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.

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
“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

Today, in beyond the luncheon

What teachers say

What successful PTAs say

Strategies for engaging and partnering

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

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
Wrong way to get them to join?

**black-mail**
- noun
any payment extorted by intimidation
  - 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
  - verb (used with object)
to influence or corrupt with a bribe
  - The teacher was too honest to be bribed into joining PTA.

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

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

Why would a teacher join your PTA?

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

Check out LAPTA and National PTA program opportunities:
• Go to 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?

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

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.