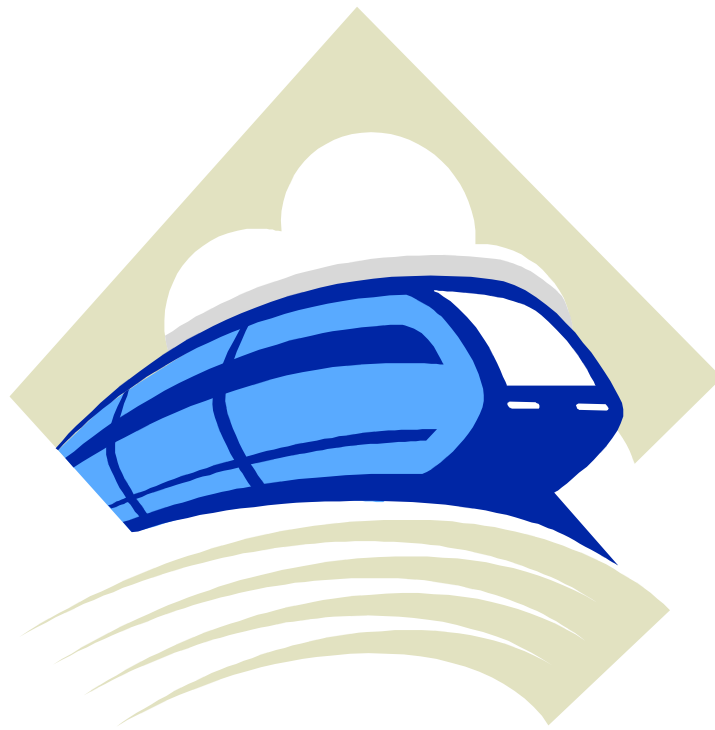


Maryland PTA

91ST FALL CONVENTION

Registration Information



Keeping on Track the PTA Way!

November 10 – 11, 2006
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
10100 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, Maryland 21842

Message from Your State President

September 2006

Dear PTA members,

Keeping on Track for the future of your PTA has never been easier. All you need to do is to plan to spend the weekend of Friday, November 10, and Saturday, November 11, 2006, with us at the Annual Fall Convention at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City. This convention will give you the opportunity to enhance your skills and knowledge about PTA so that you can keep on the track toward success. Your participation in our general sessions will not only expand your knowledge about the operation of PTA in general, but it will allow you to be an active participant in the governance of your organization.

Ride the waves of change to some exciting activities. Join us for:

- **Dr. Steve Constantino's Presentations** – Dr. Constantino will talk about ways to engage all families.
- **Celebrating Our Successes** – our own Awards Dinner – Come join the winners of Maryland PTA special awards and applaud the new and old Life Members.
- **Networking with Your County Council** – Enjoy this opportunity to meet folks from your county. You will be able to share ideas and discuss concerns.
- **Yoga for Everyone** – Show your support for National PTA's initiative for healthy lifestyles.
- **Exhibitor Hall** – Our exhibit hall will be full of exciting vendors displaying their products and services. A list of vendors will be provided in the Convention program booklet. The vendor area will be open during the two day convention but will be closed during the general sessions.
- **Silent Auction** – Once again, you will have the opportunity to bid on some excellent items—knowing that your purchases will support Maryland PTA's scholarship fund.
- We will have speakers from the National PTA as well as other well known presenters from across the country.
- Joining us for convention this year is our **National PTA** President-elect **Jan Harp Domene**.
- Stay tuned for other exciting keynote speakers who will be joining us, including State Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Nancy Grasmick** and 2006 Maryland and National Teacher of the Year **Kim Oliver**.

Someone once said, "Sometimes great knowledge lies in the discovery of something we did not anticipate, something that enlightens us to a new perspective. Then we are changed and enriched. Real discovery is a stairway that requires our participation, and begs us to climb, and climb some more." You can make a difference for your own PTA by becoming a knowledgeable leader. This is the perfect opportunity to learn and grow as a leader in PTA.

Thank you for all you do.

Warmly,



Message from the National PTA President

September 2006

Dear PTA friends,

Thank you for attending your state PTA convention. I appreciate you taking time out of your busy lives to renew your commitment to the children and youth of your communities. I thank you for all that you do and regret that I am unable to join you as you spend time with state board members and other delegates. I know that you are working hard to promote children's health and safety. I know you are also doing many excellent things to increase student achievement and encourage parent involvement. Our students are achieving and our public schools are strong because of the work that you do.

Rest assured that National PTA is also working hard to provide you with support and the resources you have requested to carry out your work. The board of directors and staff are committed to serving your PTA and your members as we work for children. The National PTA looks forward to bringing you a variety of services and member benefits.

I urge you to take all the information and resources that you gather while attending this convention and share it with your members. Take the time to talk to the state board members and other delegates attending this convention to learn new ideas that you can try in your PTA. Don't be afraid of change--try something new! Look for ways to be more inclusive to dads and parents in your community who are from other cultures and backgrounds. Learn ways to grow your membership and fine-tune your leadership skills. As you leave this convention, you will be a better leader. Your PTA will be stronger and better able to serve the needs of the children and families in your community.

Thank you for attending this convention. I applaud you for making the choice to be a part of the largest parent volunteer organization in the country that serves the needs of every child with one voice. Thank you for being PTA.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Weselak
National PTA President, 2005–2007

Maryland PTA 91st Annual Convention Tentative Agenda

Friday, November 10, 2006

7:00 am – 3:00 pm	Registration
7:00 am – 1:15 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
7:00 am - 8:30 am	Convention Orientation and Continental Breakfast – included in registration fee
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Workshop 1
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Workshop 2
12:00 noon - 1:15 pm	Lunch —On your own
1:30 pm – 5:30 pm	General Session I
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Celebrate Our Successes – Awards and Life Members Dinner – Ticket must be purchased at time of registration
9:20 pm	Wye Oak Reception

Saturday, November 11, 2006

6:30 am – 7:00 am	Healthy Lifestyles – Yoga for Everyone
7:00 am – 12 noon	Registration
7:00 am – 1:15 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast – included in registration fee
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Town Hall Meeting or Newcomers Orientation
8:45 am – 10:00 am	Workshop 3 – Dr. Steve Constantino – Involvement for All
10:15 am – 11:45 am	Workshop 4
11:50 am - 1:20 pm	Lunch – On your own—meet with your local County Council
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	General Session II
3:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Workshop 5
4:45 pm – 6:00 pm	General Session III

The Exhibit Hall and PTA Store will be closed during all General Sessions.

Convention Process.

Register Early

Attending the Maryland PTA Annual Fall Convention is an excellent way to gain and share information with other members from across the state, to participate in the business of the organization, and to reaffirm your commitment to the Purposes and Mission of PTA. Convention fees are a legitimate expense for your local PTA unit. You can save money when you register early.

Consider Becoming a Voting Member

According to the Maryland PTA bylaws, the local PTA President or alternate, two (2) other officers or their alternates, and one (1) delegate for each 50 members of a local PTA Unit In Good Standing as of March 31, 2006, are entitled to attend as voting delegates to the Convention. Contact your local unit president if you would like to attend as a voting delegate. Credential cards packet and forth coming for all PTAs that are in good standing.

Can only voting delegates attend the Convention?

NO! You may attend the workshops and the General Sessions (sitting in the non-voting area), visit the exhibit hall, the PTA Store and participate in all other areas of the convention that do not include voting privileges.

Wye Oak

Join the Wye Oak State Unit. This unit is for all those individuals who are not directly connected to a school but want to stay involved with parent involvement and education. There will be a general membership meeting for this unit during the convention so look for more information to follow.

Town Hall Meeting

National PTA is in the process of developing a Strategic Plan and need as much input and information from you, the grassroots leaders, as possible. There will be five areas of concern which will be addressed. Please plan on attending this interactive workshop with the President-Elect to voice your ideas and concerns as National PTA outlines their plans for the future. Let your voice be heard.

Select Your Workshops

Refer to the numbered workshops described in this booklet. Choose one workshop from each session and enter your selection on the registration form. **Workshops are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.** Be sure to give us your second choice selection for each session as well. There is **no guarantee** that space will be available for all workshops at on-site registration.

Complete the Registration Form

Complete the registration form found in the back of this packet. You may duplicate this form for any additional delegates. Forms may be downloaded from the Maryland PTA website www.mdpta.org Each delegate **must** complete a separate form. For each person registering, send the completed forms and registration fees to the Maryland PTA Office.

Include Payment

We will issue priority seating for workshops for delegates who have registered by Friday, October 13, 2006.

Early Bird (Must be in Maryland PTA office by Oct. 13)	\$100.00
Advanced (Must be in Maryland PTA office by Nov. 3)	\$115.00
Advanced Registration Student	\$40.00
On-Site – Adult	\$130.00
On-Site - Student	\$45.00
Non-Member Registration	\$150.00

Any forms received after November 3, 2006 will not be processed and you will have to register on site.

No refunds will be given. If you are unable to attend after registering, you may transfer your registration to another member at no additional charge. Please send your transfer request to the state office in writing.

Volunteering

If you would like to volunteer during the preparation phase at the state office the week before convention or to facilitate and aid during convention itself, please call 410-760-6221.

Meals

The meal tickets **MUST be pre-ordered** and paid for with your Early Bird or Advanced Registrations. **No meal tickets will be sold on site.** If you choose not to purchase these meals, you may dine in the resort facilities. Both meals are available to all convention attendees.

Celebrating Our Successes - Awards Dinner Cost \$35.00
Friday, November 10th, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Meet Your Council Members Luncheon Cost \$15.00
Saturday, November 11th, 11:40 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Mail or Fax Form to Maryland PTA

For each person registering, send the completed forms, and registration fees to the Maryland PTA Office. There **is no guarantee of admission to workshops.** Please register early. Additional forms may be downloaded from www.mdpta.org.

Hotel Registration

The 2006 Maryland PTA Fall Convention is being held at the:

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City

Reservations should be made directly with this facility.

Call the hotel at 800-638-2100 when making reservations.

When contacting Clarion Resort, **be sure to mention** that you are attending the **Maryland PTA Annual Fall Convention at the special rate of \$99.00 per night for a double room.**

Reservations must be made by October 17, 2006. All reservations made after the October 17th date will be charged regular rates.

General Information

General Session

General Sessions are meetings of the delegates at the convention. The Fall Convention is the only time of the year for the General Membership to vote on and direct the business of the organization. Bylaws, parliamentary procedure and process, keynote speakers, and the legislative program are just a few of the agenda items to be covered. Your participation is welcomed, encouraged, and necessary to the continuing growth of the PTA.

New this year – This registration package contains all of the information you need to prepare for the General Sessions. Look for the proposed bylaw amendments, the report of the nominating committee, and the proposed legislative platform.

Your attendance at the Fall Convention is your opportunity to be a part of the growth of this organization. To vote on any business concerning the bylaws, legislative agenda or the election of officers you must be a voting delegate. **When you arrive at the convention, you must present a photo ID, a 2006-2007 PTA membership card and a credential card with identical ID numbers from the same PTA to pick up your voting card.**

Silent Auction

Many surprises are available at this year's Silent Auction. Past items include getaway nights, airline tickets, VIP passes, Orioles tickets, and gift cards to numerous local businesses. All proceeds benefit the Maryland PTA Scholarship Fund, offering scholarships for high school graduates who plan to pursue a career in education in Maryland public schools.

PTA Store

The Maryland PTA Store will be open during the Convention for all of your PTA shopping. Pins and the distinctive red PTA shirt will be available for you to purchase for your own use or to use as recognition for volunteers will be available. Method of payment is by cash, check or credit card.

Exhibitors

This year's Exhibit Hall will feature vendors showcasing new products, resources, fundraising ideas, technology and education information. A list of exhibitors will be found in the Convention Program.

Yoga

National PTA is promoting *Healthy Lifestyles for the Family*. In support of this, Maryland PTA will offer the opportunity for you to try yoga! Join our president, Mary Jo Neil, in a short session Saturday morning that will give you the opportunity to learn more about an exercise meant to help both body and mind!

Workshops

Workshop Session 1 Friday, November 10, 2006 9:15 am – 10:15 am

101 Treasurer 101

Are you new to the role of Treasurer? Are you not quite sure about this role? This course will cover the basics from your role in developing the budget to reporting that budget to maintaining that budget during the year. You'll learn not only what you need to do but why it is important to do it! **(LEADers)**

102 Creating a Visionary PTA

Propel your PTA to new heights through creative brainstorming. Learn how to goal set, add new programs, refresh your PTA and align your yearly goals with those of National PTA. **(LEADers)**

103 Resolutions

PTA Resolutions are documents that outline the opinion of your local PTA in addressing a variety of situations. Your PTA's resolutions raise the level of concern and give a call to action to seek resolution on a particular issue. Learn how to propose, draft and enact a resolution, so that your PTA can be heard. **(LEADers)**

104 PTA Secretaries: Gatekeepers of Information

One of the most important positions in your PTA is that of Secretary! He/She holds the key to important information, legal notes and the very work of the PTA in accurate minutes. Participants will have a hand-on experience as they learn how to become a gatekeeper of vital information. **(LEADers)**

105 Leading the Way Through Legislation

PTA has historically been a leader in advocacy for more than 100 years. Find out about upcoming legislation, lobbying efforts and how National PTA is working hard for your school and how you can advocate for your school via local legislation. **(LEADers)**

Workshop Session 2 Friday, November 18, 2005 10:30 am – 11:45 am

201 Treasurer – Part Two - Taxes

This session will answer many of the questions you might have had about taxes and PTA. You will learn how to fill out the tax forms, how to calculate taxes, and your responsibilities for taxes. Along the way, you will also learn about the role of incorporation of your local PTA. **(LEADers)**

202 The Art of Advocacy

This workshop promises to coach participants in the art of advocacy. Learn how to advocate for your school in a positive and supportive manner. **(LEADers)**

203 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) – The Next Phase

With the reauthorization of NCLB, many changes are in store for schools across Maryland. Participants will navigate via an overview of the program and become familiar with terms, standards, funding and accountability process. Find out what it will mean to parents and educators.

204 Motivation, Managing and Recognizing Volunteers (Jan Harp Domene)

The heart of a successful volunteer program consists of learning what volunteers want and creating a culture that stimulates their motivation. Develop a prescription for effective volunteer management.

205 Policies and Parents

Parent Involvement in school system policies is vital in creating a home-school connection. Learn about a variety of areas, committees and agencies where parent involvement is key in the success of the programs.

Workshop Session 3 Saturday, November 11, 2006 8:45 am – 10:00 am

301 Building Student Success Through Family Engagement

All attendees will have the opportunity to hear Dr. Steve Constantino. Dr. Constantino is a national lecturer on engaging families for student success. He will share ideas on getting all families to not only become involved but to understand the value of that involvement to all students.

Workshop Session 4 Saturday, November 11, 2006 10:15 am – 11:45 pm

401 Treasurers –Part 3 – The Budget

Learn everything you wanted to know about your budget: development, different types (categorical and line), amendment once approved by the membership, discretionary line items, and carryover from year to year. (LEADers)

402 Building Student Success Through Family Engagement – A Bit More!

Dr. Steve Constantino will continue on his theme from Session 301 – getting all families to be involved in our schools.

403 HSA – High School Assessments

This test measures the level of progress that high school students have achieved. Passing the High School Assessment (HSA) is now a requirement in order to receive a MD high school diploma beginning with the graduating class of 2009. It is imperative that all parents understand what this means for their student. Ideal for parents with children in grade 6 or higher.

404 Healthy Lifestyles for our Children: Parent and School as Partners

A new federal law requires that school systems that operate a federally funded school meals program must develop and implement a wellness policy beginning with the current school year. The wellness policy must include goals for nutrition education, physical activity, and guidelines for all foods available on the school campus. The workshop will provide participants with information about the wellness policy, ways to become involved in the implementation process, and resources for nutrition and physical activity promotion and programs.

405 Cultural Proficiency

Maryland is one the fastest growing states in terms of varied cultures and peoples. Learn how to interface with leaders from a variety of cultures. This workshop promises to give new life in embracing diversity and increasing your cultural proficiency.

Workshop Session 5 Saturday, November 11, 2006 3:15pm – 4:30 pm

501 Treasurers – Part 4 –A Final Review

Take the time to review all that you know about the position of Treasurer. We'll not only talk about some key points, we'll give you a chance to participate in Q&A! (New Treasurers must take Workshop Session 101 as a prerequisite to this session.) **(LEADers)**

**502 Building Student Success Through Family Engagement - A Bit More
(Repeat of Session 402)**

Dr. Steve Constantino will continue on his theme from Session 301 – getting all families to be involved in our schools.

503 True Learning for All

Educating in a multicultural/multi-linguistic environment contributes greatly to Kim Oliver's love of teaching, children and families. In this session, we will cover the recognition of language and literacy barriers, the formation of individualized lesson plans, and the involvement of non-English speaking families in day and after-school programs.

504 Resolutions – a Hands-On Approach

Do you know what a resolution is? Do you know how important they are to PTA? Here's your chance to learn about them – and to try your hand at writing them! **LEADers**

505 Adolescent Survey on Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Come learn about the results of the latest survey on drug and alcohol abuse among adolescents. Bring your ideas about preventing and treating drug and alcohol abuse and be prepared to learn from the ideas of others.

Workshops are offered on a first-come first-serve basis. Register early for best results

LEADers

Enhance **your LEADership** skills with the **LEADers** Program. Earn **LEADers** recognition, and use your new skills to do great things for all children.

The Maryland PTA LEADers Program has been developed to help all PTA members be:

Leaders within their PTA and community;

Effective and efficient with their volunteer time, as well as the time of others;

Advocates for all children;

Developers of programs and projects that will attract a broad base of membership and future leaders of this organization.

Applications available on request from the office

MARYLAND PTA
PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS
Board of Directors Meeting July 14, 2006

Article VI – Councils

Section 12.

Present: Each council PTA shall submit a copy of the treasurer’s annual report, reviewed by the auditing committee, to the Maryland PTA.

Proposed: add the words “within sixty (60) days following the end of its fiscal year.”

Rational: Specify a time for submitting the report.

Section 14.

Present: Each council PTA shall designate a representative to serve on the Maryland PTA Board of Directors.

Proposed: Each council PTA shall annually designate, according to its bylaws and/or standing rules, a representative to serve on the Maryland PTA Board of Directors and submit the name and contact information to the Maryland PTA by July 1.

Rational: Clarify the process and specify when the council representative is to be named.

Article VII – Local PTAs/PTSAs

Section 10.

Present: All local PTAs shall submit a copy of the treasurer’s annual report, reviewed by the auditing committee, to the Maryland PTA or their qualified designee.

Proposed: add the words “within sixty (60) days following the end of their fiscal year.”

Rational: Specify a time for submitting the report.

Article VIII – Membership and Dues

#Section 2.

Present: Membership in each local PTA shall be made available by such local PTA, without regard to race, color, creed, or national origin, under such rules and regulations, not in conflict with the provisions of the National PTA Bylaws, as may be prescribed in the bylaws of the local PTA, to any individual who subscribes to the purposes and basic policies of the National PTA.

Proposed: Membership in PTA shall be open, without discrimination, to anyone who believes in and supports the mission and purposes of National PTA.

Rational: To be consistent with the wording adopted at the 2005 National PTA Convention.

Article IX – Officers and Their Election

Section 1.d.

Present: No officers may serve more than one (1) full term in the same office except the vice president for legislation and the treasurer, who may serve two (2) consecutive terms. A person who has served in an office for more than one-half (1/2) a full term shall be deemed to have served a full term in such office.

Proposed: An officer may serve more than one (1) full term in the same office provided the terms are not consecutive and more than one (1) year has elapsed since previously serving in such office. A person who has served in an office for more than one-half (1/2) a full term shall be deemed to have served a full term in such office.

Rational: Have the same restrictions apply to all officers and allow a person to serve more than once in the same office.

Section 4. Removal from Office

Present: Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire membership of the board of directors whenever in their judgement the best interest of the Maryland PTA will be served. Such removal constitutes a vacancy in that office.

Proposed: The board of directors, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, may remove from office an officer who fails to perform his/her duties as outlined in these bylaws or the current standing rules, fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings without being excused, violates the basic policies, misrepresents the positions of the organization, or acts in any other way which is detrimental to the philosophy and purposes of the organization. When removal action is contemplated, the officer shall be advised by certified mail at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting of determination of his/her right to appear before the board of directors at that meeting. Such removal constitutes a vacancy in that office.

Rational: To provide a specific process.

Article XII – State Board of Directors

Section 4. Duties

Proposed: add an additional duty – m. Fill vacancies of officers except the president and president-elect.

Rational: To list this duty which is specified in Article IX, Section 5.

Section 5. Removal from Board of Directors

Present: The executive committee by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present, may remove from office a member of the board of directors who fails to perform his duties, fails to attend two (2) consecutive board meetings without being excused, violates the basic policies, misrepresents the positions of the organization, or acts in any other way which is detrimental to the philosophy and purposes of the organization. When removal is contemplated, the board of directors member shall be advised by certified mail at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting of his right to appear before the executive committee at that meeting.

Proposed: The executive committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, may remove from the board of directors any member, except officers, who fails to perform his/her duties as outlined in these bylaws and current standing rules, fails to attend two (2) consecutive board meetings without being excused, violates the basic policies, misrepresents the positions of the organization, or acts in any other way which is detrimental to the philosophy and purposes of the organization. When removal is contemplated, the board member shall be advised by certified mail at least

seven (7) days prior to the meeting of determination of his/her right to appear before the executive committee at that meeting. Such removal constitutes a vacancy in that position.

Rational: To eliminate a conflict with Article IX, Section 5. and to have a consistent process.

Article XIII – Executive Committee

Section 1. Membership

Present: The executive committee of the Maryland PTA shall be composed of the seven (7) elected state officers, the rules and procedures chair, the local bylaws chair, and four (4) members at large from the board of directors, elected at the post-convention board of directors meeting according to the standing rules, of whom no more than two (2) shall be designated council representatives. Vacancies occurring in the at large positions shall be filled in the same manner as defined in the standing rules. No member shall serve a consecutive term in the same position on the executive committee except the vice president for legislation, the treasurer, and the rules and procedures chair.

Proposed: Strike the last sentence and insert “No officer shall serve a consecutive term in the same position on the executive committee.”

Rational: Necessary if proposed amendment to Article IX, Section 1.d. is adopted.

Article XV – Conventions

Section 2. National PTA Convention

Present: b. The selection of state delegates and their alternates shall be authorized by the state board of directors.

Proposed: Strike the words “The selection of”

Rational: The board of directors does not select the delegates or alternates.

Article XVII – Capital Improvement Account

Section 2. Account Investment and Control

Present: b. The fund shall have a goal of an amount equal to 10% of the annual Maryland PTA budget. At the recommendation of the budget/finance committee, funds may be transferred to the capital improvement account from the general fund by direction of the board of directors.

Proposed: Strike the words “board of directors” and insert “executive committee.”

Rational: To correct an error and avoid conflict with Article XIII, Section 2.k.

Maryland PTA Legislative Platform 2007

“To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth”

The authority of Maryland PTA’s legislative activity is the third object of the National PTA’s Purposes. Maryland PTA recognizes that an organization dedicated to the welfare of children and youth must concern itself with the laws that effect children.

The Maryland PTA Legislative Platform, adopted by state convention delegates, establishes the authority, direction and priority for action on legislative issues, and in accordance to National PTAs Purposes and Basic Policies. All directives contained in the platform are derived from state resolutions, position statements or policy statements. Maryland PTA believes all levels of government play varying roles in ensuring that the health and welfare needs of all children and youth are met.

State Focus:

Maryland PTA supports

- The Bridge to Excellence Act as its state legislative priority. Maryland PTA supported the adoption of the Bridge to Excellence Act (Thornton) in 2002 to ensure that all students benefit from adequate educational resources; that each school system receives an equitable share of state funding; and that school systems are held accountable for individual student achievement. The Act calls for significant increases in state funding for public schools through 2008. Full funding of this Act is needed to ensure that all students benefit from high quality teachers and programs designed to meet Maryland’s high student performance standards. Full funding will enable schools to provide much needed improvements such as: reducing class sizes; eliminating achievement gaps; providing quality music, art, career technology, gifted & talented programs; and providing full-day kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs to build the foundation for future learning.
- The Public Schools Facilities Act of 2004 signed by the governor on May 11, 2004. Public Facilities need \$3.85 billion dollars to bring all schools up to the minimum standard for educational programming, health, and safety requirements as recommended by the task force to study public school facilities. A safe, healthy, and modern learning environment is essential to raising academic performance, especially as we strive to meet the rigorous standards set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act and Bridge to Excellence Act (*Source: MDPTA 2004-2005 Post Card Campaign*). Maryland PTA will encourage the governor of Maryland and the general assembly to consider all revenue options to support Maryland’s public schools and other essential children’s programs.

Federal Focus:

Maryland PTA supports

- Provisions of the ESEA, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), and IDEA Act as its federal legislative priority. Maryland PTA also supports the requirement for healthy, high-performance school buildings in which the design, construction, operation, and maintenance use energy-efficient and affordable practices and materials; are cost-effective; enhance indoor air quality; and protect and conserve water.
- Additional funding for school modernization and new construction projects nationwide. Maryland PTA will work with the White House, Congress, and other educational organizations to enact federal legislation to help states and schools renovate and repair their facilities. Maryland PTA will work with National PTA and with officials at all levels of government to find innovative ways to fund school construction projects.

THE 2007 MARYLAND PTA LEGISLATIVE POLICIES focus on the following:

Parent/Family Involvement:

Maryland PTA supports measures that reflect its National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs in education and child-related legislation and regulations.

- Support parent/family involvement in federal/state/local legislation.
- Support employee release time for parent/family and community involvement.
- Support school-linked parent resource centers.
- Establish policies that support and respect family responsibilities, recognizing the variety of parenting traditions and practices within the community's cultural and religious diversity.
- Provide an accessible parent/family information and resource center to support parents and families with training, resources, and other services.
- Support diversity awareness programs to encourage parent involvement.

Public Education:

Maryland PTA supports comprehensive school reforms that unite parents/guardians, school staff and community members in designing and implementing education improvements that meet local needs.

- Support State and Federal education programs and funding initiatives that:
 - Support equity
 - Provide adequate levels of funding
 - Provide adequate textbooks for all children and youth
 - Provide early childhood education
 - Oppose vouchers
 - Oppose public money to non-public schools
 - Assure accountability of charter schools
 - Promote sound and appropriate testing/assessment policies
 - Support effective education technology

Safe and Nurturing Environments:

Maryland PTA supports initiatives and policies that integrate a range of education, health and social services to meet the needs of our children and youth.

- School-based before and after school programs.
- Initiatives that foster a supportive school climate, including:
 - Violence prevention measures
 - Child protection and delinquency prevention initiatives
 - Class size reduction efforts
 - School modernization proposals
 - Counseling programs
- Health and welfare reforms that meet the needs of children and families.

Maryland PTA opposes commercialism in the classroom and market research that violates student privacy.

Maryland Parent and Community Involvement Policies focus on the following:

Maryland PTA supports the Maryland's Parent Advisory Council vision and underlying principles for parent involvement in Maryland. Parents, families, educators, and community member's work together as real partners, hold themselves mutually accountable, and have the knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed at improving the achievement of all students.

To achieve this vision we embrace these principles:

1. Parents, families, educators and communities are mutually accountable for improving student

achievement by supporting parent involvement. This shared responsibility should be monitored and annually reported on by the Maryland State Department of Education.

2. Schools must offer a welcoming, trustful, and engaging environment.
3. The Maryland State Department of Education, institutions of higher learning, local school systems, and schools must provide ongoing training so that parents and educators can be full partners, informed decision-makers, and effective advocates for children.
4. Schools and school systems must respond to the increasing needs of the state's diverse families and communities.
5. Parents must support their child's learning at home and in school and must serve as their child's advocate.
6. Parents, educators, and community members must be advocates for all children.

Five criteria are recommended to implement the vision and principles. They are:

- Accountability
- Training
- Leadership
- Partnership
- Communication

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTIVES

Maryland PTA sets its public policy and legislative priorities based upon legislative directives that are listed on the previous pages. Maryland PTA is also bound by the legislative positions of National PTA in specific areas. They are identified herein by (N).

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation, which:

1. Strengthens the protection of children and youth on school grounds and in the communities from the possession or distribution of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances. (N)
2. Establishes prevention, education and treatment programs. (N)
3. Supports appropriate use of cigarette restitution funds to lower the number of youth exposed to and who use tobacco products.
4. Establishes vigorous statewide enforcement and strict sentencing for violations of statutes regarding driving under the influence of alcohol and other physical and mind-altering drugs.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation, which:

1. Carefully monitor childcare and early childhood education programs, which promote the highest standards of excellence and safety for personnel and facilities. (N)
2. Require health and background screenings of all prospective workers including a fingerprint check in childcare and early childhood education program positions.
3. Will add the crime of sexual abuse of a child to the list of crimes of violence for which enhanced penalties shall be applied.

Early Childhood Education

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulations, which:

1. Will enable local Boards of Education to establish full-day kindergarten supported by necessary state funding that will ensure that it does not negatively impact class size, programs or facilities.

Environmental Health Hazards

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulations, which:

1. Strengthens the protection of children and youth on school grounds and in the community from environmental hazards. (N)
2. Requires that parents and communities be notified of environmental conditions and remedial actions in and around school buildings. (N)
3. Requires appropriate and periodic testing and public notification of results of air, water, fungi, mold and other microbial contaminants in public school buildings and relocatable classrooms. (N)
4. Ensures that an environmental site assessment of potential school sites is undertaken to evaluate health risks to children, youth and staff. The evaluation should include a site history, site visit, survey of surrounding potential sources of contamination, and appropriate laboratory testing.

Education

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation, which:

1. Increases opportunities and resources for children and youth to pursue a variety of career paths.
2. Will offer public schools constructive solutions to such problems as disruptive behavior, truancy and school dropout. (N)
3. Will create school-business relationships based on sound educational principles, which will preserve the integrity of the learning environment making sure that programs meet an educational need and not a commercial motive. (N)
4. Will ensure the continuance of gifted and talented programs that are adequately funded. (N)
5. Will encourage the government to enter into mentoring partnerships with groups in order to expand mentoring programs to all children and youth.

Maryland PTA opposes policies which sell or provide access to a captive classroom audience, or determine an instructional program or equipment based upon donations rather than what the school identifies as most beneficial to students. (N)

Equity in Education

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation which:

1. Will ensure individuals with disabilities accessibility to public places, especially public schools and requires that those facilities totally accommodate individuals with disabilities. (N)
2. Will ensure an educational system that is equitable in resources and programs and is free from bias. (N)
3. Will ensure that appropriate resources are made available to address disproportionate achievement levels in the educational system.
4. Will ensure the right to a free quality public education, adequate food and shelter, and basic health care services for all children and youth. (N)

Firearms and Weapons

Maryland PTA supports public policy and legislation which:

1. Will strengthen the protection of children and youth by prohibiting the possession of firearms on school grounds by anyone other than an officer of the law or an individual who is doing a presentation on firearms.
2. Encourages instruction regarding gun safety.

Funding

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation which:

1. Will provide the necessary federal, state, and local funding for implementation and maintenance of public school programs mandated by the Maryland General Assembly, the Federal Government or any other regulatory body. (N)
2. Will provide a revenue structure that will reliably fund Maryland's responsibility for education and children and youth without shifting undue burdens to local governments.
3. Will ensure that monies allocated for libraries, but not matched by the counties, will not be returned to general funds.
4. Will provide the necessary federal, state, and local funding for the implementation and maintenance of public programs designated to assist homeless children and youth.

Maryland PTA opposes public policy, legislation and regulation which:

1. Diverts public monies to non-public schools. (N)
2. Institutes a program of tax credits or vouchers for non-public education. (N)
3. Limits funding of public education by any state tax or spending limitations.
4. Privatizes instruction implemented with public funds without establishing public policy standards, accessibility and accountability. (N)
5. Freezes the hiring of additional social workers, or any proposed cuts to existing social worker positions by the State.

Health and Nutrition

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation which:

1. Strengthens protection of children and youth on school grounds and in communities from infectious diseases. (N)
2. Will provide for the continued immunization schedules for all children. (N)
3. Will develop, fund and provide access to comprehensive, equitable, affordable and quality health care for all children and families. (N)
4. Will ensure quality licensed health care professionals in all school buildings.
5. Will develop and make available clinical/professional mental health programs and services to meet the needs of all children and youth. (N)
6. Will provide support for the education of parents/guardians about the potential dangers of diseases requiring immunizations.
7. Will mandate air conditioning in all Maryland public schools.
8. Will address the epidemic of obesity and related chronic diseases in children and youth to include healthier food choices in school cafeterias and vending machines and ensure daily physical activity for all children.

Parent and Family Involvement

Maryland PTA supports:

1. Parent/family involvement at all educational decision making levels. (N)
2. Active involvement and participation of parent/families at all levels of advocacy pertaining to children/youth. (N)
3. Action by the General Assembly to include parent/family involvement provisions in all legislation pertaining to children's education and development. (N)
4. The Maryland State Department of Education implementing and maintaining parent/family involvement and participation as a goal in Maryland. (N)
5. A public policy and legislation, which would mandate a public comment time at the State Board of Education meetings.
6. Including parents on all decision-making and advisory committees, and ensure adequate training for such areas as policy, curriculum, budget, school reform initiatives, safety, and personnel. Where site governance bodies exist, give equal representation to parents.
7. Providing parents with current information regarding school policies, practices, and both student and school performance data.
8. Enabling parents to participate as partners when setting school goals, developing or evaluating programs and policies, or responding to performance data.
9. Encouraging and facilitating active parent participation in the decisions that affect students, such as student placement, course selection, and individual personalized education plans.
10. Providing understandable, accessible, and well-publicized processes for influencing decisions, raising issues or concerns, appealing decisions, and resolving problems.

Maryland PTA opposes all attempts to silence PTA advocacy.

Safe and Nurturing Environments

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation which:

1. Strengthens the safety of children and youth on playgrounds, ensuring that playground equipment meets the required safety codes, are maintained and meet safety design standards. (N)
2. Will ensure that playgrounds are safe and accessible for all children and youth.
3. Requires the presence of a parent/guardian whenever there is an interrogation of a minor by school administration or law enforcement officer, in any situation where there is no threat of imminent danger to themselves or others.
4. Will ensure that children and youth are not placed in adult jails and lock-ups but in appropriate juvenile facilities.
5. Will ensure that children and youth are assisted in leaving the juvenile justice system, by being given the support and instruction they will need to prevent their return.
6. Will provide for the development of ratings or other appropriate information systems to inform parents and consumers about the content of video games and other interactive media. (N)
7. Will provide safeguards for children and youth when using the Internet. (N)
8. Will ensure the presence of trained personnel in CPR and First-Aid at athletic events and practices.
9. Will mandate guidelines for the use of all protective gear, including eye protection, for children and youth while participating in any athletic activities.
10. Will ensure proper health and safety procedures are monitored and enforced in Maryland's body piercing and tattoo industry.
11. Will develop, fund and implement necessary security measures for the safety of children and youth in school buildings and relocatable classrooms and the main office.

School Construction and Modernization

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation, and regulation which:

1. Will examine the state school rated capacity formula.
2. Will place educational facilities' needs above funding for sports facilities.
3. Will ensure quality instruction including the reduction of class size where appropriate especially at the elementary level. (N)
4. Will ensure that each school district has an adequate public facilities ordinance and that such ordinances apply to public school facilities.
5. Will ensure quality instruction including the reduction of class size where appropriate at the secondary level.

Spiritual Education

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation which:

1. **Will define and clarify the religious rights of teachers and students in public schools (based on the U.S. Department of Education Guidelines for Religious Expression in Public Schools and current court decisions).** (N)

State and Local Boards of Education

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation, and regulation which:

1. Encourages the establishment of local school system policies to ensure the rights of educators, parents, students and other community members to assume roles in the evaluation, selection and adoption or removal of procedures for instructional materials used by children in public schools. (N)
2. Asserts that the local boards of education have the obligation to exercise judgment in evaluating automatic suspension under drug and weapons policy by taking into account such factors as the offender's age, the actual danger of the item and the actions and intent of the student involved.
3. Asserts that the local boards of education have the obligation to add the crime of sexual abuse of a child and youth to the student code of conduct and to also exercise their judgment in evaluating automatic suspension for this crime by taking into account such factors as the offender's age, the severity of the crime and the actions and intent of the student(s) involved.
4. Asserts that the Boards of Education institutionalize parent/guardian involvement in decision making at the highest level of the school system by establishing and maintaining policies that ensure meaningful and timely public comment during every school board meeting in every district in the State of Maryland.
5. Affirms that the performance standards, curriculum, proficiency testing and related matters are the responsibility of the state and local boards of education with the involvement of parents/families and the community.
6. Assures that public schools develop strong character education programs in cooperation with parents/guardians and community members.
7. Maintains that the local boards of education are responsible for the implementation of education programs and related services to children and youth.
8. Will maintain a neutral position in regards to any legislation concerning teacher union negotiations.

Maryland PTA opposes all efforts of local governing bodies to make line item cuts in school budgets, once school budgets have been approved.

Maryland PTA opposes public policy and legislation, which reduce the authority and responsibility of school boards in the supervision and administration of local public schools. (N)

Teacher Quality

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation which:

1. Will ensure that there are qualified guidance counselors in all schools. (N)
2. Will ensure the hiring of qualified teacher assistants in all schools.
3. Will limit the time teachers are out of the classroom.
4. Will improve the quality and quantity of available substitutes.
5. Will require a full background check including a fingerprint check of all student teachers and interns.

Testing

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation which:

1. Will ensure that a sole test is not the determinant for high school graduation. (N)
2. Will require an independent review of the high stakes tests that are administered to all elementary, middle and high school students. (N)

Transportation

Maryland PTA supports public policy, legislation and regulation which:

1. Will ensure the safety of children and youth to and from school regardless of means of transportation.
2. Will make it illegal for a school bus to be operated while there are passengers who are not seated due to an insufficient number of seats.
3. Will reduce the maximum capacity of a school bus to only the number of passengers that can ride safely in a seat.
4. Will increase motorists' awareness of passing stopped school buses with red lights flashing and give law enforcement the means to give this issue the priority that it deserves.
5. Will ensure two-way communications on all school buses.
6. Will mandate that appropriate seating and child restraints be provided on special needs buses. (N)
7. Will develop a system of safety restraints in buses that will ensure the maximum safety of children and youth on school buses. (N)
8. Will study and develop a system, which will ensure the mechanical safety of school buses by requiring regular inspection and recording to verify that they meet current federal motor safety standards.
9. Will mandate the use of only Type I and Type II school buses for transporting students to school and school-sponsored events. (N)

Summary of the Maryland PTA Legislative Platform

The Maryland PTA Legislative Platform is the basis for any action taken on public policy, legislation and regulations affecting the health, education and general welfare of children and youth by Maryland PTA, the PTA Councils or the local PTAs. Maryland PTA Councils, local PTAs and its members may support or abstain from taking action, but they may not take action in opposition or conflict with Maryland PTA (i.e., Policies, Directives, Resolutions, etc.). The Maryland PTA Legislative Platform conforms to the policies and resolutions of National PTA. Maryland PTA monitors and assesses children's needs in order to determine where and how PTA action should be initiated or intensified. State convention resolutions, letters, and results of studies from PTA councils, and local PTAs as well as National PTA programs and priorities, provide direction to the Maryland PTA Board of Directors.

Legislative Terms

- 1 **Public Policy Statements:** *These are basic broad statements that are made on issues, which will affect the health, welfare and education of children and youth.*
- 2 **Legislative Directives:** *The priorities that are developed that will determine action by Maryland PTA in supporting or seeking new legislation.*
- 3 **Resolutions:** *An original main motion, which, because of its importance, length, or complexity is submitted in writing and is submitted to the MDPTA Rules and Procedures committee no later than May 15 for approval.*
- 4 **General Assembly Legislative Initiatives:** *Maryland PTA establishes legislative initiatives to pursue during the General Assembly session. Councils, local PTAs, and individual members can suggest initiatives at the Maryland PTA Annual Convention.*
- 5 **Maryland PTA and Coalitions:** *A coalition is a group of organizations and/or individuals working together for a common purpose usually involving "one issue" or event. The coalition is dissolved when the issue has been resolved or the event has been completed. Maryland PTA supports coalitions that deal with issues in which PTA has a vital interest involving children and youth and supports the purposes of PTA.*

The Maryland PTA Legislative Committee

The vice president for legislation shall chair the state legislative committee consisting of at least six (6) members including the president elect. The committee meets regularly while the Maryland General Assembly is in session to review and discuss bills and the positions of the Maryland PTA; and as needed, to develop the Maryland PTA Public Policy and Legislative Program to address emerging issues.

Proposed Changes to the Legislative Platform

The Maryland PTA Legislative Committee meets following the General Assembly session to review and recommend changes to the Legislative Platform based on:

- 1 Bills presented during the General Assembly Session,
- 2 Responses to the issues survey, and
- 3 Other emerging issues.

National PTA's Member-to-Member Network

National PTA's Member-to-Member Network is the grassroots advocacy system that allows PTA members to establish personal contact with members of Congress. By doing so, you will be supporting appropriate legislation to improve laws, policies, and conditions on behalf of children. Participants in the Member-to-Member Network receive a subscription to the free weekly legislative e-newsletter, *This Week In Washington*, via e-mail or fax. In addition, participants will receive National PTA Action Alerts, which are calls to action issued when PTA's voice needs to be heard on Capital Hill. PTA members can apply online at www.pta.org/ptawashington, or by contacting Maryland PTA.

Maryland PTA Legislation Information - http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_legislation.html

National PTA's Issues http://www.pta.org/ia_issues.html

National PTA's priorities complement PTA's mission of advocating for services and policies that benefit children, educating parents to be advocates for their children, and engaging community members in support of public education.

- 1 **Current Action Alerts and Legislation - <http://capwiz.com/npta2/issues/>**
- 2 **Member-to-Member Network - <http://capwiz.com/npta2/mlm/signup/>**

Report of the Nominating Committee

The nominating committee met on Friday, July 14, 2006 at the BWI Marriott. Members present included: James Taylor, Ginger Halvorsen, Debbie Christie and Rita Lowman. The committee submits the following nominee, who has given consent to serve if elected.

President-Elect – Debbie Ritchie

Debbie has been an active member of PTA for over a decade. She presently serves as the Parent/Family Involvement Chair for Maryland PTA. Debbie believes her strengths are being organized, communication, and leadership. She believes that the only way we can continue as an organization is to make use of the diversity that is in our state. As President-Elect, she would like to keep the organization moving forward and to raise awareness of what PTA is and all that it stands for. Debbie wants to change the current image of being a fundraising organization to that of one of an association concerned with advocacy and parent involvement.



INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM
 91st ANNUAL CONVENTION
 NOVEMBER 10 & 11, 2006
 Ocean City, MD Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel



PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. COPY FORM FOR EACH PERSON REGISTERING.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email Address _____
 PTA Unit _____
 County _____

Check all that apply:
 Member
 Student School System Employee
 Other

I am a first time attendee to the Fall Convention.
 I would like to volunteer:
 Before Convention During Convention

In case of emergency, please contact:
 Emergency Daytime phone _____
 Emergency Evening phone _____

I need to have:
 Special meals _____
 Special services _____

Registration Fees

<i>Registration</i>		Your Cost
Early Bird Registration Must be in office by Oct. 13	\$100	
Advanced Registration Must be in office by Nov. 3	\$115	
Advanced Registration – Student Must be in office by Nov. 3	\$40	
On-Site Registration – Adult	\$130	
On-Site Registration - Student	\$45	
Non-Member Registration	\$150	
<i>Events</i>		
Friday Awards Dinner	\$35	
Wye Oak Dessert Reception (after Friday Awards Dinner) <i>No cost – but you MUST register if you wish to attend!</i>	\$0	
Saturday Council Luncheon	\$15	
TOTAL Amount Enclosed		

Form of Payment
 Check Visa Master Card

Credit Account # _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Cardholder's name _____
 Cardholder's signature _____

Workshop Selections

Session	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice
Session 1			
Session 2			
Session 4			
Session 5			

Mail your completed registration form with payment by the given dates to:

Maryland PTA
 5 Central Avenue
 Glen Burnie, MD 21061

If paying by credit card, you can fax this registration to:
 410-760-6344.

No refunds will be given. If you are unable to attend after registering, you may transfer your registration to another member at no additional charge. All forms must be in the MDPTA office by November 3rdrd. Any forms not in by that date will not be processed.