:

<http://bcptacouncil.org/resources/membership/>

IMPORTANT MEMBERHUB STATEMENT FOR LOCAL UNITS:

[MemberHub and Maryland PTA Local Units - FAQ – MemberHub Help Center](#)

NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS**2021-22 Theme:
“I Will Change the World By ...”**

Please consider naming a Reflections Chair for your unit and taking part in this wonderful annual arts appreciation program!

Read more about Reflections here:

<https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections>

**PTA COUNCIL
AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applications for both our annual awards and scholarships were due in late April. Thank you to all who applied! The committee will select recipients in June. Due to the Covid-19 emergency, we will announce recipients on our website. Physical awards (trophies or plaques) will be delivered to recipients when schools reopen or when other delivery methods can be arranged.

**FROM TABCO: WORK-TO-RULE
PARENTS' LETTER & FAQ**

<https://tabco.org/work-to-rule/>

PTA/PTSA Leader's Calendar**MAY**

- Continue to pay NPTA and state dues directly to NPTA
- Elect PTA officers for next school year; see bylaws for correct election month

JUNE

- PTA Council Virtual Board Meeting, June 3, 7pm
- PTA Council Virtual Leadership Training, June 14, 7pm
- End of PTA fiscal year, close books
- AIM Insurance coverage ends June 30

JULY/AUGUST

- Prepare final report for previous fiscal year
- Plan for financial review, prepare budget
- Choose PTA committee chairs, fill remaining board positions
- Treasurer transition; complete signature cards at PTA's bank
- Send financial review to president@bcptacouncil.org; reviews will be passed on to new state PTA organization

CAN EVERYONE FIND YOUR UNIT?

Make sure your PTA/PTSA is on your school's website!

Many units don't have a presence on the web. Ask your administration to include information on your unit and officers, including up-to-date contact information!

PTA COUNCIL "OFFICE"

Mail: c/o President Jayne Lee, 2311 Sugarcone Road, Baltimore, MD 21209

President: Jayne Lee president@bcptacouncil.org

Secretary: Leslie Weber secretary@bcptacouncil.org

Treasurer: John Ryan treasurer@bcptacouncil.org

Area VPs and Committee Chairs: contact information on website

Website: www.bcptacouncil.org

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

**VIRTUAL NATIONAL PTA
CONVENTION & EXPO
JULY 17-26**

Plan to attend at least some of the days of this fun and informative event!

Registration (\$75/person or \$60/person if registering as a group of 5) is OPEN; paying for delegates' registration fees is a valid PTA expense

READ MORE HERE:

<https://www.pta.org/home/events/National-PTA-Convention-Expo>

INSURANCE!

AIM is your insurance carrier. They will email renewal information to units. Insurance is effective 7/1/21 to 7/1/22. Any questions? Contact AIM via <https://aim-companies.com/> or call 1-800-876-4044.

PARENT UNIVERSITY

BCPS's Office of Family and Community Engagement hosts Parent University, an amazing resource for BCPS families! Access their extensive calendar of events [here](#).
Read their May e-news [here](#).

SUMMER'S THE TIME TO CONDUCT YOUR FINANCIAL REVIEW

It's best to have this done in July or August so your board can work on its 2021-22 budget.

Your budget should be presented to your members at your first General Meeting (usually Back-to-School Night).

If you need help with your review, contact us!

VIRTUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS GUIDANCE

Find it [here](#)!

MD DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES GREEN SPACE SURVEY DUE 5/31

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources seeks community input on the status of green spaces in your neighborhood. The goal is to inform the state and increase green/park space access for all communities.

Maryland residents age 18 and older can take the survey and will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a \$100 giftcard.

Share the survey with family and friends! https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_ensnSgmDSA8qfv7

**FROM NATIONAL PTA:
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING INPUT NEEDED!**

The recently passed American Rescue Plan Act provided substantial funding to each state for K-12 education.

National PTA has produced two fact sheets to help you understand how states and localities are allowed to use this funding and how your PTA might provide input on the planned use of these funds in your community. We encourage you to use these documents in your advocacy.

<http://bcptacouncil.org/national-pta-american-rescue-plan-act-fact-sheets/>

**FROM CCBC:
FAMILY LITERACY
ESOL PROGRAM**

Please share with your community!
Read more and find registration info here:

<http://bcptacouncil.org/ccbc-family-literacy-esol-summer-program/>

NOW'S THE TIME TO GET YOUR

**National PTA
Local PTA Leader Kit
&
Join the PTA Bootcamp**

www.ptakit.org