



President's message

Dear Friends of PTA,

It's hard to believe we are marking the one-year anniversary of the shutting down of our schools and communities due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The "new normal" of social distancing, mask wearing and distance learning have become commonplace, but still difficult to live with. As PTA leaders, we need to be prepared to pivot to support our children and families as circumstances change and evolve. Many of our schools will begin to open to faculty and students, but health and safety must remain at the forefront of our decisions to educate our children.

The California State PTA Board of Managers adopted the following Ten Recommendations for our State, local and school leaders to use when re-opening our schools:

Ten Recommendations

We urge the Legislature and the Governor to adopt 10 recommendations for the timely and safe reopening of schools:

- 1. Coordinate Efforts** The Legislature and the Governor must agree on a coordinated approach to reopening schools as quickly as safely possible.
- 2. Equitable Sufficient Funding** There must be sufficient funding to cover the additional costs related to opening schools in person. And it must be equitable. All students should generate the same base funding grant with an LCFF adjustment that recognizes the impacts of the pandemic on disadvantaged students. Opening schools will require social emotional support for students and staff, and services to meet students' and families' needs including safe transportation for students.
- 3. Extra Funding for Health-Related Costs** Funding to pay for testing, vaccines, contact tracing, and other COVID-related health costs should not be from Proposition 98 funds. Every Proposition 98 dollar spent on non-instructional costs is one less dollar to educate our children.
- 4. Protect the Health and Wellbeing of Students, Staff and Families** The Governor, the Legislature and local governments must prioritize vaccinations for school staff, early childhood educators and childcare staff, especially those who are already working in-person.

5. Parent Communication and Input School districts must provide opportunities for robust input and feedback as they prepare and execute reopening plans. They must ensure parents representing the diversity of the community are included in decision-making.

6. In-Person Attendance Parents and families should be able to choose whether a child returns to school in-person depending on the health of the child and their family situation.

7. Mental Health Matters Support the mental health and wellbeing of our students and staff by providing adequate resources to support their individual needs. To protect student health and well-being, middle schools should not start before 8:00 am and high schools before 8:30 am.

8. Expanded Learning and Learning Loss Afterschool, summer school and childcare programs need to be available, fully funded and coordinated with the school day. All schools should develop programs to address learning loss and meet the needs of the whole child.

9. Follow Health Guidelines Schools should not open in person unless it is safe for students and staff. School districts should adhere to the requirements set forth by the California Department of Public Health and county health departments regarding the reopening of schools.

10. Realistic Timeline Any timeline for the reopening of schools should consider the needs of parents and teachers and respect the most accurate health guidelines. This includes making sure the school facility is safe for re-opening.

As our children return to school, the PTA will need to continue to be creative in supporting our children and families. Distance learning has exacerbated the inherent inequalities due to the digital divide, family schedules, most especially for our socioeconomically disadvantaged families. Many of our students will have suffered learning loss, and still more may have anxiety about returning to in-person learning. Our school schedules may be different, and our summer schedule may include in classroom learning for some students.

So how can PTA help? Anticipating the continuation of few parents on campus provides many challenges. However, the PTA should continue to serve as the connection between families and our school leaders to help facilitate the communication of best practices and protocols, needs of the school, and needs of the students and families. Your support of PTA helps us get the message out to parents of how vital they are in supporting their children in school activities.

Santa Clara Valley PTA in Santa Clara County exists to do just that. The Sixth District PTA Board chartered the Santa Clara Valley PTA, in 2006, to facilitate supporting PTAs at low-wealth schools. We do that by offering mentoring and training as well as providing monetary gifts and grants to help them. Santa Clara Valley PTA has provided at nearly 20 financial grants to PTA units and PTA councils within Sixth District.

We need your support. Please become a member of the Santa Clara Valley PTA.

Please feel free to invite family members, friends, and neighbors to join as well. You don't have to have a child in school to join the PTA, you just have to care about children and public education. Membership is only \$10 per person, and its tax deductible. For a downloadable membership form, visit our website at [Join SCV PTA](#); or join online at [Join SCVPTA Online](#).

Thank you!

Laura Raimondi

President, Santa Clara Valley PTA

president@scvpta6.org

You're invited!

Come join us at our next association meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 6:30 pm. We will hold elections for next year's officers as well as conduct the usual business items. A program with Mr. Leon Beauchman MA, AMFT, will follow after the meeting.



Date: March 24, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm to 7:10 pm – Association Meeting

7:15 to 9:00 pm – Program

A presentation hosted by Santa Clara Valley PTA and Sixth District PTA

Speaker: Leon Beauchman, MA, AMFT

Topic: "A Parent's Guide to Talking about Racism"

The pandemic has emphasized the inherent inequities in our society, bringing the issues of diversity and social justice to the forefront of our conversations. So how do we speak to our children about the social structures that support a society divided by race? How do we navigate the difficult questions that our children look to us to answer? Join us in learning how to speak to our children about racism.

Leon Beauchman is an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist working in local schools. He serves as President of the Santa Clara County Alliance of Black Educators and is a former board member of the Santa Clara County Office of Education and Campbell Union School District.

Please register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n2bw2V3fQaWDF6S9vurDkQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Slate of nominees for 2021-2022

The nominating committee is pleased to announce the following nominees for the offices of the 2021-2022 executive board:

President:	Laura Raimondi
Executive VP:	Naomi Higaki
VP Membership:	Wendy Akers-Ghose
VP Communications:	OPEN
VP Advocacy:	Erwin Morton
Secretary:	Susan Canty
Treasurer:	Tami Borba
Auditor:	Dinah Showman
Historian:	Marcie Brown

Membership

Dear Valued SCVPTA Members:



Which of the following would you check off?

1. I enjoy being surrounded by other mindful folks, even if I'm minding them through a Zoom screen.
2. I like being part of a community, at home, at school, or @digitally if that's what it has come to.
3. I think every child deserves champions, even if those champions are not in sight.
4. I know that the best futures to invest in are children's futures.
5. I believe giving children an education and a voice goes hand in hand.
6. I appreciate that it takes a village -- and am a villager.
7. I embrace tolerance, inclusiveness, equitability and growth mindset even if I am not the first.
8. I love sharing with others the importance of the PTA's role in the community.
9. I applaud and support the effort toward realizing all of the above.
10. I miss helping my children when they were young, and this way, I get to help all the children.

Hopefully, for most of you many or all are applicable through your membership. On behalf of the board, THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for your support both through your membership and donation. Should you need proof of donation, please email me.

Presently, we have reached ~ 75% of our membership goal for this fiscal year. We would appreciate your help toward reaching our goal of 25 more members by inviting another member to join.

- Wanna Jung Kapoor, VP of Membership, membership@scvpta6.org.

Membership perks

Being a member of Santa Clara Valley has its perks! There are various discounts and offers available to you as a member of PTA such as Farm Fresh to You, SkyOne Federal Credit Union, Nextdoor's "Sell for Good Program", among others. Visit CA State PTA's website at <https://capta.org/join/member-perks/> to see what we have to offer.



Grants awarded!

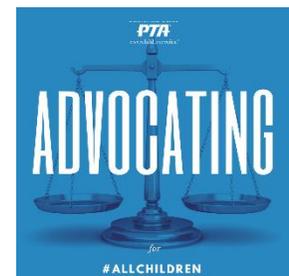
Did you know Santa Clara Valley PTA offers grants to help other PTAs? In Fall of 2020 Santa Clara Valley PTA awarded grants to four PTAs in our area to assist them in their PTA programs and to strengthen leadership. The planned programs at these schools included a Family Virtual Paint Night to keep children and families engaged with school during the Covid restrictions, supplies for a student Tech Club, and providing hot spots for access for students who do not have internet access. We also awarded funds for myPTEZ (PTA-specific accounting software) to a PTA to assist in their record-keeping. Priority in our awards is given to PTAs in low-wealth areas. We continue our efforts to award funds to assist local PTAs in need, and hope to continue to help PTA units in new ways in 2021!



- Dinah Showman, Scholarships/Grants committee chair

State PTA Legislation Conference

One of the [purposes of the PTA](#) is "To advocate for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth."



Toward that end – both to train advocates from all over the state, and to share information about current issues that our larger organization is working on – California State PTA holds an annual Legislation Conference, usually in Sacramento, in a hotel and at the Capitol.

This year's conference was virtual. We missed the interactive sessions, the camaraderie, and the hallway conversations, and the visits to legislators' offices. But we were no longer limited by the size of the conference room, the cost of travel, or the difficulty of being away from home for two days. As a result, far more people were able to take advantage of the opportunities for learning, growth, and advocacy.

This year's conference was entitled "A Path to Equity." Included at the end of this newsletter,

you'll see the flyer that State PTA gave us to share with legislators, to help them understand who we are, what we're all about, and why equity for all children is such a central concept for the PTA.

Over the course of two days, we heard from State PTA leaders; elected officials, including Tony Thurmond (State Superintendent of Public Education), Anthony Rendon (Speaker of the Assembly), and the Chairs of ethnic and other caucuses within the legislature;

We heard from leaders from the State Board of Education, from the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), and others. And we had a special session on achieving equity through the Arts. A particular favorite of mine was a talk by John Rogers, Director of UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access.

And we heard from officials and outside experts about budget issues and the appropriations process – key areas to understand as we work to improve kids' lives and educations.

Finally, we were encouraged to go forth and make appointments to meet with the state legislators who represent our area, to encourage them to think broadly in terms of equity for our state's 9.2 million kids. It's too early in the legislative year to discuss specific legislation with them. It's never too early, though, to establish relationships; that makes it much easier to be heard, later, when we *do* have issues with specific bills or policies.

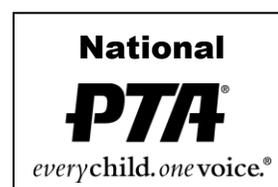
Because of where we happen to live, our legislators' views are often closely aligned with PTA's principles. We rarely have to ask them to rethink an issue; more commonly, we find ourselves thanking them for what they're doing for kids, and discussing how we can support those efforts.

- Erwin Morton, VP of Advocacy, advocacy@scvpta6.org

Did you know...

National PTA has since its founding done amazing work on behalf of all children. We know the organization's serious side but do you know these fun facts from 1900-1999?

Take our quiz and find out. *Answers below.*



1. Theodore Roosevelt was appointed chairman of the PTA Advisory Council in 1900. How many years did he serve as chair?
a. 9 b. 11 c. 13 d. 17 e. 19
2. The National PTA published a leaflet on Extremist Groups. When was it first published?
a. 1920's b. 1930's c. 1940's d. 1950's e. 1960's
3. In 1941, National PTA had almost 2.5 million members. How many were men?
a. 100,000 b. 300,000 c. 500,000 d. 700,000 e. 900,000
4. What year did the PTA publish its first booklet on sex education?

- a. 1904 b. 1914 c. 1924 d. 1934 e. 1944
5. A magazine article warning students about “pep pills” was published in which decade?
 a. 1930’s b. 1940’s c. 1950’s d. 1960’s e. 1970’s
6. By 1926, how many Congress PTAs had been established (states and territories)?
 a. 19 b. 29 c. 39 d. 49
7. Currently there are 55 Congresses. Which one of these joined in the 1920’s?
 a. Alaska b. Arizona c. Hawaii d. Montana e. Nevada
8. In what year did the National PTA reach 10 million members?
 a. 1946 b. 1956 c. 1966 d. 1976 e. 1986
9. What year did the PTA urge automatic sprinklers in schools?
 a. 1916 b. 1926 c. 1936 d. 1946 e. 1956
10. When were the National PTA dues increased from 5 cents to 10 cents?
 a. 1920’s b. 1940’s c. 1960’s d. 1980’s
11. What year did the National PTA and National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers merge together?
 a. 1968 b. 1970 c. 1972 d. 1974 e. 1976
12. Can you name the musical group selected as national honorary membership chairmen in the 1980’s?
 a. Alabama b. Boston c. Chicago d. Kansas e. Ohio Players

Answers:

1. (e) - Theodore Roosevelt, when he was the governor of New York, would in 1900 be appointed to the Advisory Council. He would serve as chairman of the Advisory Council and remain an active member, even during his presidency, until his death in 1919. With his appointment, the association gained a vital and vocal champion. His credentials and high visibility were a dramatic encouragement for other fathers to join.
2. (e) - The publication of the leaflet Extremist Groups: A Clear and Present Danger to Freedom and Democracy was first published in 1965. It was updated in 1983 as “The National PTA Guide to Extremism, Extremists, Extremists Groups”.
3. (e) - In 1941, of the 2.5 million members more than 900,000 were men.
4. (a) - 1904 - National PTA published booklets on sex education
5. (a) - 1938 - A magazine article warned students against the dangers of using “pep pills” to extend study time.
6. (d) - By 1926, there were 49 Congresses.
7. (c) - It was Hawaii which joined in 1926. The other states joining dates were: Arizona (1906), Montana (1915), Nevada (1940), and Alaska (1957).
8. (b) - The year was 1956. Membership would peak in the mid-1960’s at 11,992,726.
9. (a) - 1916 Convention urged automatic sprinklers in schools, in addition to fire escapes.
10. (c) - National dues of 5 cents per capita were authorized in 1901 and were not increased to 10 cents until the convention in 1966. Their next increase took place in 1975 when the dues were increased from 10 cents to 20 cents.

11. (b) - The two organizations merged in 1970. The National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers was organized to function only in those states where separate schools for the races were maintained. The NCCPT functioned for more than four decades-until public schools were no longer legally segregated and the time seemed right for the two parallel associations to become one.
12. (a) - Country rock group Alabama was selected as national honorary membership chairmen for 1982–84.

- Wendy Akers-Ghose, Historian

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2020-2021 Adopted Goals:

- Growing our Membership with unaffiliated community members to reach up to 100 members
- Sharing Pearls of Wisdom – Program ideas and PTA basics to navigate COVID-19
- Advocacy on behalf of children, families, schools in the counties of Sixth District

Our 2020-2021 Officers:

President	Laura Raimondi
Executive VP	Diane Foote
1 st VP of Membership	Wanna Kapoor
2 nd VP of Communication	Naomi Higaki
3 rd VP of Advocacy	Erwin Morton
Secretary	Susan Canty
Treasurer	Tami Borba
Auditor	Dinah Showman
Parliamentarian	Marcie Brown
Historian	Wendy Akers-Ghose

Visit SCV PTA online at <https://scvpta6.org/> for more information about our PTA.

Email President Laura Raimondi at president@scvpta6.org or VP of Communications Naomi Higaki at communications@scvpta6.org if you have questions, comments or concerns. ###



CALIFORNIA STATE PTA
**LEGISLATION
CONFERENCE**
A PATH TO EQUITY

*Education is the key to economic
and social opportunity – leading to
increased prosperity for all.*

2021

► Why focus on EQUITY?

California State PTA believes that all children deserve a quality education regardless of the community in which they live, the color of their skin, their language, their gender identity, or their immigration status.

But too many California students from underserved communities are deprived of an equal opportunity to learn. At this year's Legislation Conference, we explore how we can use our collective voices to influence legislation and the state budget to improve equity, access, and opportunity for all of California's children.

Advocacy Agenda for Equity

- **Poverty, Income, and Racial Inequality:** The effects of discrimination, past and present, perpetuate today's economic inequalities, destabilizing family security at its most basic level. PTA seeks legislation to address poverty, and the income and racial inequities that affect millions of California families.
- **Early Learning:** PTA supports quality childcare, pre-school and early learning for all children.
- **Health and Welfare:** Physical, social, emotional, and mental health needs must be met before students can thrive. PTA supports school and community programs that protect the health and welfare of all children and families, including community schools, school-based health services, counseling, nutrition, and other support services.
- **Education Funding:** California's school finance system must provide stable, sustainable, equitable, and adequate funding to meet the diverse needs of all our students, including before and after-school programs, summer school, and distance learning.
- **Teaching:** PTA supports the recruitment and development of an educator workforce that is reflective of the student population, and that all students have qualified and effective teachers delivering a full curriculum.
- **Curriculum:** PTA believes that all students deserve an education that prepares them for successful entry into society, college, and the work force. All students should be taught a full curriculum including the arts, P.E., and civics that provides them with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to thrive and become engaged members of society. Instruction should be personalized, culturally relevant, and responsive. Coursework must address racism and bias to counteract the institutional and structural biases and related traumas that often drive inequitable outcomes for students.

