**Meet the Candidates 2025 – 2027 Slated Candidates**

**Les Malloy – Slated Candidate for President**

An active PTA leader since 2016, Les Malloy navigates issues with calm focus, whether clearing up longstanding challenges as a local unit treasurer, strengthening financial stewardship as Illinois PTA Treasurer, or inspiring broader engagement with National PTA programs as State Vice President of Programs.

Les believes PTA’s true strength lies in its people—leaders and communities who feel seen, heard, supported, and valued. Her background in finance and audit equips her with the skills to solve complex problems and foster collaboration, even in times of rapid change. She approaches every role with a dedication to building connections, supporting diverse voices, and creating environments where teams thrive.

As Illinois PTA celebrates 125 years of advocacy, arts, and community impact, Les remains committed to expanding this legacy. Her vision is one of growth and inclusivity, where every family feels empowered to contribute, every leader feels supported, and every child benefits from a stronger, more connected PTA. Together, we can continue to strengthen our communities, amplify our advocacy, and ensure the next 125 years are even more impactful.

**Jeanette Harris – Slated Candidate for President-Elect**

Jeanette Harris is currently serving as the Illinois PTA – VP of Field Operations. She has been involved with PTA since 2010 when her older son entered kindergarten. She served as secretary, president-elect, and president for her local PTA in Palatine and as council president. Jeanette also filled roles as calendar chair, yearbook committee, room parent, membership chair, and Reflections coordinator.

Jeanette joined the state board in 2019 as the Northwest Cook Region Director and has served on various committees including Bylaws Review and Leadership Development.

Outside of the PTA, Jeanette volunteers at her church and enjoys ice skating in her free time. Jeanette and her husband have 2 sons.

As President-Elect, she looks forward to developing new and re-establishing past partnerships with cooperating agencies. She also intends to increase awareness of PTA advocacy efforts because advocacy is more than contacting legislators – it’s speaking up for your child at their school.

 **Kristin Massey Kramer – Slated Candidate for Vice President of Program Services**

Kristin is currently serving as a National PTA Field Service Representative, the Illinois PTA Vice President of Program Services, and the District 41 PTA Council Legislation Chair. She has been involved with PTA since 2008 when her youngest son entered first grade. She previously served in the secretary, vice president, and president positions in her local PTAs in Glen Ellyn, as president of the Glen Ellyn District 41 PTA Council and Dupage West Region Director.

Kristin joined the National PTA Governance in 2023 and the Illinois PTA State Board in 2014. She has served on various state PTA committees including Leadership Development, Legislation, Resolutions, Membership, Cultural Arts and Family Engagement.

Kristin is the mother of two sons, Nate and Ben and works full-time as a licensed insurance agent.

**Carolyn McCarty – Slated Candidate for Vice President of Field Operations**

Carolyn’s passion for family engagement in education has driven her extensive PTA volunteer career. After more than 25 years in corporate leadership roles in retail and finance, she embraced a new challenge as a stay-at-home mom in 2006. Volunteering in her sons’ classrooms sparked her commitment to strengthening family involvement in schools.

Carolyn served on her local PTA board as Treasurer, President, and committee chair, creating interactive events that connected families and schools. Her innovative communication strategies caught the attention of the Illinois PTA, leading to her appointment as Bulletin Editor in 2010. This role provided valuable insight into statewide operations, preparing her for leadership as Southern Region Director, Vice President of Field Operations, President-Elect and President.

Throughout her tenure, Carolyn has been instrumental in expanding PTA’s reach, developing leaders, and empowering parents to make a difference in their communities. She has served on key committees, including Legislation Policy, Bylaws, Convention, and State & Local Relationships, and has led initiatives focused on children’s mental health, family engagement, and leadership development.

Her proven leadership, dedication, and vision continue to strengthen PTA’s impact across Illinois.

**Peggy Staehlin – Slated Candidate for Secretary**

A recently retired Early Childhood Teacher Peggy has taught preschool, kindergarten, second and third grade. As a mom of five children, she served on the local unit PTA board from the time her oldest was in first grade until her youngest graduated from Middle School.

Peggy has filled a variety of positions on PTA boards at the local, council, district, and state level. Her experience as a member of the State Board of Directors encompasses District Director, Resolutions Director, Vice President of Field Operations, President Elect and President, Convention General Arrangement Coordinator and State Legislative Consultant and Secretary. This afforded her the opportunity to assist in building memories for families through PTA events, speak on behalf of children with trips to Springfield, help local units and councils and sit on statewide committees as a voice for parents.

These past experiences have afforded Peggy a unique insight of the operations of the State Board of Directors. Her knowledge of key deadlines, procedures, bylaws, and history will serve her well if re-elected.

**Jim Sklena – Slated Candidate for Treasurer**

Jim believes PTA helps build a better “community”, better children, and make us better adults too. PTA is one of the best ways Jim knows of to help create, build and foster a solid sense of community. Jim has a long history of volunteering within community organizations, including the Boy Scouts, his local high school's Booster Club, a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a state-wide on-call Search & Rescue (SAR) team, and, of course, PTA. Jim brings more than 30 years of personal experience working with not-for-profit groups and volunteers. Jim’s PTA experience began in 2007 simply serving pizza at a PTA Bingo Night. Jim has been a Treasurer and President at both Elementary and Jr. High School PTA's, a Council V.P., a Council President for three terms and have served on many committees along the way.  Jim currently serves as Illinois PTA Treasurer.

**Linda Vernon – Slated Candidate for Board Development and Nominating Committee (State Board of Director Member)**



Linda Vernon is a central IL native, living in Peoria. She is partially retired after 30 years of service at Illinois State University. Over the course of her work experience, she had the pleasure of developing resources and training for K-12 educators, conducting research, grant writing, and working with various groups throughout the state. Linda currently serves as the Illinois PTA Champion. Her task is to bring programming and resources from two national programs to local units, Healthy Minds and PTA Connected.  She also serves as Leadership Development Director for the Illinois PTA.

**Catherine Jones – Slated Candidate for Board Development and Nominating Committee (General Member)**

Catherine Jones began her PTA journey at George Tilton Elementary School on the West Side of Chicago, serving under the leadership of Mrs. Gloria Wright. She was Tilton Elementary School PTA President for five years and has been an active PTA member since 1987, contributing at the local, district, and state levels.

Her years of expertise, strong leadership, and commitment to advocacy will be valuable assets to the Board Development & Nominating Team. As Illinois PTA Chicago Region Director (2020-2023), she supported Chicago PTA Region Units effectively. Currently, she serves as PTSA President at Frederick Douglass Academy High School, advocating for students and the community.

Catherine passionately champions the Illinois PTA's mission and vision, promoting diversity, equity, and equal funding for all students across Illinois. Additionally, she has served over 25 years as a Local School Council Member, over 20 years with the Austin Community Action Council, and supported PTA students and families for over 45 years. Her roles also include serving on the State PTA Scholarship Committee and as Treasurer on the PTA Mid-Central Council Board.