

# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (LAC)

The Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC) is a standing committee and recommending body responsible to the Utah PTA Board of Directors. Its purpose is to protect and represent the rights of the children of Utah through the legislative process.

## Membership of the Legislative Advocacy Committee:

1. The chair of the LAC shall be the Advocacy Vice President
2. The committee shall elect a vice chair
3. The secretary shall be the Utah PTA secretary and shall keep minutes of each committee meeting and file them in the minutes book in the Utah PTA office
4. All Executive Committee members and commissioners serve on the LAC (an Executive Committee member may be excused for one year if requested as long as a quorum will be attending all LAC meetings)
5. Region directors/associates or their designees selected from those who request to be LAC members
6. Other members selected by the Advocacy Vice President may be appointed to the LAC for one year upon approval of the board

## All members of the LAC shall serve if they meet the following requirements:

1. Be a PTA member.
2. Be willing to serve according to their knowledge of PTA and legislative issues.
3. Serve on at least one commission, in consultation with the Advocacy Vice President and the commissioners.
4. Follow assigned specific task forces, committees, legislation etc., throughout the year and the legislative session.
5. Attend monthly LAC meetings to share and receive information gathered between meetings and to listen to presentations on potential legislative matters and issues concerning children.
6. Stay well informed on legislative issues that concern Utah children, on PTA positions and concerns, and on the opinions of the PTA members in their geographical area.
7. Represent the interests of all PTA members when speaking on Utah PTA legislative positions.
8. Be willing and available to answer questions from local, council, and region PTA members concerning legislative bills and issues. Relay input from them to the Utah PTA Advocacy Vice President or LAC.
9. Keep abreast of national legislative issues concerning children and take appropriate action in contacting federal legislators with recommendations about bills.
10. Activate the Utah PTA legislative network when assigned by the Advocacy Vice President if time does not permit the VPs to make these contacts. (See Legislative Handbook.)
11. In the event any member of LAC is unable or unwilling to act within the guidelines of LAC and/or in compliance with the annual training guidelines for PTA lobbying activities, after consultation with the president, the Advocacy Vice President, and the member, the member shall be removed from his position on LAC.

## Members shall:

1. Maintain a record of their volunteer hours and report them to the committee chairman prior to the monthly LAC meeting.
2. Help plan and implement the annual Utah PTA Day at the Capitol in order for PTA members to observe the legislature in session, visit with their individual legislators, and become informed about bills and issues being considered.
3. Help plan and implement the annual Fall Utah PTA Legislative Advocacy Conference, which includes legislative training and information on possible legislative issues and bills.
4. Assist with training at workshops, conventions, and conferences as needed.
5. Assist with business meetings as door monitors, timers, liaisons with chair, at microphones, and as needed.
6. Be reimbursed for expenses (i.e., printed materials, phone calls, public relations, etc.) as provided for in the Utah PTA LAC budget with the prior approval of the Advocacy Vice President.
7. Donate their mileage as members are not generally reimbursed for mileage; however, they may receive a mileage reimbursement from the LAC budget with the prior approval of the Advocacy Vice President for their trips to and from the Capitol during the Utah legislative session.

## Members may be asked to:

1. Become acquainted with their own senator and representative to be able to communicate and work cooperatively with them on PTA issues and encourage their votes in behalf of children.
2. Attend Utah legislative interim committee meetings, held at least monthly between legislative sessions, and other meetings at which issues concerning children are studied and discussed as assigned.
3. Attend public and/or governmental agency meetings pertaining to areas of concern as assigned.
4. Speak in the name of Utah PTA only as authorized by the Utah PTA president, Advocacy Vice President, or commissioners when addressing bills or issues assigned to their commission.
5. Carry out special assignments to accomplish PTA legislative purposes.

## During the legislative session, members shall:

1. Monitor the daily Legislative Committee meetings and speak to bills as assigned by the president, Advocacy Vice President, or commissioners.
2. Ensure committee representation is present whenever the senate or house is in session on the floor.
3. Attend the legislature at least two days each week during the Utah legislative session.
4. Clear any prepared statements through the president and Advocacy Vice President.
5. Attend weekly LAC meetings during the legislative session to be educated on current bills and issues, share information gathered in the past week, and adopt positions on PTA bills, taking into consideration the recommendations made by the commissioners.
6. Perform assigned advocacy responsibilities during the legislative session. Ongoing communication with each LAC member's own legislators is especially important.
7. Does not need a second to a motion in order to discuss the motion.

## The LAC:

1. Shall take its direction from the PTA Purposes, resolutions, legislative policies and directives, the board, and commission priorities. Official positions may not be taken until a bill is printed and numbered; however, Utah PTA may support or oppose the concept of proposed legislation.
2. May take a position on local issues only when requested to do so by the region director affected by the issue. The region director makes a recommendation to the LAC for consideration. The recommendation must have the support of local PTA/PTSA boards.
3. May take the following possible action on bills and/or local issues:
  - A. Support (or oppose) the issue of specific legislation.
  - B. Reserve position (Utah PTA may speak to the position with concerns expressed). Two weeks before the end of the legislative session, all bills having a “reserve position” either need a designated position taken or should be removed from the bill sheet.
  - C. Local issue (LI).
  - D. No position (the bills not included on the bill sheet).