

## The Beginning of PTA!

- It was on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1897, that about 2000 people gathered in Washington DC to speak on behalf of the needs of children. Out of this meeting came the National Congress of Mothers later to become the National PTA.
  - In 1897 three fourths of all American children dropped out of school before reaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade to work in mines, factories or farms.
- PTA co-founders were Alice Mclellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst.
- Selena Sloan Butler founded the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers in 1926, which merged with the National PTA in 1970.
- **Ohio PTA** became the 5<sup>th</sup> state to join NPTA in **1901**.
- **Hamilton County Council of PTAs** was formed in 1921. It started representing 9 school districts, but now is comprised of 7 (Finneytown, Forest Hills, HCBMR/DD, Northwest, Oak Hills, Southwest, and Three Rivers).

# Through the Years

“Not your Mother’s PTA” or is it? PTA has probably been more relevant than you know.

Here are some highlights of PTA involvement:

- 1899, called for the creation of a national health bureau
- 1901, advocated supervision of motion pictures and vaudeville because of their influence on youth
- 1941, was integral in the establishment of nationwide school lunch programs
- 1947, initiates a project at Northwestern University to train teachers in effective home-school relations
- 1951, called a national conference on narcotics and drug addiction
- 1954, helped field test and win acceptance of the use of the Salk polio vaccine
- 1962, resolutions on reducing school dropouts and better quality in motion pictures
- 1963, resolutions attacked mass media advertising of tobacco and tobacco use by minors
- 1966, established a project on the issue of smoking and its overall effects on health
- 1969, Reflections cultural arts competition started
- 1977, NPTA opened Office of Government Relations in Washington, DC to lobby
- 1980s, OPTA Seat Belt Safety (started with Northwest with HCC)
- 1984, NPTA started National Teacher Appreciation Week in May
- 1985, OPTA instrumental in passing NPTA resolution “A Rating System for Records, Tapes, and Cassettes” (started with Oak Hills with HCC)
- 1986, released AIDS education kit and begins multi-year AIDS education project in conjunction with the CDC
- 1990, released “Common Sense: Strategies for Raising Alcohol- and Drug-Free Kids”
- 1990s, Nutrition in Schools campaign (started with Forest Hills with HCC)
- 1994, worked with National Cable TV Association to launch critical viewing workshop “Taking Charge of Your TV”
- 1996, [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) started and US Post Office unveiled a stamp honoring NPTA
- 2000, publication of “Building Successful Partnerships; A Guide to Parent and Family Involvement” to share successful programs. Workshops are still given.
- 2005, Public Service Announcements (PSA) released and given to units to encourage parent involvement, partnered with the National Ad Council
- 2006, launched “Save Recess” campaign partnered with Nickelodeon

# PTAs Official Emblem, the Oak Tree:

Reflects the connection we have as PTA.



Leaves: Millions of members (6 million)

Twigs: Local units

Smaller branches: Districts  
(we are in District 6)

& Councils  
(we are in Hamilton County Council)

Main branches: States and Congresses  
(Ohio PTA)

Trunk: National PTA

Acorns: Accomplishments which are  
many

- It is the integral connection of the members all the way to National PTA that gives us strength in advocating and sharing of knowledge.
- This unity inspired the PTA motto of *Everychild.Onevoice.*

## All we do is to be in support of our PTA Mission of:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation

# PTA BENEFITS

Connection from member to unit; to council; to state; to National PTA assists with:

- Proven and effective training, programs and ideas
  - Council meetings and workshops
  - Ohio PTA (OPTA) “Ohio PTA News” newsletter and Convention
  - National PTA (NPTA) “Our Children” magazine and Convention
  - Created programs (i.e. “Building Successful Partnerships” or “Dealing with Difficult People”)
- Guidance with and established “paperwork” for 501c3 organizations
  - Tax exempt number and paperwork is handled by OPTA  
This is big! The exempt number is lost if not an official PTA.  
There is a lot of legal liability, paperwork, and expenses tied with this  
(around \$400 plus legal fees).
  - Bylaws; minutes; audits; etc.

MANY “RULES” WE FOLLOW ARE 501C3 DRIVEN NOT JUST PTA  
“RULES”!  
PTA AS AN ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATION KNOWS WHAT NEEDS  
TO BE FOLLOWED AND WE BENEFIT!

- Somewhere to go for help (area advisor, council, OPTA, NPTA)

Six million members make PTA the largest child focused organization and means:

- PTA can arrange for membership benefits from businesses (i.e. Barnes and Noble discounts, insurance discounts, 5/3<sup>rd</sup> Bank special offers, etc.)
- We are a strong voice for children in advocacy!
- [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) is a link to training, discounts, parenting information and more.

The back of your membership card contains a username and password that changes yearly to access the member’s only parts of the website.

- Provides opportunities to children:
  - Reflections cultural arts program
  - OPTA and HCC scholarships to seniors
- Provides opportunities to educators:
  - Scholarships
  - Recognition (i.e. “Outstanding Educator”, Oak Tree Award, etc.)

# PTA vs. PTO

## PTO:

- Not a national organization. It is established for that particular school.
- All 501c3 paperwork must be done by that group itself.
- No established training or support in place.
- There is a national magazine that is supported by advertisements.
- No advocacy element.
  
- They do wonderful things for their kids in their school (i.e. carnivals, supply funds for extras, provide room parents, etc.)

## PTA:

- We do all of the great support of our schools.
- We have the opportunities for all of the training and support.
- Sharing of ideas across units.

## Advocacy!

- From our Mission Statement:  
To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children
  
- PTA advocates in schools, communities and government for children.
- We do things on local levels. (i.e. “Healthy Beverages”)
- Ohio PTA board members follow legislation and Department of Education rules; they inform the members; they give input on the creation of the bills or rules as members of coalitions (i.e. Ohio Fair Schools); they give testimony.

OPTA was just invited to discussions with the Governor’s process for education reform. His Representative stated that PTO is hard to invite because there is no central contact and he knew PTA would get the word out.

- National PTA does the same plus there are full time lobbyist speaking on our children’s’ behalf.

PTO – “our children”

PTA – “all children”

A little Advocacy background:

- We or anyone else can not speak on behalf of PTA for or against an issue without there being an approved Resolution on the matter.
- Resolutions are created by any member or group of members about an issue of concern.
- The membership votes to accept the position presented in the Resolution at convention.

Nothing can be supported that has not been approved by the membership via voting at convention!

- We also never support or go against people only issues (this is an IRS rule).
- Our membership numbers matter so that we can keep the ear of legislators.
- Any other examples of advocacy?

Advocacy is not a scary word.

We all need to be advocates for our kids.

PTA tries to advocate for all kids so that the ones without a strong voice are still cared for.

PTA also tries to help all of us be that strong voice!