



# PTA Leadership Training Beyond the Luncheon

Hosted by Louisiana PTA

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## Purposes of PTA:

- To promote the **welfare** of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- To raise the **standards** of home life.
- To secure **adequate laws** for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation **the home and the school**, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the **highest advantages** in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

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## Why are we here? Why do you PTA?

**To make every child's potential a reality  
by engaging and empowering families and communities  
to advocate for all children.**

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## Putting the "T" in PTA

1897: The National Congress of Mothers was formed

1908: Name change to National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations as part of the "crusade for children".

1926: The Congress of Colored Parents and Children formed

Mid-1930's: PTA moves into schools

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**“Teachers can give our children the will to continue learning for the rest of their lives ... Working together, teachers, parents and communities can make every child’s potential a reality”**

Jan Harp Domene, Past National PTA President

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## Today, in beyond the luncheon

What teachers say

What successful PTAs say

Strategies for engaging and partnering

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## What prevents teachers from engaging in PTA?

- Their own family time
- Not encouraged by administration or district
- Negative parents
- Don't see the value
- They weren't asked
  - To join
  - To be involved
  - To share their opinion

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## Units with 100% Teacher Memberships

- Recognize the value in what teachers do
- Have strong, two-way communication between teachers and the PTA
- Teachers are invited using customized materials
- Have membership campaigns specifically targeted at teachers
- Conduct recognition and team-buildings events to build partnerships

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## Wrong way to get them to join?

### **black-mail**

-noun

any payment extorted by intimidation

- He confessed rather than suffer the dishonor of blackmail

- verb

to force or coerce into a particular action, statement, etc:

- The teachers claimed they were blackmailed into signing the membership form or lose their classroom funds

### **bribe**

-noun

anything given or serving to persuade or induce

- The teachers were given stipends as a bribe to be members.

-verb (used with object)

to influence or corrupt with a bribe

- The teacher was too honest to be bribed into joining PTA.

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## The road to success

- Try to find a unity of purpose so that school and PTA complement each other
- Reach out to teachers and let them know you believe the “T” in PTA is important
- Don’t ask the to join .. instead ask them to support your PTA by being a member
- We must realize that we need to go the extra mile to get teachers to that first step .. The rewards will more than compensate us for the initial effort
- Emphasize the mission – advocating for children

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## The road to success continues ...

- Be persistent and respectful. Keep the lines of communication open.
- Don’t be negative .. find out why teachers won’t participate.
- Be visible, open and willing to listen.
- Forge a relationship with the staff and work together

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## Why would a teacher join your PTA?

- Relationship/Partnership building
- Recognition of each other’s role
- Unity of purpose
- Projects or activities

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**So do:**

- Plan together – working to achieve common goals is a powering tool to build relationships.
- Identify volunteer opportunities. Find and fill.
- Show respect. Let teachers know we value them.
- Actively seek input. Surveys, program assessments, suggestions boxes – ask for input and suggestions for improvement
- Recognize each other's role
- Unify our purpose
- Consider projects or activities using on-line PTA program resources
- Build a team – how can you do this outside the classroom?

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**Check out LAPTA and National PTA program opportunities:**

- Go to [pta.org/programs](http://pta.org/programs)
- Explore the wide variety of experiences available together
  - Family Reading Experience
  - Stem+Families
  - PTA Connected
  - Healthy Lifestyles
  - Connect for Respect
- How can these programs serve the needs of your teachers / how can they complement their teaching requirements?

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**So don't:**

- Criticize teachers who don't attend PTA meetings or events
- Become an ATM. Learn together that advocacy is better than fundraising to secure funds for needed resources.
- Assume teachers can remember everything a PTA has scheduled or can accommodate PTA requests

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**The bottom line**

- There are many challenges teachers and parents have faced in the last three years
- Disruption, stresses, health and safety concerns brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Attacks on our teachers and public school systems
- Trauma of school shootings and community violence.
- We need to focus on working together to make sure all children have opportunities to learn and thrive in environments that are safe, healthy and supportive.
- Children's caregivers and teachers are natural allies in this work.

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