

2026 – 2028 Slated Candidates



Samira Jimenez

Slated Candidate for Leadership Development

Samira Jimenez is a dedicated leader and advocate for building strong, sustainable leadership across school communities. With more than 20 years of professional experience in operations, organizational development, and people leadership, she brings a thoughtful, systems-driven approach to supporting volunteers, boards, and local units.

Samira currently serves as President of the Maercker School District 60 PTA, where she works closely with families, school leaders, and volunteers to strengthen engagement, collaboration, and leadership development. She is committed to helping local units establish clear structures, develop confident leaders, and foster inclusive teams that can thrive year after year. Professionally, she serves as Director of Operations and Engagement within a private healthcare practice, leading strategic planning, team development, and community partnerships.

Samira is passionate about empowering PTA leaders with practical tools, mentorship, and clarity so they can serve their communities effectively and sustainably. She believes strong PTAs are built through intentional leadership development, transparent communication, and a shared commitment to improving the lives of all children.

She lives in the western suburbs of Chicago with her husband, two children, and their Havanese.



Dan Medina

Slated Candidate for Membership Director

Dan Medina is a dedicated fire and life safety professional and passionate community advocate with over 20 years of experience in the field. He currently serves as Fire Marshal of the Addison Fire Protection District and volunteers with Addison Youth Sports in Addison, Illinois, as a member of the Board of Directors.

Dan also serves as President of the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, a statewide organization focused on training, advocacy, and code enforcement standards. As a youth sports director, he oversees baseball and softball operations and coaches multiple sports, including softball, volleyball, and basketball.

Dan served the Illinois PTA as DuPage East Region Director in 2022–2023.

With extensive knowledge of Community Risk Reduction and mental health initiatives, Dan serves on several local and statewide task forces focused on these critical issues. He holds an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University, along with numerous professional and volunteer credentials.



Barb Quinn

Slated Candidate for *Legislative Advocacy Director*

Barb Quinn is currently serving as the Legislative Advocacy Director, working with the committee to build awareness of the issues impacting the lives of students, families, and schools through Calls to Action, activities such as It's Thursday, Let's Talk, and articles in Illinois PTA publications, with the goal of increasing member awareness of our positions in order to facilitate greater participation.

Barb also serves as Treasurer of the Northwest Cook Region PTA and Treasurer of the Early Learning Center PTA.

Former positions within the Illinois PTA include: President (2005–2007); Legislation Director (2007–2009); Consultant (2015–2019); and Education Issues Director (2019–2023). During her term as 1st Vice President (2001–2003), the Legislation Chairman position was vacant, so she worked with the legislation consultants to facilitate the work of the committee, including coordinating Calls to Action, advocacy events in Springfield, and meetings with various state senators and representatives to host “Hot Topics” conferences across the state.

Prior to serving as State 1st Vice President, she served as Treasurer and 2nd Vice President.

Barb's roles within the Illinois PTA have also allowed her to participate in numerous statewide task forces and committees.

Barb currently serves as the Illinois PTA Legislative Advocacy Director



Betsy Bovee

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

Betsy Bovee is a dedicated Southern Illinois native who resides in Collinsville, Illinois, with a strong background in community leadership and education support.

For more than a decade, Betsy has been deeply involved in the PTA, serving for 11 years. Her experience includes six years as an elementary school officer and three years as Southern Region Director on the Illinois PTA Board. In this role, she worked to advance programs such as Reflections and SPOTLIGHT while providing essential resources and support to local units.

Her commitment to community also extends to her church, where she leads children's ministries, and to her family's involvement in Scouting America, where she holds a leadership role. Additionally, Betsy is active in the local Band Parents Association, ensuring students have the support they need to pursue their passions and engage in their community.

Professionally, Betsy spent 10 years in the event industry before transitioning to focus on her family and pursue a career in education. She now serves as a dedicated substitute teacher in her district, frequently stepping into long-term assignments. This experience has given her a comprehensive understanding of the district's operations and strengthened her ability to effectively support students, faculty, and staff.

Betsy currently serves as the Illinois PTA Southern Region Director



Cheryl Gleason

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

Cheryl Gleason is a dedicated leader, creative strategist, and passionate community builder. She serves as Director of Operations at Living Hope, where she brings organization, vision, and excellence to the teams and initiatives she leads. With a strong ability to turn ideas into action, Cheryl thrives in building systems that support people and purpose.

A committed advocate for education and community engagement, Cheryl has served on the PTA Board at Stevenson Elementary in Elk Grove Village since 2014, holding the roles of President, Vice President, and Treasurer. She champions collaboration among parents, teachers, and administrators, and her leadership has helped strengthen school culture through meaningful events, thoughtful appreciation initiatives, and a focus on unity and shared purpose. She has also served on the Schaumburg Township Council Board as President and Treasurer since 2019.

Above all, Cheryl is a proud mom of three children. Her heart for service, leadership, and connection is rooted in her deep commitment to family and community.

Cheryl currently serves as the Illinois PTA Northwest Cook Director