

PTA[®] in California

Special Edition

The Official Magazine of the California State PTA

Summer 2023



Convention
HIGHLIGHTS
2023



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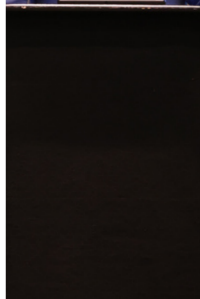
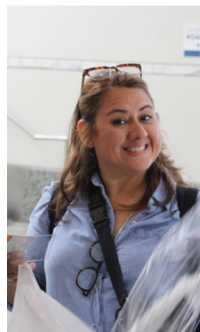


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PTA IN CALIFORNIA: 2023 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Articles appearing in this newsletter may be reprinted in PTA unit, council and district newsletters. Please credit California State PTA.



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President's Message

I hope you enjoy this special edition of PTA in California. As we head into summer, it's exciting to reflect on the accomplishments of the year we are finishing up and look ahead with hope and optimism. No matter what challenges we know supporting, protecting and advocating on behalf of every child is one of the most impactful things we can do.

Thank you for your commitment to the children and families in your communities. Thank you for being a member of the largest child advocacy association in the world and thank you for your flexibility, adaptability, and resilience as we continue to pursue our mission to positively impact the lives of all children and families.

We have made great strides in PTA this year. Our membership is up for the second year in a row. This is the most significant increase in PTA membership ever. Last year we increased membership statewide by more than 38%. Yes, that was coming off of some very challenging years, but together we built membership back. This year we are on track to increase our historic membership increases by another 9-10%. We have already surpassed last year's numbers. Remember, membership is our voice—THANK YOU for increasing our voice for all children.

You are the power of PTA. Together we will continue to advocate for the health, safety, wellbeing and a quality education for every child. This is your kind of PTA because you - local leaders and members decide what you want to focus on and how you want to PTA. We know PTAs across California are creating, sponsoring, and bringing important programs to our schools, children, families, and communities. We know families and schools are working together to improve and increase the family-school partnership, and we know that when families and schools work together our students succeed.

Our Convention gave us an opportunity to highlight some of the work we have done, to celebrate and connect, and to decide the direction we will head. We know not everyone was able to be with us in person, so we are excited to share convention with all of you. At this year's convention we adopted four new resolutions to protect California's children. You'll read about them in this edition. We have already used the resolutions to take positions on bills in the California legislature and are working to submit the resolutions to National PTA. Adopting our Legislation Policies, and changes to our bylaws and electing our new state leaders were all part of the business of the association and we had a packed agenda.

Hearing from our teacher of the year and our outstanding guest speaker, Diana Carson, "A Walk with Joaquin: My Journey from Awareness to Inclusion," was inspiring and offered practical information as we all continue our journey toward more inclusion and belonging.

I hope you enjoy seeing the highlights of this year's Convention, and that you will continue to support the children and families in your community. It is my privilege to serve as your California State PTA President. My goal is to support you in your PTA journey. Please share the great things you are doing, the ways you are impacting kids in your area, and how you are advocating. We can do great things together!



Carol Green
President



President-Elect's Message

As I was walking down the street in Sacramento before convention got started, I noticed a sign in a restaurant. It said "Every Day is Your Chance to Make This City a Little Better."

I immediately stopped and thought about how this related to PTA. How each of us as PTA leaders has the opportunity to make our organization stronger and better with every action that we take. You, our local PTA leaders, represent and embody PTA in your community. Whether you are running a fundraiser, organizing an event, or advocating for children and families, you have the power to make a difference.

Making PTA better isn't just about the big events. It's also about the small everyday actions that you take as a leader. It's about taking the time to listen to the concerns and needs of your members. It's about making sure that every voice is heard and that everyone feels valued and included in the activities of PTA. And, it's about making our schools and our communities a better place for our children.

Know that you make a difference. Whether you are taking on a new leadership role or simply showing up to a meeting, it matters.

Thank you to all of you who took the time out of your busy schedules to attend convention. The training you received and your networking and sharing of ideas with other PTA leaders from across the state will make a difference in your local community and throughout the state.

As I think about all that you do in your schools and communities, I am reminded of the words of Ann Frank, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Thank you for all you do!



Shereen Walter
President-Elect

Business of The Association

California State PTA members like you came to Convention from across California. Delegates adopted four resolutions, our Legislation Policies, and amendments to the California State bylaws at the 2023 Convention.

Resolutions call attention to a need for action on a particular issue affecting children and families. They are the primary sources of authority to advocate for laws locally, statewide, and federally. Legislation policies (adopted by delegates every two years) guide the association's action on legislation.

RESOLUTION:

EQUITABLE LITERACY FOR ALL STUDENTS

Addresses the need for legislation and public policies to produce more equitable literacy outcomes for California's students. The resolution supports universal screenings for K-4th grade students at all public schools to identify children at risk for reading and literacy disorders and to screen for reading proficiency; it calls for resources and additional support for students who are not reading proficiently. The resolution ensures that reading is taught based on comprehensive, evidence-based, structured literacy curricula. It supports the establishment of a task force to ensure the creation and implementation of a statewide comprehensive literacy plan.

RESOLUTION: INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

This resolution calls for California State PTA and its units, councils, and districts to promote awareness of the abilities of all children and the urgent need to increase access to inclusive education for students with cognitive disabilities, provide training to all partners in the educational system on evidence-based practices that can overcome barriers to access for students with cognitive disabilities; promote greater coordination between general education and special education; and support efforts to provide modified curricula and alternate pathways to a high school diploma.





Business of The Association

RESOLUTION: SYNTHETIC AND TOBACCO-FREE NICOTINE PRODUCTS

Delegates adopted this resolution aimed at advocating for and supporting laws, regulations, policies, and measures that prevent the use of synthetic and tobacco-free nicotine by youth by prohibiting the sale and distribution of these products, requiring regulatory review and oversight, mandating safety warnings, and preventing marketing claims that suggest these products are safe and non-addictive for youth. Delegates also voted to forward this resolution to National PTA for consideration by delegates at its Convention.



RESOLUTION: AID TO SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES

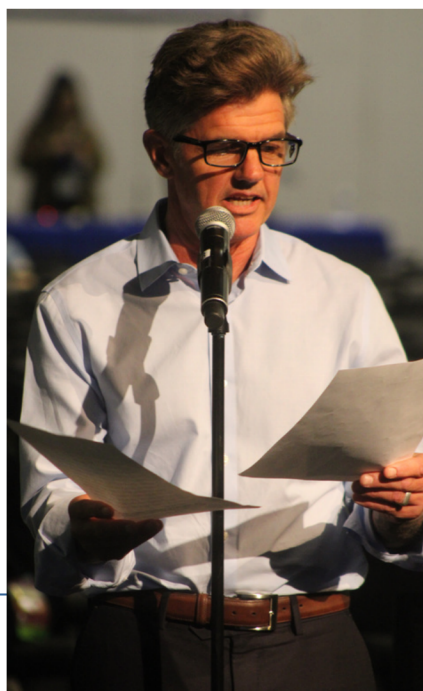
This was the first time delegates amended a previously adopted resolution. Delegates adopted the new resolution with more updated terms and continued to demonstrate California State PTA's commitment to ensuring that adequate and appropriate services and programs are available to survivors and victims of sexual violence and their families through educating the parent population, working with school administrations and community partners, and advocating for legislation. The changes expanded the previous definition of sexual violence. They recognized the disproportionate representation of sexual violence on Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and the LGBTQIA+ community in sexual violence data.

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Delegates adopted amendments to the California State PTA Bylaws, including changes to the frequency of when constituent organizations must conduct financial reviews (formerly known as audits) and requirements for virtual financial applications. Delegates also adopted gender-neutral language as part of the ongoing efforts to be more inclusive.

LEGISLATION POLICIES

The Legislation Policies were adopted unanimously by delegates.



Want to learn more about the association's business and what happened at the 2023 Convention? Visit capta.org/convention to read the full resolutions, bylaws amendments, and legislation policies.

Speakers

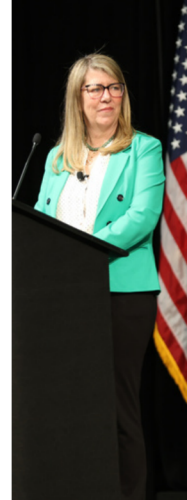


DIANA PASTORA CARSON, M.Ed.

Educator, Podcaster, Inclusionist

Diana Pastora Carson, M.Ed. has been an elementary educator for over 30 years, and co-teaches a Disability & Society course at San Diego State University. She is a consultant and educator on diversity as it relates to disability, and is the author of several articles and books including *Beyond Awareness: Bringing Disability into Diversity Work in K-12 Schools & Communities*, and a children's book, *Ed Roberts: Champion of Disability Rights*. Diana is known for her powerful keynote presentations and educational workshops related to disability awareness and inclusive teaching practices.

Her disability awareness work in schools has earned her statewide PTA recognitions in the areas of advocacy and outreach, as well as her elementary school's designation of Teacher of the Year. In addition to a TEDx Talk and podcast, *Beyond Awareness: Disability Awareness That Matters*, Diana has been featured in several articles and other podcasts. She served two terms on the Board of Directors of Disability Rights California, and currently serves as a board member of Disability Voices United. Although Diana experiences disability herself, she credits her passion for this work to her brother, Joaquin, who endured years of segregated schooling and subsequent institutionalization. She takes the most pride in knowing that after many years of fighting for his release, Joaquin now lives a life of self-determination, inclusion and quality, in the community, as her next-door neighbor.



Speakers

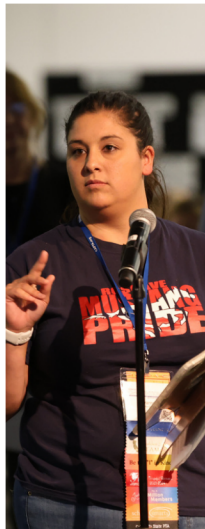


LAUREN CAMARILLO

California Teacher of the Year, Spanish & Ambassadors teacher at Mountain View High School

Lauren Camarillo, a 2023 California Teacher of the Year, is a Spanish and Ambassadors teacher at Mountain View High School, in the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District, Santa Clara County and a graduate of the Stanford Teacher Education Program--STEP. At Mountain View High School Lauren advises the Ambassadors leadership program, created to uplift students by increasing mental health awareness, supporting multilingual learners of English, helping freshmen transition to high school, and providing services for low-income students and families.

In addition to creating platforms for high school students to fulfill their leadership potential, Lauren trains and mentors new teachers as a lecturer for STEP's Designing Equitable Groupwork course. Through this course, Lauren and her fellow lecturers help new teachers integrate theory and practice to create more equitable and inclusive learning environments. Lauren grew up in the Bay Area and completed her undergraduate studies at UCLA.



Reflections

We were pleased to display the award-winning works of art made by our talented student artists in the Reflections Exhibit at the 2023 Convention.

The Reflections Art Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme while increasing community awareness of the importance of the arts in education.

Student works are reviewed against others in the same division, with emphasis on how a student interprets their submission to the theme. This allows recognition of artworks by appropriate developmental age and skill levels.

The Reflections Art Program is structured for PTAs to recognize students at the local unit, council, district, state, and national PTA levels. Once entries reach the level of the California State PTA, entries may be selected for submission to the National PTA for review.

Out of 30 California state student entries that advanced to the national level of Reflections, the 14 listed below received national recognition... with 9 Awards of Excellence and 5 Awards of Merit.

Student Name	Award Level	Grade Division	Arts Category	Title of Work	Local PTA Unit Name
Jake Gallagher	Excellence	Middle	Visual Arts	Heroes of Change	Paul Revere PTSA
Kaiden Surti	Excellence	Middle	Music Composition	Hear Me	Kraemer Middle School PTA
Keilani Kooper	Excellence	Middle	Photography	Finding My Voice	Huntington Middle School PTA
Maia Hammel	Excellence	Middle	Film Production	All of Our Voices	Brea Junior High PTA
Anvika Nipane	Excellence	Primary	Photography	Shining Star	Audubon Elementary School PTA
Samriddhi Bajpai	Excellence	Primary	Film Production	Be Kind and Stop Bullying	Sycamore Canyon School PTA
Saya Kawaguchi	Excellence	Primary	Literature	Echo	Stonebrae Elementary School PTA
Fernando Nunez	Excellence	Special Artist	Film Production	Venture Academy	El Dorado High School PTSA
Kotaro Fujita	Excellence	Special Artist	Photography	Show My Voice	South High School PTA
Nicholas Damon	Merit	High School	Music Composition	Racing, Racing	Sequoia High School PTSA
Ella Lee	Merit	High School	Literature	Footprints	Horace Mann Elementary School PTA
Emerson Cogswell	Merit	High School	Film Production	Find Your Voice	Apperson Elementary School PTA
Seohyun "Ellie" Bae	Merit	High School	Visual Arts	My Rainbow Voice	Sycamore Ridge Elementary School PTA
Sannidhi Gowda	Merit	Primary	Dance Choreography	Bharathnatya Dance	Coyote Creek Elementary School PTA

Congratulations again to all the student awardees and participants unleashing their creative and artistic talents on this year's theme... "Show Your Voice!" To see the artworks on our website, or to download and print our Reflections booklet as a keepsake, visit capta.org/reflections.



Dining & Dancing



Advocacy Celebration







Credential Report

VOTING DELEGATES: 433

- Unit Delegates: 237
- Council Delegates: 80
- District Delegates: 43
- State Board of Managers: 67
- Past State Presidents: 6

Representing 27 Districts

OTHER ATTENDEES

- Non-voting Unit Delegates: 175
- Guests: 47
- Program Participants: 24
- Volunteers: 15
- Exhibitors: 102

GRAND TOTAL:
796
REGISTERED
PARTICIPANTS



Board of Directors

2023-2025 TERM

During the 2023 Convention, elections were held for officers for the upcoming term. The following board members are the official incoming Board of Directors for the 2023-2025 term. Congratulations!



SHEREEN WALTER
PRESIDENT



HEATHER IPPOLITO
PRESIDENT-ELECT



LAURA HAWK-LOYA
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
LEADERSHIP SERVICES



ELLEN TORRES
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES



BARBARA SMITH
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS



WILL SANFORD
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
CONVENTION



MARILYN LUCEY
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
HEALTH &
COMMUNITY CONCERNS



BRAD WALLER
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
EDUCATION



ANITA AVRICK
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



NICHOLAS SMETAK
SECRETARY



DERICK BOERNER
TREASURER



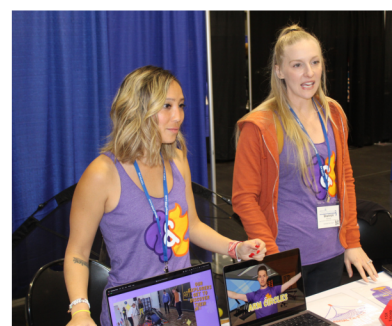
BECCA MARKS-ANDERSON
PARLIAMENTARIAN



KATHLEEN FAY
DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATION



DIANE HYLAND
CHAIR OF THE
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS



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