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Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention

Theme: **Belongingness**

April 22, 2026

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention

“Six years she'd spent hiding in the back, convinced she didn't belong. But belonging wasn't about being the best or the brightest. It was about showing up. Doing your part. Letting yourself be part of something bigger than your own fear.”

Sreyashi Nanda

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention

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Illinois PTA President's Greeting



Welcome to the 122nd Illinois PTA Convention. This gathering exists because more than 75 of you said yes to showing up. Thank you for taking the time to read this program book and for choosing to be here. You are doing your part.

This program book opens with a quote from “The Last Chair in Orchestra,” a vivid story about group dynamics and personal responsibility by Sreyashi Nanda, this year’s National literature advancer. Sreyashi tells us that Belonging is “...about showing up. Doing your part. Letting yourself be part of something bigger than your own fear.”

National PTA Reflections theme, “I Belong” inspired the convention theme “Belongingness,” which I believe is not just a feeling but a gateway to access esteem, growth, hope. It is how we serve the mission of making every child’s potential a reality. Grounded in the understanding of Abraham Maslow that belonging is only possible when safety is present, Illinois PTA members continue to advance programs and advocacy that strengthen safe, supportive communities for all children.

This work builds on meaningful momentum. In 2021, delegates at the Illinois PTA Convention adopted Hadley PTA’s resolution on safe gun storage—an evidence-based approach to reducing youth suicide. PTA leaders across the state then elevated awareness, shared personal stories, and engaged lawmakers to drive change.

We are honored to welcome Senator Laura Ellman, chief sponsor of SB0008, now enacted as the Illinois Safe Gun Storage Act, effective January 1, 2026.

Together, this conversation will explore a central question: what do effective advocates do differently to move their voices beyond being heard and toward shaping public policy?

Respectfully, Les Malloy, President, Illinois PTA

National PTA President's Greeting



Welcome to your state convention! Thank you for taking the time to participate and for your commitment to PTA and making every child's potential a reality!

I am deeply honored to serve as the 58th national president of our fabulous association and am grateful to be on this journey with you. You are resilient, dedicated, inclusive and strong advocates who never stop speaking loudly and demanding more for every child, family and school across our country. There could not be a more urgent time for us to continue being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and a strong advocate for equitable learning environments where every student feels safe, supported, and has what they need to thrive.

Your convention is a special opportunity to celebrate your achievements, learn from one another and recommit to the importance of our association's mission and values as there is so much work to be done in our schools and communities. National PTA is here to support you every step of the way. Visit PTA.org and explore our plethora of resources, programs, advocacy tools and training opportunities available to you.

Each of you is an integral part of our association's mission, legacy and continued work on behalf of every child, family and school in our nation. Thank you for your willingness to grow as a leader and for all that you do! Enjoy your convention! And remember as I always say, "Never underestimate the power of a parent's voice!"

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvonne Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yvonne Johnson , President, National PTA

About Illinois State Senator Laura Ellman



State Senator Laura Ellman was first elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 2018 and represents a district that includes parts of Bolingbrook, Downers Grove, Glen Ellyn, Lisle, Lombard, Naperville, Wheaton, and Warrenville. She serves on several key committees, including Human Rights, Insurance, and Transportation, and holds leadership roles as Chair of Environment and Conservation and Vice Chair of Financial Institution.

In 2022, Senator Ellman championed the legislation that created the Illinois Hydrogen Economy Task Force and now serves as its Chair. She also represents Illinois on the Executive Committee of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC). She also chaired the GLLC’s 2023–24 Task Force on Climate Resiliency.

A lifelong learner and problem-solver, Senator Ellman was the first in her family to attend college. She earned a mathematics degree from Grinnell College and a master’s degree in applied statistics from the University of Iowa. Her professional background spans more than 25 years in manufacturing and engineering, with deep experience navigating regulations and policy.

Senator Ellman has long been active in her community, serving on the Naperville Fair Housing Commission, participating in Toastmasters, and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Feed My Starving Children, and as an ESL tutor.

A longtime Naperville resident, she is married to Pete and is the mother of two adult children. In her free time, she enjoys amateur woodworking, home improvement projects, and playing basketball.

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.

2026-2028 Slated Candidates



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.

2026-2028 Slated Candidates



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.

2026-2028 Slated Candidates



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

2026-2028 Slated Candidates



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

Convention Agenda

6:00 – 6:30 PM | Virtual Room Opens

Welcome & Opening Program

- Welcome -Les Malloy, President
- Pledge of Allegiance -Jim Sklena, Treasurer
- AIM Presentation
- National PTA Video
- In Memoriam -Peg Staehlin, Secretary
- Introduction of Illinois PTA State Board of Directors –Peg Staehlin, Secretary
- Guest Speaker – Laura Ellman, Illinois State Senator

Business Meeting

- Call to Order -Les Malloy, President
- Explanation of Parliamentary Procedures -Anna Weselak, Parliamentarian
- Delegate Registration Report -Peg Staehlin, Secretary
- [Consent Agenda*](#) ([see next page](#)) -Betsy Bovee, Southern Region Director
- Electronic Voting Explanation -Jolene Stark, Executive Director
- Proposed Bylaw Amendments -Jeanette Harris, Chair
- Board Development & Nominating Committee Report -Carolyn McCarty, Chair
- Call for Nominations
- Electronic Voting Opens
- [Awards & Recognition](#) ([see next page](#))
- Voting Results -Les Malloy, President
- Unfinished Business
- Announcements
- Adjourn

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Consent Agenda:

1. Convention Digital Program Overview
2. Convention Procedures
3. Convention Voting Rules
4. 2024–2025 Audit Report
5. Proposed 2026–2027 Budget

* A delegate may request any item to be removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration.

Awards & Recognition

1. Jan Harp Domene Award – Peg Staehlin, Secretary
2. Reach for the Stars Membership Awards - Julie Holdeman, Membership Director
 - a. Gold Recipients
 - b. Platinum Recipients
3. Grant Recipients- Kristin Kramer, V.P. of Program Services
4. School of Excellence Recognition -Kristin Kramer, V.P. of Program Services
5. Reflections National Advancing Projects-Kristin Kramer, V.P. of Program Services

Legislative Report

You have made your voice heard in Springfield, and beyond! The 104th General Assembly has acted on topics that make a difference to your children, your schools and your communities by enacting these laws:

The Safe Gun Storage Act requires gun owners to store firearms safely if they know or should know that a minor, at-risk person or someone who is not allowed to have a gun could access them. Illinois PTA, in partnership with Wisconsin PTA, crafted a resolution which was submitted to the National PTA, and adopted at the 2024 convention.

Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, districts will be required to offer mental health screenings to students in grades 3 through 12 annually.

Beginning January 1, 2026, every child in Illinois has the right to attend public school and participate in school programs and activities, regardless of real or perceived immigration status. In addition, schools cannot create policies or procedures that would exclude students or families from participation in school programs and activities. The Illinois PTA continues to monitor federal and state actions regarding creating a safe, nurturing environment for all students.

Starting with the 2026-27 school year, the definition of bullying has expanded the definition of cyber-bullying to include using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to share digital replicas of an individual without permission.

We continue to monitor legislative initiatives that you have told us matter. Our Legislation Team strongly encourages you to continue **SPEAKING UP AND SPEAKING OUT** on behalf of students, families, communities and public schools.

Board Development and Nominating Committee Report

Illinois PTA
Board Development and Nominating Committee
February 23, 2026

The Illinois PTA Board Development and Nominating Committee slate the following names for elections at the 2026 Illinois PTA Annual Convention:

Illinois PTA Program Directors for the 2026 – 2028 term.

- Leadership Development Director -Samira ‘Sam’ Jimenez
- Legislative Advocacy Director -Barb Quinn
- Membership Director -Dan Medina

Board Development and Nominating Committee for the 2026 – 2028 term:

- Board Member Representative -Betsy Bovee
- Board Member Representative -Cheryl Gleason
- General Member Representatives -Open

Board Development and Nominating Committee

Carolyn McCarty - Chair

Barb Quinn; Brenda Diehl; Catherine Jones; Linda Vernon.

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Delegate Registration Report

Per [Illinois PTA Bylaws](#) (Article XXI, Section 5), convention business may proceed only when a quorum, defined as seventy-five (75) accredited delegates representing a majority of the regions, is present.

Number of Eligible Delegates Possible	Number of Delegates Registered
Local Units (306) Delegates 1,622*	
Council (17) Delegates 68	
Region (10) Delegates 40	
State Board (13) Delegates 13	
Total Delegates	
Registrants	
Visitors	
Total in Attendance	

* Article XXI, Section 6. Each local PTA/PTSA unit shall be entitled to be represented at an annual or special convention by its president or president-elect and by other accredited delegates or alternates. Representation of a local PTA/PTSA unit shall be 3/30/24 11 based on the membership on the books of the state treasurer at the close of the preceding fiscal year, as follows: Unit Total Number Membership+ of Delegates ++10 - 24 2 25 - 50 3 51 - 100 4 101 - 150 5 151 - 200 6 +And one (1) additional accredited delegate for each fifty (50) members over two hundred (200) members. ++New local PTA/PTSA unit, local PTA/PTSA unit not affiliated with a school or existing local PTA/PTSA unit where the school enrollment is less than one hundred (100).

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2026 CONVENTION
ILLINOIS PTA

Convention Business Items

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention

Convention Procedures

Approved by the State Board of Directors on January 24, 2026, for presentation to the delegates at the 2026 Illinois PTA Convention

ATTENDEES

1. Attendance at the annual convention shall be limited to persons who have completed registration by the specified deadline.
2. All registrants will receive a participant's status: Delegate; Registrant (must be a current member of a local unit); Non-member; or Guest (preapproved by the president or general arrangement chairman).
3. Those attending the electronic meeting must provide their full names and name of the local PTA/PTSA or council they represent or their Illinois PTA position as they sign into the meeting. Failing to do so may limit attendee's ability to participate up to and including removal from meeting.
4. Attendees may join the meeting on any computer or smart device with an internet connection that can access the Zoom app or website.
5. All attendees must mute their microphones whenever they are not speaking.
6. Delegates are responsible for their connection to the internet.
7. The Chair may mute or direct the temporary disconnection or muting of an attendee's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The Chair's decision to do so will be announced during the meeting.
8. To provide a safe and welcoming event, all attendees are expected to behave with decorum and civility. Incivility, harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. Illinois PTA reserves the right to take appropriate action to address any individual it believes fails to meet these expectations, including removing the individual from the meeting.

SPEAKING PROCEDURES

9. Participant wishing to speak will use the "raise hand" feature. After recognizing a delegate, the "raise hand" icon will be lowered.

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ITEMS OF BUSINESS (except NOMINATIONS)

10. Proposed items of business, except for the Board Development and Nominating Committee, will be posted on the Convention webpage no later than January 30, 2026, at 5:00pm Central Time.
11. “Your Convention, Your Voice: Let’s Get Ready!” will be conducted via Zoom on February 11, 2026, when the items of business will be reviewed.
12. The Bylaw Committee shall be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the membership.
13. The Resolution Committee shall be authorized to correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the membership.

NOMINATIONS

14. Board Development and Nominating Committee’s report will be posted on the Convention Nomination webpage no later than March 6, 2026 at 5:00 pm Central Time. Link to candidates’ bios and speeches will be available on the website and the ballot.
15. Nominees from the floor, having given thirty (30) days written notification prior to the convening of the annual convention, will have a link to their bios included on the ballot.

MOTIONS

16. Due to the limitations of conducting business in a virtual setting, floor debate will not be held on items of business at the time of voting. “Your Convention, Your Voice: Let’s Get Ready!” informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 to discuss proposed convention business. Delegates may propose amendments in advance through the established written submission process which allows amendments to be reviewed and considered prior to the vote at convention.

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VOTING

17. Procedures for voting shall be approved by the Illinois PTA State Board of Directors and may include, but are not limited to, the use of the Zoom polling feature or a third-party electronic voting company.
18. Announcements of the voting results will be made prior to the close of the business session on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

COMMUNICATION AND RECORDING DEVICES

19. Recording or streaming of the meeting is prohibited unless pre-approved in writing by the Chair.

MINUTES

20. An auditing committee appointed by the executive committee shall approve the minutes of the convention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

21. All announcements shall be limited to matters pertaining to the convention.

Convention Voting Procedures

Approved by the State Board of Directors on January 24, 2026, for presentation to the delegates at the 2026 Illinois PTA Convention.

Illinois PTA has contracted with Association Voting to manage the electronic voting for 2026 Illinois PTA Convention.

1. The president of the local unit/council or the director of the region the delegate is representing is responsible for completing the credentialing process. All credentialing information for voting delegates must be submitted to the Illinois PTA at info@illinoispta.org by 11:59 p.m. Central Time, Monday, April 13, 2026.
2. All credentialed delegates must be a paid member of the local unit they are representing (if they are registering as a local unit delegate), or a paid member of a local unit within the boundaries of the council, or region they are representing.
3. Each credentialed delegate must register to attend the 2026 Illinois PTA Convention by 11:59 pm Central Time, Monday, April 13, 2026.
4. Each credentialed delegate will receive an email containing:
 - Instructions on the voting process;
 - A unique link to the site to cast their votes; and
 - A link to view candidate information.
5. The polls will open on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 following the Board Development Nominating Committee report.
6. The polls will close on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 following the last item of business.
7. Elections results will be announced prior to the close of convention on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

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2024–2025 Audit Report

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025*

**This information has been adapted for readability in this program. Please visit our [website](#) (click to open) to view the official board-approved version.*

	Total
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT:	
Membership dues	\$129,526
Program revenues	36,584
Contributions	10,738
Interest and dividend income	17,647
Unrealized (loss) on investments	(8,827)
	<hr/> 185,668 <hr/>
EXPENSES:	
Program Services:	
PTAs' Organization, Promotion and Education expenses	126,980
Management and General	46,024
	<hr/> 173,004 <hr/>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	12,664
 NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	 260,576
NET ASSETS - END OF THE YEAR	<hr/> \$273,231 <hr/>

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Proposed 2026–2027 Budget

**This information has been adapted for readability in this program. Please visit our [website](#) (click to open) to view the official board-approved version.*

Illinois PTA 2026-2027 Proposed Budget					
			2023-24	2024-25	2026-27 PROPOSED
REVENUES					
	40100	Membership dues	132,748	129,526	115,500
	41400	Miscellaneous Income	1374	13841	0
	41500	Direct Public Support	0	983	1,000
	42000	Sponsorships & Grants	30,485	35,909	35,000
	45000	Investments	4.5		0
	46000	Convention Income	1,035	255	2,500
	46400	Other Types of Income	1048.25	4.1	0
TOTAL REVENUES			166,695	180,517	154,000
EXPENSES					
Organizational Expenses:					
	51000	Board Expense	3,598	2,494	2,500
	52010	Region	745	4,264	3,000
	52020	Leadership Development			500
	52030	Legislative Pol Committee		1,000	500
	52040	Programs / Program Development			500
	52041	Spotlight	3,396	1,796	3,500
	52050	Membership Promotion	761	1,515	1,000
	52070	Cultural Arts	711	476	500
	52080	Representation	999	1,616	2,000
TOTAL ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES:			10,211	13,161	14,000
Operational Expenses:					
	60110	Office Rent/Storage Unit	1,000	2,500	4,200
	60120	Utilities	855	1,239	1,000
	60130	Postage	1,056	1,715	1,200
	60140	Office Equipment	2,029	1,149	1,000
	60150	Technology	11,013	16,817	5,700
	60160	Stationary and Supplies	192	110	500
	60170	Outside Service	28,662	36,111	34,900
	60180	Office Salaries and Payroll Tax	61,108	71,620	86,960
	60190	Miscellaneous Office Expenses	1,762	878	500
	66000	Payroll Expense	988.75	940	1,540
	70100	Miscellaneous	1980	14182	0
TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES			110,646	147,262	137,500
Other Expense:					
	80100	Convention Expense	5,112	1,450	2,500
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES			5,112	1,450	2,500
TOTAL EXPENSES			125,968	161,873	154,000
TOTAL REVENUES			166,695	180,517	154,000
Net Income / (Loss)			40,727	18,644	0

2026 Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Approved by the State Board of Directors on January 24, 2026, for presentation to the delegates at the 2026 Illinois PTA Convention

Amendment #1: Article XI BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE Section 1 e Insert “consecutive” to read...

Currently Reads	To Read
e. Committee members shall be eligible for two (2) terms.	e. Committee members shall be eligible for two (2) <u>consecutive</u> terms.

Rationale: *This is a clarification that after 2 consecutive terms a member must take time off the committee.*

Amendment #2: Article XI BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE Section 2 a (2) Insert “elected by the delegate body” **

Currently Reads	To Read
2. Voting Program Directors in even-numbered years	2. Voting Program Directors <u>elected by the delegate body</u> in even-numbered years

Rationale: *This is for consistency with changes made in 2024 when we made all program directors voting members.*

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Amendment #3: Article XI BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE Section 2 a (3) Strike in its entirety. Insert a new 2 a (3) “Voting Program Directors elected by the State Board of Directors in odd-numbered years.” **

Currently Reads	To Read
3. Non-Voting Program Directors in odd-numbered years	3. Voting Program Directors elected by the State Board of Directors in odd-numbered years.

Rationale: *This is for consistency with changes made in 2024 when we made all program directors voting members.*

Amendment #4: Article XVIII PROGRAM DIRECTORS Section 1 Strike remainder starting at “Voting Program Directors” Insert new 1 a “Leadership Development, Legislative Advocacy, and Membership Program Directors shall be elected in even numbered years by the convention delegate body in accordance with the adopted convention rules.”

Currently Reads	To Read
<p>Voting Program Directors</p> <p>a. Election of the Legislative Advocacy, Leadership Development, and Membership Program Directors shall take place at the annual convention in even numbered years except as provided in these bylaws.</p> <p>b. The convention body shall elect the Legislative Advocacy, Leadership Development, and Membership Program Directors in accordance with rules adopted by the convention.</p>	<p>Leadership Development, Legislative Advocacy, and Membership Program Directors shall be elected in even numbered years by the convention delegate body in accordance with the adopted convention rules.</p>

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<p>Advisory Panel Program Directors</p> <p>a. A caucus to elect advisory panel program directors shall be held at the annual post-convention meeting.</p> <p>b. Current voting board members shall constitute the caucus.</p> <p>c. The officers of the caucus shall be the president and the secretary.</p> <p>d. Program directors shall be elected by ballot vote.</p>	
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Rationale: To comply with a bylaw change adopted in 2024 to Article XV Section 1a and b that identifies the voting body of the board.

Amendment #5: Article XVIII PROGRAM DIRECTORS Insert new 1 b
 “Cultural Arts, Education Issues, Family & Community Engagement and Resolutions Program Directors shall be elected in odd numbered years by a caucus of the State Board of Directors at the final state board meeting of the fiscal year.”

Currently Reads	To Read
<p>Advisory Panel Program Directors</p> <p>a. A caucus to elect advisory panel program directors shall be held at the annual post-convention meeting.</p> <p>b. Current voting board members shall constitute the caucus.</p> <p>c. The officers of the caucus shall be the president and the secretary.</p>	<p>Cultural Arts, Education Issues, Family & Community Engagement and Resolutions Program Directors shall be elected in odd numbered years by a caucus of the State Board of Directors at the final state board meeting of the fiscal year.</p>

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d. Program directors shall be elected by ballot vote.	
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Rationale: To comply with a bylaw change adopted in 2024 to Article XV Section 1a and b that identifies the voting body of the board.

* Articles VII and VIII were changed to Sections 5 & 6 under Article VI. No language was changed, subsequent Articles will be renumbered. Article IX section 6 b “become” is changed to “became”.

** Officers (President-elect, VP of Field Operations, VP of Program Services, Secretary, and Treasurer) are elected at convention in odd-numbered years.

Leadership Development, Legislative Advocacy and Membership Directors are elected at convention in even-numbered years.

Cultural Arts, Education Issues, Family & Community Engagement and Resolutions Directors are elected by a State Board caucus in odd-numbered years.



Awards & Recognition

Jan Harp Domene Diversity & Inclusion Award



2026 Jan Harp Domene Award Winner!

Edwin Aldrin PTA (Schaumburg, Ill.)

Edwin Aldrin PTA has implemented several initiatives to help families who have historically been less engaged feel welcomed and included. Their PTA uses multiple communication channels—printed bulletins, multilingual newsletters and social media posts—to reach families in accessible ways and they have made event promotions available in multiple languages.

Edwin Aldrin PTA also offers translation support at meetings and events so non-English-speaking members can fully participate, and their family-friendly events—such as Library Nights and *Ready, Tech, Go!* workshops—invite participation from all backgrounds. In collaboration with school social workers, Edwin Aldrin PTA organized an event for families of students with disabilities, introducing them to PTA activities and helping them feel part of the Aldrin community.

Their Multicultural Night also features an adaptive space to ensure all families can experience the event’s cultural richness. Edwin Aldrin PTA’s inclusive approach has fostered a sense of belonging, gratitude and trust across their community—leading to increased volunteerism; greater family engagement in school life, especially among families who were previously less involved; and a stronger, more vibrant community where families of all backgrounds feel empowered to participate, contribute and support student success.

The Illinois State PTA proudly celebrates Aldrin PTA in Schaumburg for receiving the **National PTA’s Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award**. This national honor recognizes PTAs that demonstrate exceptional commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention

Reach for the Stars

Illinois PTA Membership Recognition Program



2024 – 2025 PLATINUM STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Years unit has reached Platinum level

PTA / Council	Region	President
Aldrin PTA, Inc	Northwest Cook	Marisol Guevara
Bower PTA, Inc	Dupage West	Stephanie Kaurin
Butterfield PTA2	Dupage East	Amanda Murawski
Campanelli PTA3	Northwest Cook	Audra Siebert
Centennial PTSA	East Central	Jenelle Thompson
Chesak-Martin PTA, Inc3	Northern	Michelle West
Churchill School PTA	Dupage West	Caryn Neumann
Dirksen PTA	Northwest Cook	Vicki Trammell
Disney Magnet PTA	Chicago	Lekia Rice
Elizabeth Blackwell Elementary School PTA	Northwest Cook	Beth Corey
Emerson PTA – Elmhurst3	Dupage East	Kaitlyn Jeanneret
Fox PTA	Northwest Cook	Sarah Flaxman
Franklin PTA - Champaign	East Central	Cheryl Camacho
Frohardt PTA2	Southern	Eleni Duffield
Glenbrook PTA2	Northern	Emily Covarrubias
Hadley Jr High PTA ³	Dupage West	Marta Scarleski
Herrick PTA ²	Dupage East	Kelly Rakers
Kolmar Avenue PTA	South Suburban Cook	Colleen Peisker

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention

PTA / Council	Region	President
Leggee PTA, Inc ³	Northern	Jamie Steere
Maercker School District 60 PTA ²	Dupage East	Poonam Patel
Manor Hill PTA ²	Dupage East	Megan Nunziato
Mitchell PTA, Inc ²	Southern	Stacy Barrett
Norridge District 80 PTA ²	West Suburban Cook	Nicole Gray
O'Neill PTA	Dupage East	Katie Suva
Poe Classical ²	Chicago	Tashiara Little
Schafer PTA	Dupage East	Jennifer Weter
Thomas Jefferson PTA - Hoffman Estates	Northwest Cook	Christina Odachowski
Twin Echo PTA, Inc ²	Southern	Sarah Evers
Unit 2 PTA, Inc.	East Central	Lori King
Virginia Lake PTA Inc	Northwest Cook	Courtney Evans
Westmore PTA ²	Dupage East	Andrea Ngola
Winston Campus Middle School PTA	Northwest Cook	Darah Landwehr
Young	Dupage West	Elizabeth Larson

Years unit has reached Platinum level

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention



2024 – 2025 GOLD STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

PTA / Council	Region	President
Blaine Elementary School	Chicago	Lauren Trost
Bowen High School PTSA	Chicago	Dr. Lois Gueno
Churchville Middle School PTA	Dupage East	Lisa Wormer
Chute PTA	West Suburban Cook	Emily York
Cloverdale PTA, Inc	Dupage West	Jessica Petersen
Dooley PTA	Northwest Cook	Chani Ullmann
Edison PTA, Inc – Elmhurst	Dupage East	Megan Farley
Lincoln School PTA - Elmhurst	Dupage East	Allison Kearns
Marion Jordan PTA	Northwest Cook	Jennifer Yang
Maryville PTA - Maryville	Southern	Erin Cranston
McKenzie PTA	West Suburban Cook	Rachel Gold
Monroe PTA – Wheaton	Dupage West	Jennifer Castino
Steck PTA	Dupage West	Amy Rohman
Willard PTA, Inc	West Suburban Cook	Courtney Burke

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention



2024 - 2025 SILVER STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

PTA / Council	Region	President
Abraham Lincoln PTA, Inc	Chicago	Adrienne Eltink
Benjamin Franklin Elementary PTA, Inc	West Suburban Cook	Brennan Young
Central PTA – Wilmette	West Suburban Cook	Courtney Cook
Clifford Johnson PTA	Dupage West	Alyse Howard
Culver School PTA	West Suburban Cook	Georgia Chronopoulos
Dryden PTA	Northwest Cook	Evan Korkofigas
El Sierra PTA	Dupage East	Katie Thomas
Fairview South PTA	West Suburban Cook	Katie Apelian-Hitik
Graham PTA - Naperville	Dupage West	Jonathan Guerrero
Hawthorne PTA - Chicago	Chicago	Lydia Vincenty
Hawthorne PTA - Wheaton	Dupage West	Lauren Ingalls
Heritage Lakes	Dupage West	Brook Hall
Hollywood School PTA	West Suburban Cook	Stephanie Bosko
Hometown School PTA	South Suburban Cook	Bridgette Parla
Hubble Middle School PTA, Inc	Dupage West	Kellie Mowinski
Ivy Hill PTA	Northwest Cook	Megan Martin
Jane Stenson PTA	West Suburban Cook	Beth Irwin
Keller Magnet PTA	Chicago	Katie Milewski
Lincoln PTA - Palatine	Northwest Cook	Andrew Namowicz
Millstadt PTA	Southern	Jackie Hayden
North School PTA	Dupage East	Sara Freund
Pleasant Hill PTA - Winfield	Dupage West	Christy Claus

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention

PTA / Council	Region	President
Roy DeShane School PTA	Dupage West	Kate Curran
SAE PTA	Chicago	Stephanie Townsend
Shabonee PTA	West Suburban Cook	Samantha Diamond
Washington PTA - Champaign	East Central	Judy Elmore
Washington PTA - Wheaton	Dupage West	Renee Morris
Whiteley PTA	Northwest Cook	Natascia Taken
Wles PTA	East Central	Christina Gillen

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention



2025- 2026 PLATINUM STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Years unit has reached Platinum level

PTA / Council	Region	President
Blaine Elementary PTA	Chicago	Lauren Trost
Brooks PTA - Aurora	DuPage West	Rashmi Ravi
Butterfield PTA ³	DuPage East	Allie Browning
Elizabeth Blackwell Elementary School PTA ²	Northwest Cook	Beth Corey
Glenbrook PTA ³	Northern	Emily Covarrubias
Hawthorne PTA - Chicago	Chicago	Lauren Ingalls
Jane Stenson PTA	West Suburban Cook	Beth Irwin
Kingsley PTA - Downers	DuPage East	Janette Masterson
Maercker School District 60 PTA ³	DuPage East	Samira Jimenez
Mitchell PTA, Inc ³	Southern	Samantha Joliff
North School PTA	DuPage East	Sara Freund
Poe Classical PTA ²	Chicago	Tashara Little
Schafer PTA ²	DuPage East	Jennifer Weter
Thomas Jefferson PTA - Hoffman Estates ²	Northwest Cook	Christina Odachowski
Unit 2 PTA, Inc ²	East Central	Katie Tutt
Winston Campus Middle School PTA ²	Northwest Cook	Karen Pawlak

Years unit has reached Platinum level

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention



2025- 2026 GOLD STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

PTA / Council	Region	President
Bowen High School PTSA	Chicago	Dr. Lois M. Gueno
Douglas School PTA - Belleville	Southern	Casey Halstead
Edison PTA, Inc - Elmhurst	DuPage East	Noelle Bauer
El Sierra PTA	DuPage East	Brienne Harris
Emerson PTA - Elmhurst	DuPage East	Kaitlyn Jeanneret
Frohardt PTA	Southern	Eleni Duffield
Link PTA	Northwest Cook	Meghan Lackey
Maryville PTA - Maryville	Southern	Erin Cranston
Mills PTA, Inc	West Suburban Cook	Erica Hohenadel
Old Post PTA	East Central	Bri Cooper
O'Neill PTA	DuPage East	Rachel Mayer

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention



2025-2026 SILVER STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

PTA / Council	Region	President
Addams PTA - Moline	West Central	Raegan Jones
Campanelli PTA	Northwest Cook	Audra Siebert
Carol Stream PTA	DuPage West	Sunny Whelan
Glenn Westlake PTSA	DuPage East	Erin Syperski
Gombert PTA	DuPage West	Amy Valley
Graham PTA - Naperville	DuPage West	Jonathan Guerrero
Kenwood PTA	East Central	Jill Prah
Madison PTA - Lombard	DuPage East	Adrienne Nix
Welch PTA, Inc.	DuPage West	Lisa Madsen
Westbrook & Glen Grove PTA	West Suburban Cook	Terri Lakowski
Western Trails PTA	DuPage West	Lindsey Aghakhani

Illinois PTA 122nd Annual Convention

National PTA 2025-2026 [Grant](#) Recipient

PTA Name	City	Program Grant
Aldrin PTA	Schaumburg	STEM + Families Science Festival
Booker T. Washington PTA	Champaign	PTA Connected: Ready, Tech, Go!
Bower PTA	Warrenville	PTA Connected: Ready, Tech, Go!
Champaign Centennial High School PTSA	Champaign	Healthy Minds
Chute Middle PTA	Evanston	PTA Connected: Be Internet Awesome
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Literary & Fine Arts School PTA	Evanston	PTA Connected: Be Internet Awesome
John Mills PTA	Elmwood Park	STEM + Families Science Festival
Kingsley PTA	Downers Grove	PTA Connected: Ready, Tech, Go!
Leal PTA	Urbana	STEM + Families Science Festival
Longwood PTA	Naperville	STEM + Families Science Festival
Maercker School PTA	Clarendon Hills	PTA Connected: Ready, Tech, Go!
McDade Classical PTA	Chicago	PTA Connected: Be Internet Awesome
Mokena PTA, Inc.	Mokena	PTA Connected: Ready, Tech, Go!
North School PTA	Villa Park	STEM + Families Science Festival
Oliver J Kendall Elementary School PTA	Naperville	PTA Connected: Ready, Tech, Go!
Romona PTA	Wilmette	Healthy Minds
Sayre PTA	Chicago	PTA Connected: Ready, Tech, Go!
Schafer PTA	Lombard	Healthy Minds
Stenson PTA	Skokie	Healthy Minds
Sundling PTA	Palatine	Emergency Food Security Funding
Twin Echo PTA	Collinsville	Emergency Food Security Funding
Twin Echo PTA	Collinsville	Healthy Minds
Whiteley PTA	Hoffman Estates	Membership
Wilson PTA	Granite City	STEM + Families: Propelling Our World
Winston Campus Elem PTA	Palatine	Healthy Minds
Wrightwood PTA	Chicago	PTA Connected: Ready, Tech, Go!
Yankee Ridge PTA	Urbana	STEM + Families Science Festival



2024-2026 School of Excellence Recipients:

PTA Name	City
Helen Keller Jr. High School PTA	Schaumburg
Hunting Ridge PTA	Palatine
Jane Addams Junior High School PTA	Schaumburg
Jane Stenson PTA	Skokie
Lincoln Prairie PTSA	Hoffman Estates
Twin Echo PTA	Collinsville
Whiteley PTA	Hoffman Estates
Wilson Elementary PTA	Granite City



2025-2026 [Reflections](#) National Advancing Projects

Dance Choreography

Name	Age Division	Title of Project	Local PTA Name
Brooke Jue	Primary	I Feel Connected	White Eagle School PTA
Sienna Rockett	Intermediate	Girls	Pleasant Hill PTA
Mishka Pattanayak	Middle School	Simply Me	Still Middle School PTSA

Film Production

Name	Age Division	Title of Project	Local PTA Name
Evander Knudsen	Primary	Evans Zoo	Nancy Young Elementary PTA
Arin Pandey	Intermediate	CUBEE	Link PTA
Morgan Schlange	Middle School	Belong?	Hillcrest PTA
Peyton Marshall	High School	A Colorful belonging	Oak Lawn Community High School PTSA

Literature

Name	Age Division	Title of Project	Local PTA Name
Hajar Alkhatib	Primary	Where I Belong	Manor Hill Elementary PTA
Annabelle Ryan	Intermediate	Puzzle Pieces	Bower PTA
Sreyashi Nanda	Middle School	The Last Chair	Maercker District 60 PTA
Mahika Jain	High School	Belonging Backwards	Metea Valley High School PTSA

Music Composition

Name	Age Division	Title of Project	Local PTA Name
Eugenia Perret Gentil	Primary	Together with the Wind	Patterson PTA
Rosalie Disterheft	Intermediate	I Know I Belong	Pleasant Lane PTA
Nithin Srinivasan	Middle School	Together In Unison	Gregory PTA
Ana-Sofia Martinez	High School	Me and the Crowd	Waubonsie Valley High School PTA
Eden Salem	Accessible Arts	Unstoppable	Metea Valley High School PTSA

Photography

Name	Age Division	Title of Project	Local PTA Name
Ellie Berglund	Primary	Implant to heart	Olive-Mary Stitt PTA
Grayson Glonke	Intermediate	I'm Part of the Recipe	Kimball Hill PTA
George Synowiec	Middle School	The Mark I Leave	Mead Jr High PTA
Emily Prado	High School	The Colors Within You	Oak Lawn Community High School PTSA
Nathan Jakobi	Accessible Arts	We Are Diesel	Keller PTA

Visual Arts

Name	Age Division	Title of Project	Local PTA Name
Pranika Rajesh	Primary	Diwali with my family	Central Road PTA
Sriyan Kantamneni	Intermediate	One Tree One World	Gwendolyn Brooks PTA
Sanika Mahajan	Middle School	I Belong with Nature	Eisenhower PTA
Addison Clark	High School	Ramagnoli's	Oak Lawn Community High School PTSA
Emma Deluga	Accessible Arts	Dance is where I belong	Winston Campus MS PTA
Roberto Sanchez	Accessible Arts	I Belong	Paddock PTA



The Illinois

PTA remains steadfast in its adherence to the PTA Mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Our operations are governed by five core values:

- **Collaboration:** Leveraging collective strengths to achieve common goals.
- **Commitment:** Maintaining an unwavering focus on the success of every child.
- **Accountability:** Ensuring transparency and responsibility in all actions and results.
- **Respect:** Prioritizing the diverse perspectives of our global stakeholders.
- **Diversity:** Actively embracing and involving all families within our communities.

These values provide the moral and operational framework necessary for the legislative partnerships that translate our grassroots advocacy into enacted public policy.

“Be Part of Something Bigger
Than Your Own Fear”

Sreyashi Nanda