

## Don't miss the excitement of convention

This year's convention will be held in the heart of the state capital at the Sacramento Convention Center. Attending our annual convention will **engage, educate and energize** your delegates as you prepare for a great new PTA term -- president-elects and other new officers should attend. [Register your PTA delegates online today](#): It's easy to do!

### Your voice matters in the business of the association

Convention delegates have the opportunity to influence the direction of the organization through debates and votes on bylaws, resolutions and legislation policies. Plus, this year delegates will be electing the new 2015-2017 California State PTA Board of Directors. [Learn more.](#)

Download the [Convention Registration Book](#) for more information and register today!



**REGISTER TODAY**

## Service awards honor excellence



Does your PTA have a board member, a volunteer, a staff member or a parent who gives outstanding service to your PTA?

[Honorary Service Awards](#) are designed as a unique way for PTA units, councils and districts to publicly acknowledge both individuals and organizations for outstanding community service to children and youth -- **AND ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE PTA STORE.** [Take a look!](#)

Giving an honorary service award is the ultimate **THANK YOU!**

## 'Why do historians collect volunteer hours for our PTAs?'

Recording volunteer hours annually is part of the [historian's job description](#). Volunteer hours are collected and reported to maintain PTA's federal tax exemption status. The recorded hours from volunteers are proof that your PTA qualifies as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. They also are used in advocating on behalf of children and as information in grant writing.

[Learn more](#) about:

- What types of activities should be included in the volunteer hour count, and
- How to collect volunteer hours.

## The best gift you could ever give your successor: an up-to-date procedure book

What is the very best gift you could ever give to your successor? One of the most helpful tools for a PTA volunteer is a procedure book. Maintaining a procedure book will provide useful information for each officer or chairman. This information can then be passed from volunteer to volunteer each year, providing an invaluable resource. [Get more information](#).

## Men matter to PTA: It's the LAST DAY to qualify for March Male Madness



Does your PTA membership include dads and dudes? From March 1 to 31, PTAs have been taking the [March Male Madness challenge](#):

- Recruit 16 new male members to join your PTA between March 1 and March 31
- Fill out the [challenge application form](#)
- Completed applications, with signatures of your PTA president and school principal, must be received in the California State PTA office by April 10 at midnight.
- Send in per capita for your new March Male Madness members through channels, to arrive in the California State PTA office April 29 at midnight.

What makes this challenge unique? All qualifying units meeting the criteria will be entered into a convention drawing for a \$500 check for their PTA! So get those applications in, and many thanks to everyone who took part in this "guy-centered" challenge.

## Happy 100th birthday, PTAs!

Congratulations to the following schools and the PTA districts that support them in serving and advocating for our children for the past 100 years:

- **Pasadena Council of PTAs**, First District PTA
- **La Crescenta Elementary PTA**, First District PTA
- **Richard Garvey PTA**, First District PTA
- **Richardson D. White PTA**, First District PTA
- **Grant School PTA**, Ninth District PTA
- **Franklin Elementary PTA**, Fifteenth District PTA
- **McKinley Elementary PTA**, Seventeenth District PTA
- **Nipomo Elementary PTA**, Twenty-Fourth District PTA
- **Maya Lin PTA**, Peralta District PTA.

These associations have earned the **Legacy Award**. Awardees reaching their 100th anniversary as a PTA association are invited to send two representatives to the [California State PTA Annual Convention](#) to be recognized on stage and presented with their Legacy PTA certificates by California State PTA President Colleen A.R. You. Congrats and thanks to all!

## Records are a vital part of each PTA

Did you know that your PTA is responsible for following the legal and PTA records retention rules? **It is very important that certain records be retained.** The current IRS letter of determination, the current bylaws and standing rules approved by the state parliamentarian, and articles of incorporation (for incorporated PTAs) must be retained and readily accessible at all times.

Know what to keep and how long to keep them. Learn more at [capta.org](http://capta.org) and find out how long each PTA record should be retained and stored.

## California State PTA announces support for immunization bill

California State PTA has taken a support position on [Senate Bill 277 \(Pan\)](#). An [informational alert](#) recently was emailed to PTA members and leaders regarding this position.

Currently, children entering the school system or child care are required to be immunized against various communicable diseases unless they medically cannot receive immunizations, or unless immunization is contrary to personal beliefs. **SB 277 would eliminate the personal-belief exemption and require all medically eligible children to be immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases, thus protecting vulnerable children.** [Learn more.](#)

# We've got all this and more at [capta.org](http://capta.org)!

Getting the resources and news you need is now easier than ever with the revamped [capta.org](http://capta.org).

We listened to what parents, members and leaders want most: Ease of use, helpful tools and timely information are all part of our new streamlined design to help make your PTA – and your PTA experience – the best it can be.

The new mobile- and tablet-friendly site has all the tools and resources you need to help carry out your role as a PTA leader. Our new website includes:

- Our helpful [Toolkit](#)
- [Leadership](#) and training assistance
- [Tax Filing Support Center](#), featuring step-by-step instructions and forms
- [Finance](#) and [insurance](#) materials and reminders
- [Grants and awards](#) to help establish and build local programs
- [Tools](#) for marketing and growing your PTA
- [Resources and materials](#) to help you advocate on the issues you care most about
- And [more!](#)

Check out [capta.org](http://capta.org) today!



*Leadership Essentials* includes focused information for PTA leaders at all levels. [Past issues](#) are archived on the California State PTA website. Please contact [leadership@capta.org](mailto:leadership@capta.org) if this email contained information that was helpful to you, or to share ideas about what information would be helpful to include in future issues.

***This message is being sent to all unit, council and district PTA leaders.  
Please feel free to forward this message to your members and other interested parties.***

