

PTA History & Advocacy

Advocacy

PTA began as a strong political voice for children. Long before women had the right to vote, mothers gathered together through PTA to fight for laws to protect and programs to serve children. We proudly continue this tradition today. For more information on PTA history visit National PTA's Web site, www.pta.org.



Remember: if you want to have a real impact on the money available to your school every year, join California State PTA advocacy efforts!

PTA: MORE THAN A CENTURY OF SPEAKING FOR ALL CHILDREN WITH ONE VOICE

February 17, 1897

National Congress of Mothers convened More than 2,000 met to create a national organization dedicated to the welfare of children.

1900s

Juvenile Justice and Child Labor Laws

Actions to curb delinquency, institute a juvenile court system, and rehabilitation and probation undertaken.

1910s

Kindergarten — PTA recommended and lobbied for kindergarten to be a part of the public school system.

1920s

Nationwide Children's Health Project

PTA helped the U.S. Bureau of Education effort to identify and correct health problems before 1st grade.

1930s

Nutrition and Emergency Services

PTA instituted safety education program for school children. With the automobile came issues of bus safety and seatbelts.

1940s

School Lunch Program — PTA mothers' efforts to feed hungry school children became a national school lunch program.

1950s

Salk Polio Vaccine — PTA fought this crippling disease by helping field test the vaccine and advocating for mandatory vaccination of school children.

1960s

Drug and Smoking Information — PTA encouraged communities to see and address the risks of addictions.

1970s

TV Media Violence — Violence on TV spurred PTA to speak out about the effects of programming.

1980s

HIV/AIDS Awareness — The alarming rise in sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS propelled PTA to create programs to help parents talk frankly with their children about these issues.

1990s

Legislation — PTA created its National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs, the benchmark used to measure parent involvement, and lobbied for the Family Medical Leave Act.

2000s

Building Success Partnerships — PTA published "the" book on parent involvement, to encourage parents and communities to be active partners in the education of their children. PTA has staunchly fought for adequate school funding and smaller class sizes.

For more information on PTA positions and advocacy efforts, visit National PTA at www.pta.org, and California State PTA at www.capta.org.

Honorary Service Awards

Founders Day events are often when PTAs and PTSAs will honor volunteers and supportive community members with service awards. There are several to choose from at both the state and National PTA levels. The money paid for awards supports PTA scholarships and grants. These are the California State PTA service awards:

- The Honorary Service Award
- The Continuing Service Award
- The Golden Oak Service Award
- The Very Special Person Award

Each comes with a certificate and may take several weeks to process and ship

PTA ELECTIONS

SCRIPT FOR CONDUCTING ELECTIONS



It can be nerve-wracking to stand in front of your membership and conduct elections. What do you say and how do you say it?

Consider the following:

President: "Will the chairman of the nominating committee please present the committee report?"

Chairman: (The chairman reads the prepared report that states the slate of nominees, the nominating committee members and the date of the report. The chairman's part in the elections is concluded.)

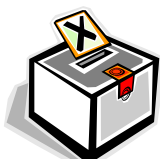
President: "Thank you." (The President asks each nominee to stand while repeating the list). After the nominees sit, continue: "According to our bylaws, nominations from the floor are now in order. For President, _____ is nominated. Are there further nominations from the floor?" (Give a few moments for response.) "Seeing none, the nominations for president are closed." Continue down the list for each elected position in the bylaws until all are read.

If there is an empty spot on the slate: "There is no nominee for _____. Are there any nominations from the floor?" (Give a few moments for response.) "Seeing none, the nominations for _____ are closed and that position will be filled by appointment by the new board."

If only one candidate is listed for each office: "As there is only one candidates for each office, we will conduct the elections by voice vote. Is there any objection to this procedure? (If no one has called for a ballot vote, elections continue.) All those in favor of electing _____ as president, _____ as executive vice president.... (Read all the names on the slate of officers) say 'Aye.' Those opposed, say 'No.' The ayes have it and you have elected the following officers." (The president then restates the names and offices of those elected. The "voice vote" election is concluded.)

If there is a nomination from the floor: "Please stand, (nominee's name). As we have two nominees, there will be a ballot vote for this office." (Then continue down the list as before.)

BALLOT VOTES

- ✘ A ballot vote is held when there are two or more nominees for an office, or when a member requests it.
 - ✘ Both procedures may be used in one election: a voice vote for uncontested offices and a ballot for those that have two or more nominees.
 - ✘ The Secretary should bring the official membership list and ballot slips to each election meeting.
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- ✘ To verify eligibility to vote, check the membership list before ballots are distributed. Voting can be done by holding up membership cards.
 - ✘ If a membership list is not available, all present must be allowed to vote.
 - ✘ The president appoints a tellers committee, including a chairman and at least two tellers (not nominees), whose duties are to distribute, collect, and count the ballots. Ballots may also be collected in a ballot box.
 - ✘ The President requests all members eligible to vote to rise and be counted. This count will determine the number of ballots to be tallied.
 - ✘ Blank ballots are not counted. Illegal ballots are counted to determine the number of votes cast, but are not applied as a vote. Ballots are considered illegal if they are unintelligible, they contain the name of a nominee who is not a member, or if ballots are folded together.
 - ✘ The results of the voting are reported by the chairman of the tellers, in writing, to the president, as follows:
Number of members eligible to vote _____
Number of votes cast _____
Number needed to elect _____
(Nominee) _____ Received _____
(Nominee) _____ Received _____
This procedure is repeated for each contested office.
 - ✘ The President announces who has been elected to office. Unless requested, the President does not have to announce the number of votes cast for each nominee, but the complete Tellers' Report must be recorded in the minutes.
 - ✘ Following the announcement of the vote, the chairman of the tellers moves that the ballots be destroyed.
 - ✘ A challenge to the election procedure or outcome must be made during the election meeting.

For additional information, see the California State PTA *Toolkit* or *Robert's Rules of Order*.



Midterm vacancies are filled by the executive board. Chairmanships are all appointed; the board ratifies the appointment.

