Convention Highlights

#CAPTACON21
All Children are Our Children
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This past term has been overwhelming for each of us. We have all struggled with circumstances beyond our control and we have experienced great loss. This moment is filled with hope and pain, confusion and optimism, uncertainty and opportunities, isolation and connectivity.

This past term is not what any of us imagined and yet we have learned and grown from the experience. We are resilient, and will adapt and change and create. As the largest and oldest child advocacy association, PTA has faced challenges in the past, and undoubtedly we will have more to come, but it is important to learn the lessons of our experiences. At a time of isolation we learned how to become more connected, more inclusive. We stand on the shoulders of our founding mothers and we gain strength from the purpose of our mission and the hundreds of thousands of fellow volunteers who stand with us.

We continue to advocate for every child. As we move into the 2021-2023 term, we will work together to positively impact the lives of all children and families. It was so exciting to chat with so many fantastic new and experienced leaders across the state at our virtual convention.

Please know how much we appreciate all you do for children and families. Yes we still have a long way to go and the work ahead can seem daunting, but as Margaret Mead said: “Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have.”

I am excited to work with each of you, to face whatever new challenges are ahead and to ensure the work of PTAs across California advocating for the health, safety and quality education for all children. This is your KIND of PTA—Connecting, Growing, Including and Inspiring!
Keynote Speakers

Even though their presentations were virtual, the keynote speakers at Convention 2021 brought us all together under a single theme – the importance of connections.

Leslie Boggs, National PTA president

“We are a community. Everyone plays a crucial role. ... It’s about feeling connected and responsible for what happens to one another.” Boggs said. She praised attendees for all they have done this past year to help communities stay connected and highlighted the free resources, training, and grant funding that National PTA makes available to local units.

Boggs also challenged her audience to continue to use their voices and sustain their commitment in the year to come. “Our students and families will need PTA more than ever before. The next few months will be crucial for our nation and for the future of our association. We must invite more people to our PTA family. That connection, community is a saving grace. Our PTAs are centers of connection and care.”

Julie Lythcott-Haims, activist and author

After expressing her pride in being a Californian, Lythcott-Haims talked about the importance of connecting with other people and truly listening to what they need. This acclaimed author asked her virtual audience “what will you do differently when we get out of the pandemic?”

Her recommendation is to “strengthen your ties to other humans. Human connections are the juice of life.” Her practical example—don’t go back to “how are you” being just a polite greeting. “We’ve learned to make that question real, to ask honestly and to listen. Let us keep that genuine care and concern going.”

Keisa Brown, California Teacher of the Year 2021

Brown, who teaches at University Heights Middle School in Riverside Unified School District, receives praise from her colleagues and from students and their parents, for the way she builds relationships. She advised parents to make sure they keep showing up at school even when their kids reach middle and high school. “Make sure you’re there. Parents need to connect with the school and with the teachers. Students see that their parents care about school.” Brown also emphasized to parents the value of actively teaching their “scholars” about how to stay organized and the advantages of keeping connected to what’s happening in the classroom through online platforms available in most schools.
During the 2021 Convention, a contested election was held for the positions of President-Elect and Treasurer. The following board members are the official incoming Board of Directors for the 2021-23 term. Congratulations!

Carol Green
PRESIDENT

Shereen Walter
PRESIDENT-ELECT

Michael Morgan
VICE PRESIDENT FOR LEADERSHIP SERVICES

Jeff Price
VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Ellen Torres
VICE PRESIDENT FOR CONVENTION

Derby Pattengill
VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH & COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Laura Mudge
VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION

Robin Klau
VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Heather Ippolito
VICE PRESIDENT FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Abby Fellman
SECRETARY

Laura Hawk-Loya
TREASURER

Brad Waller
PARLIAMENTARIAN (Appointed)

Lea Darrah
DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATION (Appointed)

Derick Boerner
CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS (Elected by the DPs)

Sherry Skelly Griffith
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Staff)
During the general meetings at the 2021 Convention, California State PTA adopted one resolution, 17 bylaw changes, and changes to the 2019 Legislation Policies.

**RESOLUTION: TEACHING HARD HISTORY - AMERICAN SLAVERY IN K-12 EDUCATION**

The primary purpose of this resolution is to encourage PTAs to take action to improve the teaching of slavery in our schools. Many students struggle with even the most basic questions about slavery. We will work toward getting deeper coverage of this subject in the classroom, better textbooks, and stronger curriculum to provide the detail and historical context students need to make sense of slavery’s origin, evolution, abolition and legacy. Armed with a solid and historically sound understanding of slavery, our students will be better positioned to understand their world and how it came to be.

Adopted resolutions offer official guidance on issues as wide-ranging as school finance, health and safety, community concerns, and more. Resolutions guide PTA’s advocacy positions by giving us the authority of the association as a whole.

If your unit, council or district would like to propose a resolution for Convention 2022, you can read about the process here: [downloads.capta.org/res/ResolutionProcedures.pdf](http://downloads.capta.org/res/ResolutionProcedures.pdf).

**CALIFORNIA STATE PTA BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

Convention delegates voted to amend 17 of the 18 proposed amendments as listed in the Convention Chronicle. Section 2e of Article VI was referred back to committee.

Bylaws for each constituent organization shall be reviewed annually and updated every five years by the bylaws committee of the constituent organization.

California State PTA still recommends that you review your bylaws annually to familiarize yourself with the content and see if any revisions need to be made. You can get more information on your bylaws here: [downloads.capta.org/e-bylaws/BylawsReviewProcedures.pdf](http://downloads.capta.org/e-bylaws/BylawsReviewProcedures.pdf) and here: [downloads.capta.org/e-bylaws/BylawsPlayEssentialRole.pdf](http://downloads.capta.org/e-bylaws/BylawsPlayEssentialRole.pdf).

**LEGISLATION POLICIES**

All amendments to the Legislation Policies were adopted.

Want to learn more about the business of the association that was handled at Convention 2021? Visit [www.capta.org/convention](http://www.capta.org/convention) to read the full resolution, bylaws and legislation policies.
Photo Gallery

[Images of group photos and virtual meetings]
REPORT

VOTING DELEGATES: 1195
- Unit Delegates: 955
- Council Delegates: 88
- District Delegates: 56
- State Board of Managers: 89
- Past State Presidents: 8

Representing 620 units, 60 Councils, and 25 Districts

OTHER ATTENDEES
- Non-voting Unit Delegates: 428
- Outside Presenters: 67
- Exhibitor representatives: 76
- Staff: 6
- Reflections Artists: 201

GRAND TOTAL:
1,973 Registered participants

GETCONNECTED!
Your Life Made Easier

New Offers
Get $50 a month towards home internet!

One of the best ways to ensure your child succeeds in school is by having a home Internet connection.

California State PTA has partnered with California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) to help families find free and affordable Internet offers and low-cost computers. Some of the Internet offers are available at no cost!

You are eligible for affordable home Internet service if someone in your household meets one of the following criteria:

- Child enrolled in National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- CalFresh (food stamps) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipient
- Medi-Cal or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient
- Household income under $49,000/ year
- Student with a Pell Grant

Step 1: Go to www.getemergencybroadband.org
Step 2: Go to www.everyoneon.org/capta to select an Internet service provider in your area

Free and Low-cost Internet at home starting at $0 - $23/ month

Give Them The World
We were pleased to display the award-winning works of art made by our talented student artists in the Reflections booth at Convention 2021.

To see the artworks on our website, or to download and print our Reflections booklet as a keepsake, visit https://capta.org/programs-events/reflections.

Affordable Media Liability Insurance for PTAs

Protect your PTA in the event that you or your members accidentally misuse or disclose information on your website or other social media site.

Our Media Liability Policy covers you from some of the innocent mistakes made by well-intentioned people.

*This policy is available as a supplement to your General Liability Policy.

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www.farmfreshtoyou.com

Set up a fundraising program for your school or non-profit today!

Neily Messerschmidt
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916-524-0175

SAVE THE DATE
It's not too early to start planning for Convention 2022!
April 28-30 | Ontario, CA