A Combined Effort - Each One of US!!

The year is almost done...

But we are still here to help you!

We are still here waiting to help you! We can come to a meeting or talk to you on the phone!

We have many resources to share with you and your school community!

Let us know how we can make the end of the year one to remember!

Do you want to do programs and events but don’t know how to get one started!

• Utah PTA Commissioners are here to help!
• We can come to you and present a program or help you work out the details to get a program or event started
• Or we can connect you with some of our great outside resources to help you put on some fantastic programs!
• Contact one of us! Our info is at the end of this newsletter!

Things to not forget these last few months:

ORGANIZE YOUR PTA FILES AND STORAGE.
This is a great time to go through your files and purge unnecessary items. Get rid of mangled decorations, boxes of old school directories, unwanted supplies, posters that announce activities your group hasn’t sponsored in ages, and piles of unneeded files. After you clean out the cabinet, file drawers, or closet, write an inventory list of the major items in each place and tape it to the inside of the door or drawer.

COLLECT PROJECT/COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS.
To avoid the loss of important PTA leader binders, collect the binders before school lets out. It’s easier to track down the fundraising chairperson and those files now than it will be in the fall when your new chairperson is trying to get organized.

ENCOURAGE YEAR-END ASSESSMENTS OF EACH COMMITTEE, PROJECT AND YEAR AS THE PTA.
Ask your committee chairs to complete a year-end assessment for their projects. Do a year end assessment to capture important information such as tips for success, pitfalls to avoid, and email addresses and phone numbers.

Connect with Commissioners… and Other Leaders of Utah PTA

www.utahpta.org

Facebook - Utah PTA Page, Utah PTA Excellent Elementary Group, Utah PTA Super Secondary Group, Utah PTA Advocacy Group

Instagram: Utah PTA
Twitter: @UtahPTAOneVoice
Pinterest: Utah PTA
YouTube: Utah PTA One Voice
Community Engagement Commission

You Count! Be Counted - Census 2020

The government counts everyone in the country. They ask questions about every home in the country. One person from every home answers the questions. The census happens every 10 years. The government will send you a letter in the mail, in March. It has instructions on how to fill out the census.

The census asks one person in every home to answer a few questions. The census asks two kinds of questions. It asks questions about your home. Then, it asks questions about each person who lives in your home.

The census asks these questions about your home:
• What is your phone number?
• Do you own your home or rent it?
• How many people live in your home?

Only 1 person needs to respond to the census in each home. If you live with other people, you should talk to them about who will fill it out. Your answers to the census are secret. The government will not share your answers with anyone. Your answers are used to count how many people there are in the country. The law does not allow your answers to be shared for any other reason. The census does not ask if you are a citizen of the United States.

The census will ask:
What is your name? You put your name on the form.
What is your sex? The census gives two options. You can choose “male” or “female.”
What is your age? You put down how old you are on the form.
Are you Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish Origin? This question has to do with where your family comes from. The form uses the term Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin, so if your family comes from a Spanish-speaking country, your answer to this question is probably yes.
What is your race? For this question, you check boxes. The census lists different races. Some examples are “white,” “black,” or “American Indian.” You can check more than one box. After you check boxes, the census asks for more details, like what area, country, or tribe your family is from.

The census will also ask these same questions about the people who live with you.

IS IT REALLY THE CENSUS?
THE CENSUS WILL NOT:
• ask for your Social Security number
• send people to jail for not answering questions
• ask for money or your bank account information

Representatives in Congress
We vote for our Members of Congress in elections.
One part of Congress is the House of Representatives. The Members of Congress in the House of Representatives are called Representatives. Every state has a different number of Representatives, based on how many people live in the state.

Inclusivity and Diversity Specialist

Diversity and Inclusivity has an Essay Contest. Information and the form are found on the Community Engagement area of the Utah PTA website. Learn and write about the Importance of Multiculturalism, including how people of different races, ethnic groups, countries of origin, genders, abilities and beliefs have contributed to history and to culture. 3, $50 awards will be given. Essay of 500 words or less on the theme “Why Diversity and inclusivity are Important to Me” DUE April 3,2020

Marianne McGregor Guelker
inclusivity@utahpta.org
Family Life Commission

Teaming Up for Families

As the Utah legislature closed the 2020 session, many great bills passed that were exciting and helpful to families and children in Utah.

**Winner - Hundreds of schoolchildren** will have access to school breakfast because of **HB222**. The measure’s estimated $2.1 million cost is entirely covered by the federal government and will fund approximately 90+ more schools and thousands of children who are Utah’s most at risk and at need children.

**Winner - Prosecution of Minors:** The legislature passed a bill **HB 262** that bans the prosecution of kids under 12, unless they’re accused of more serious crimes like rape or murder. Instead, children will go through restorative justice programs that include things like community service and apologizing to the victim.

**Winner – HB 99S1- Enhanced Kindergarten Amendments:** This bill addressed requirements and funding for optional extended day/enhanced kindergarten. It unfortunately did not get its entire ask of funding, but did get enough for a great place to start funding more school time for a few more of these Kindergartners.

**Winner – HJR009- Joint Resolution Calling for an Application Ratings Board for Internet Ready Devices:** This resolution calls on the United States Congress to recommend that vendors and distributors of applications establish an independent application ratings board, comprised of industry representatives, child development, child protection, and internet safety subject matter experts to:

* establish new criteria for what types of application content and in-application risks result in specified age-appropriate application ratings;
* review application ratings and descriptions of the most downloaded applications and the downloadable content of those applications; and
* impose sanctions for noncompliance and calls on leading technology companies to:
  * manufacture internet-ready devices with user-friendly parental controls;
  * close loopholes that permit the bypassing of parental controls;
  * build in age-based, default safety settings

Digital Citizenship Specialist

Linda Zenger
linda@utahpta.org

Heidi Grimshaw
heidi@utahpta.org

UTAH PTA
TECH TUESDAY
WANTS YOUR STUDENTS’ IDEAS TO POST
Students email digitalcitizenship@utahpta.org with the following information:

* Student’s name
* Student’s school
* Student’s idea of how they use technology for good
* #UseTechforGood
* Parents’ names and emails.

Be sure to follow “Utah PTA” on Facebook
Military Family Specialist

APRIL is the Month of the Military Child... Let’s Celebrate and Show our Support!!

The Month of the Military Child is APRIL. It provides a powerful opportunity to raise awareness and build support to help these children meet the unique challenges they face! It is an opportunity to recognize military children and youth for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices and continued resilience.

Ideas to Celebrate the Month of the Military Child:

1. Have a Patriotic Assembly, with the whole school wearing a camouflage ribbon or an article of clothing on Assembly day or a special day chosen in April. (An assembly planning schedule and ideas can be found on the Utah PTA website www.utahpta.org, click Commissions, and click Military Families Specialist.
2. Have students create artwork during April that promotes patriotism and display it.
3. Encourage the reading of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.
4. Read, discuss and/or act out a Patriotic story in the classroom during the month of April.
5. Invite a student’s military family member to class to explain what their military service meant/means.
6. Invite military family members to a Patriotic Assembly or school event. Ask them to wear their uniform.
7. Have students write a paper on “Serving our Nation” by interviewing a former or current service member.
8. Sing a patriotic song at the beginning of class and/or play a patriotic song throughout the school.
9. Have students write a paragraph, poem or short story about, “Why I am Grateful to Those in Military Service.”
10. Have students write a letter, as a class or individually, to a service member. (Mailing addresses can be provided!)

Please join Utah PTA in Celebration of the Military Child by doing something patriotic in your school during April, the month of the Military Child!!

Please contact me for questions or more information.

Individual Development Commission

Reflections Specialist

State Reflections judging is complete and winners have been notified. We have had to postpone when we will honor these 180 winners at a state awards night. Please, watch for updates to this date and time and place. If you would like to see a list of the winners, please visit www.utahpta.org/reflections. All specialists and parents are invited to join our Facebook page Utah PTA Reflections. It's a valuable resource to connect with other parents, specialists, and state leaders to get timely answers to questions and allow others to learn at the same time. Make sure to come to Convention to learn all about the changes to Reflections for next year and for an in depth discussion on qualifying entries. Now is the time to start promoting Reflections for next year. The theme will be "I Matter Because..."
Safety Commission

The legislative session has ended and a couple of Safety Bills have passed and are ready for enrolling.

The first one is **HB84 Traffic Code Amendments**. This bill increases the fines and penalties for school bus stop arm violations. While school buses remain the safest way for students to get to and from school, students who ride in buses are most vulnerable when they are outside the bus in the "danger zone", the area that they enter or exit a school bus. In a recent one-day test with the state of Utah, officials found 917 drivers totally disregarded school bus stop arms, this translates into more than 165,000 Stop Arm Violations in a school year. Thanks to Rep. Craig Hall for helping make our kids safer.

Another bill that passed is **HB116 S2 Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force**. Among native youth, more than 60% have been recently exposed to violence in different sectors of their lives - at home, school, and within their community and 75% of those youth are more likely to become a future victims of violence or a perpetrator. A 2019 Center for Disease Control report shows that homicide is the 2nd and 3rd leading cause of death for Native American girls ages 1 to 4 and 5 to 9 respectively. This bill creates a task force to develop protocols and procedures to apply to new and unsolved cases of missing or murdered indigenous women and girls. Thanks to Rep. Angela Romero for helping solve this problem.

Other Bills that should pass are:

- **HB101 Distracted Driving Amendments** by Rep. Carol Spackman Moss. This would make it illegal to operate a phone with your hands while driving.
- **HB311 Controlled Substance Enhancement Amendments** by Rep. Eric Hutchings. This would enhance penalties for a person using minors to distribute controlled substances.
- **HB 344 Sex Offender Restrictions Amendments** by Rep. Val Potter. This would not allow a person on the Sex Offender Registry to serve as a coach, manager or trainer of minors.
- **HB 384 Juvenile Justice Amendments** by Rep. Lowry Snow. This is a bill that encompasses many things regarding Juvenile Justice Reform. One of which is that it would not allow children to be locked up with an adult. There was also a joint resolution passed and ready to be enrolled. It is **SJR2 Joint Resolution Encouraging Action to Reduce the Number of Utah Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels** by Sen. Jani Iwamoto. This resolution encourages pediatric and pregnant women healthcare providers to be knowledgeable about the harms of lead and to encourage them to be tested.

Thank you to all of those who came to our two amazing student days at the Capitol. We had almost 800 students and chaperones! We have three days scheduled for next year, so start planning now with your students, and let us know if there’s something specific you’d like to see included. Our mock debates were a hit again this year, thanks to State Auditor John Dougall & former Rep. Ryan Wilcox. Former Mrs. Utah Becca Levie shared a great message about self-worth and recognizing that we matter. Lt Gov. Spencer Cox spoke to us on one of the days, and we shared a Thank You Resolution with the Utah Legislature one day as well.

Stay tuned for our next big event. It will be the State Battle of the Bands and Open MIKE competition. The date, time and place will be forthcoming.

Legislative bills I’ve been following have mostly centered on e cigarettes and vaping. HB 58, sponsored by Rep. Susan Pulsipher, might be my favorite. It puts into place funding for a positive behavior program at each of our schools. All of our PTAs and PTSAs should work with their principals in bringing, or continuing, these types of programs to our students.
Important Dates

Join us for the following Advocacy Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates in 2020</th>
<th>LAC Leadership Convention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 22, 2020</td>
<td>LAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14-15, 2020</td>
<td>Leadership Convention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thursday and Friday, May 14th and 15th, 2020 at the Utah Valley Convention Center at 220 W. Center Street, Provo

Early Bird - $80/member until March 23
Regular - $90/member March 24 - April 20
Onsite - $100/member after April 20 - starting at 7:30 am on May 14 and 15
Non-member - $150

Please read through the 2020 Convention Information and Schedule below before beginning registration. Registration may be completed online. Here is the link to the Utah PTA Leadership Convention

Legislative Information

Through the guidance of the Utah PTA Public Policy Program, the 2019-2020 Utah PTA Legislative Priorities and Utah PTA Resolutions and Position Statements, the Utah PTA takes positions on Bills that will affect children in the areas of Community Involvement, Education, Family Life, Health, Individual Development, Safety, Student Leadership, and School Trust Lands.

Advocates can only speak to issues on behalf of Utah PTA when a resolution voted on by the membership is in place. PTA Members can put forth resolutions they feel are necessary to give PTA members a voice on current policy.

Resolutions can be found @ https://www.utahpta.org/resolutions

To keep up to date on the Bills that Utah PTA followed this year:
You can use the interactive bill sheet @ https://www.utahpta.org/bills

Where do I find more information?

Are you interested in knowing more about the advocacy work of Utah PTA?

Would you like to receive legislative alerts from Utah PTA?

Utah PTA is using the Take Action Network Hub.
PTA members in all regions in the state are able to opt-in, to this hub, in MemberHub.

If you would like to join the Utah PTA Take Action Network, please go to https://utahpta.memberhub.com/hub/UtahPT44013 to sign up.

By joining the Take Action Hub, you are able to receive important legislative alerts from Utah PTA.
If you have any questions about the Take Action Network, please contact LeAnn Wood, the Utah PTA Legislative VP at Leann@utahpta.org
Any PTA member can join LAC! It is the 4th Wed from 12-2 at the PTA Office. (Aug- Nov, April) It is every Wed at 12 (Jan-March) at the capital during session.

Interested in a commission or have questions? Wondering about outside resources or partnerships that could help your PTA? If Yes, contact one of the commissioners! We are happy to help, offer ideas and share resources. We are here to support you!