



Plymouth, MA
April 9-11, 2010



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner

March 15, 2010

Ms. Kimberly Hunt, President
Massachusetts State PTA
P.O. Box 421
Rehoboth, MA 02769

Dear Ms. Hunt:

I am very pleased to extend my sincere congratulations to the Massachusetts State PTA as the association celebrates 100 years of service to public education.

Massachusetts has a long and proud history of public education. Massachusetts students today outperform their peers on national assessments, and rank alongside students in some of the highest performing nations on international math and science assessments. Our accomplishments are illustrative of the tremendous investment the state has made in public education over the past 17 years and the hard work of teachers, administrators, students, and parents across the Commonwealth.

But while we have much to celebrate, we have much work ahead to ensure that all students are experiencing a world-class education that prepares them for the 21st Century. To ensure that all students are learning to read, write, and do math well, we must improve the quality of our adult teaching workforce, provide them with the resources they need, focus on turning around our lowest performing schools, and be sure that every child is college and career ready when they graduate from high school.

To accomplish our ambitious goals, we will need a sustained, collaborative effort among educators, parents, elected officials, the business community, and students. As a parent of a middle school child, I know how important it is that parents are involved, informed, and passionate about their child's learning. The work of the Massachusetts State PTA to foster greater family engagement and to develop guidelines on parent and community involvement has been and will continue to be an essential component of our reform work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mitch D. Chester".

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education



“How do we recreate that history?”¹”

That was the question asked by Joyce Knippenberg, then president of the Massachusetts PTA on a cold February morning in 1999, as she waited for the demolition to begin on the building that had housed the Massachusetts PTA state office and which only days earlier had been destroyed by a devastating fire.

Ninety years of records, photos, awards and memorabilia had been lost in the blaze. Several water damaged file cabinets were recovered from the rubble but very little was salvageable. Joyce and other board members had already started planning for the 100th anniversary of the organization, but now it appeared that documenting our first 100 years was going to be impossible.

Throughout the spring and summer of that year, board members gathered and donated many resources so that by the time we opened our new office in Sturbridge in August 1999, we were functioning and ready to face the new school year. Still, so much had been lost.

In 2003 we received word that Charlotte Ryan, a former Massachusetts PTA president, had passed away. Her daughter, Susan Olewski, recognized that her mother had meticulously saved many things from her 40-plus years serving on the Massachusetts PTA board and she allowed us the opportunity to take whatever we felt we could use. Several of us went to Charlotte's home and returned to Sturbridge with an SUV full of boxes containing newsletters, meeting minutes, convention programs, books, and artifacts.

We've spent the better part of the last year piecing together our first century. It's been challenging, but a great deal of fun. If we left something or someone out, we apologize. We hope that you will find this history interesting, enlightening, and encouraging. We also hope it will inspire you to carry on the work started so long ago.

So with that in mind, let's go back to the beginning.....

In February 1897, more than 2000 mothers and fathers answered the call when Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney and Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst held the first national meeting in Washington, DC. The result was the formation of the National Congress of Mothers, later known as the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and currently as the National PTA.



Once the national organization was established, steps were taken to form branches in all states and territories. Mrs. Birney, the first national president, visited Boston in 1897 but was unsuccessful in starting a chapter here. Mrs. Frederick Schoff, second National PTA president, hired Mrs. Walter Leroy Smith of Malden to organize Massachusetts. Mrs. Smith sent letters to superintendents across the state resulting in 30 speaking engagements. Those engagements lead to the formation of 35 local units.

On April 22, 1910, a state meeting was held at Piedmont Church in Worcester. Mrs. Schoff outlined the objectives of the Congress and the benefits of forming a branch in Massachusetts and a state association was formed. Mrs. Walter Merryman was elected first president of the Massachusetts Congress.

Under her leadership, over 100 women began the work we continue today. While many things have changed, those Objects, now called Purposes, have remained the same:

- To promote the welfare of the 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.

In *History of the Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Association, Inc. 1910-1947*, Mrs. Martha Sprague Mason, third president of the Massachusetts PTA, wrote:

Leading into the indefinite and proverbially doubtful land of Progress, a pioneering covered wagon bearing the legend "In Child Welfare We Trust" started across an un-charted Massachusetts road in search of gold-



en opportunities for children and youth. That was in the year 1910. The covered wagon carried a small band of invincibles. And scant provisions. The road was poor and, at first, unmarked. Progress was slow, but courage was strong because the invincibles glimpsed the land of promise.

It was not long before the road began to widen and join roads from other states. Fellow travelers bound for the same child welfare goal joined our pioneers. New cross roads and unexpected springs appeared, bringing refreshment and renewed courage when the wagon creaked, steep hills loomed ahead, and spirits drooped.

After thirty-five years, those of us who had rather hard seats in the old covered wagon of the past are looking back over the trail and trying to compare the yesterdays with the today's. It is only by comparison that we get perspective.

1910 doesn't seem so long ago, but things were very different then. It would be a decade before women would win the right to vote, nearly half a century before the Mass Pike, I-91 and I-495 would be built. Many roads were unpaved or cobble stoned. Cars, dial telephones, traffic lights, refrigerators and zippers were just coming into use.

In the state where public education began in this country, we still have the highest standards and while schools, and families, and education have seen many changes over the last century, the need for PTA remains stronger than ever.

As we move into our second century, let us continue to fulfill our mission to be:

- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Thank you to those who have worked so hard and so long to bring us to where we are today and to those who will move us forward in our struggle to serve **everychild** with **onevoice**.



Mrs. Edward F. Ryan

We are so grateful to the family of
Charlotte Ryan,
past president of the Massachusetts PTA,
for sharing with us all of the PTA files saved for
so many years by their beloved mother.

Without them we would not have been able to
document the 100 year history of the
Massachusetts PTA.

Charlotte would be so pleased with her final gift
to the PTA!

Charlotte served the Massachusetts PTA in many capacities, including :

- President (1959-1962 and 1972-1978)
- Vice president
- Editor of The Massachusetts Parent-Teacher, the official bulletin of the Massachusetts Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc..
- Parliamentarian



1910-1920 MILESTONES

- Organization meeting of the Massachusetts Branch of the National Congress of Mothers was held at Piedmont Church in Worcester.
- Thirty-eight associations responded to the Convention call issued by the National representative, Mrs. Walter Leroy Smith of Malden.
- Mrs. Walter R. Merryman of Bradford elected first President.
- State and national dues were 10 cents .
- Mrs. Milton P. Higgins of Worcester elected second President.
- State office established in the home of the president, Mrs. Higgins.
- She assumed financial responsibilities of the growing organization
- The first state bulletin was published.
- Councilor system was established and district conferences begun.
- Mrs. Higgins elected National PTA Vice President in 1914 and National PTA President in 1920 (three-year term) .
- During her administration as National PTA President, the oak tree was adopted as the official emblem of the Congress. She also established the Past President's Pin and began college courses in parent-teacher work .

1920's MILESTONES

- Mrs. Edward G. Mason of Winchester elected third President.
- First state office was established in Boston, with Miss Louise E. Merrill employed as first full-time secretary.
- The association was incorporated under the state laws as "Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Association, Inc."
- School of instruction held in connection with State Convention.
- From 1920 to 1937 Mrs. Mason served as National PTA First Vice President. From 1929 until 1937 she was editor of the National PTA magazine, and in 1928 she edited the parent-teacher textbook "Parents and Teachers" published by Ginn and Company.
- Following her national terms, Mrs. Mason was named Honorary National PTA Vice President .
- 1923—Mrs. Edward. V. French of Andover elected fourth President.
- Field secretaries added to the working force: one in the eastern part of the state and one in the western area.
- PTA literature was distributed at the Eastern States Exposition.
- Working relationships were developed with cooperating agencies.
- Committees were set up on playgrounds, recreation, Americanization and illiteracy, preschool child study and program service.
- 1925—Mrs. George Whiting of Somerville elected fifth President.
- Mrs. French pioneered recreational activities, including organizing playgrounds in the city of Somerville and became noted for her ability to stimulate cooperation between parents and teachers.
- 1929—Mrs. George Hoague of Brookline elected sixth President.



1930's MILESTONES

- PTA units were organized in every Brookline school.
- Mrs. Hoague served as both state music chairman and National PTA music chairman.
- Program of work included Working with the rural schools, making library service available and starting the hot lunch and milk programs.
- College conferences were established at Wellesley and Tufts.
- Mrs. Hoague became the successful state legislative chairman in 1933.
- 1933—Mrs. Paul H. Kelsey of Brookline elected seventh President.
- Concerted efforts were made during depression to keep schools open, and to maintain courses and teachers salaries.
- Active legislative program with emphasis placed on character education and world friendship.
- Weekly PTA radio program informed listening audiences of parent-teacher activities and goals.
- "God Bless Them Everyone" written by Mrs. Kelsey, featured at 25th Convention.
- State divided into ten geographical districts to include approximately 35 districts.
- 1937—Mrs. Luther R. Putney of Lexington elected eighth President.

1940's MILESTONES

- Awarding of state charters begun.
- Goals stressed were: raising standard creating a better informed and participating membership, and strengthening the structure of service to local units.
- National PTA Convention was held in Boston in 1941.
- From 1941 to 1950 Mrs. Putney was editor of the state bulletin. In 1941 she served as both National PTA Library Service Chairman and chairman of the nominating committee to elect National PTA officers.
- 1941—Mrs. Burtis E. Dresser of Springfield elected ninth President.
- Concerted effort was made during World War II to maintain previous standards.
- Cooperated with war agencies concerned with the welfare of children.
- Received recognition from National PTA for the promotion of national Parent-Teacher magazine.
- First paid Executive Director was hired.
- Term of President was limited to three years.
- In 1944 Mrs. Dresser served as first Art Chairman on State Board.
- 1944—Mrs. Harry S. Wright of Hingham elected tenth President.
- The President served on the Governor's committee to study causes of prejudice and was appointed by the Commissioner of Education to

a committee studying raising high school standards in Massachusetts.

- The first state pamphlet, "Money Raising," was published
- Webber-Fiske teacher training scholarship fund was established.
- Two new committees were begun: Art and Cooperation with Colleges.
- 1947— Mrs. William R. Blair of Great Barrington elected eleventh President.
- Association saw a marked increase in leadership by men.
- Remarkable progress was shown in parent education activity.
- Increased interest and participation was seen in PTA radio program.

1950's MILESTONES

- 1950—Mrs. Frank C. Chace of Gardner elected twelfth President
- Office practices were reorganized.
- President attended Mid-Century White House Conference on Children and Youth.
- Three Board members attended Regional Parent Education Workshop at Montclair State Teachers College, N.J.
- National Field Service training included: District conferences, Summer Institute at Boston University, and Board of Managers School of Instruction.
- Format of bulletin was changed, with special issue published by men.
- "What's Cookin' " was published for program planning.
- Mrs. Chace elected Secretary-Treasurer of National PTA Presidents Conference. She was also a member of the committee to nominate National PTA officers.
- Name of the association was changed to "Massachusetts Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc."
- 1953- -Mrs. Harold B. Murch of Hingham elected thirteenth President.
- New legislative code and handbook published.
- More than half of the local unit and council presidents are men.
- First official PTA song was copyrighted.
- Local units were cited for their support of Salk vaccine program.
- Mrs. Murch was named delegate to White House Conference on Education.
- Leaders actively cooperate and participate with television and radio.
- 1956—Mrs. Robert F. Mayers of Greenfield elected fourteenth President.
- President participates in Library of Congress ceremony, Washington, D.C., in observance of the 60th anniversary of the National Congress.

1950' continued

- Massachusetts PTA promotes state-wide bicycle safety program.
- Policies were established for Administrative Assistant to the Executive Committee, the President and the Office Director. Office secretary was hired, bringing office staff to three.
- Mrs. Mayers was appointed by the Governor to serve on Advisory Committee to the audit of state needs on higher education.
- Mrs. Mayer served on the planning committee for the Governor's Conference on Higher Education.
- Structural development of Board of Managers; enlargement of Advisory Committee: creation of President's Advisory Committee.
- A comprehensive Convention Manual Revision was prepared. State Policies and Procedures and State bylaws were published.
- New information brochure, "Better Communities through your P.T.A." was published.
- PTA publications were exhibited at all nine State Teachers Colleges summer sessions.
- 1959—Mrs. Charlotte Ryan of Manchester elected fifteenth President.

1960's MILESTONES

- The state office was at 80 Boylston Street, Boston.
- On August 28, 1962 Governor John A. Volpe, in a proclamation, declared October Parent-Teacher enrollment month and added his "request all citizens to give their assistance to the efforts and progress of various parent-teacher associations during the coming year."
- The 1962 convention featured "field conferences" bussing registered members and guests to various locations in Springfield and the surrounding area. Topics included: Preparation for tomorrow, New educational Techniques for all children, Juvenile protection, Mental Health, and Inter-group relations.
- PTA worked for legislation that passed: a special commission for a comprehensive study of public education and \$4,500.00 minimum salary for teachers effective January 1, 1963.
- "Looking in on your Community" was published by Massachusetts Congress of Parents and Teachers. Questions for PTAs to ask regarded audio-visual services, Character and Spiritual Education, cultural arts, the exceptional child, health, high school services, juvenile protection, legislation, mental health, parent education, pre-school services, reading and library services, recreation, and safety.
- 1963 – Mrs. Muriel Anderson of Springfield elected sixteenth President.
- Orientation for new PTA presidents and vice presidents was held.



- The legislative program addressed adequate school financing, enhancing the status of teachers, attracting into teaching the more able, teacher training, teacher certification, adequate minimum salaries, improvement in school curriculum and administration, expanded child welfare and youth services, safety law, public financing of recreational services, measures to improve public health, expansion of mental health facilities, and enforcement of laws to protect the children of the commonwealth.
- President's Day was held at the state office. "The Who, Why and What of PTA" was discussed. In the afternoon, guided by board members, attendees discussed problems and ideas.
- 1965 – Mrs. Robert Krobitz elected seventeenth President.
- 1966-1968- Mrs. Richard Rolls served as acting president.
- Mrs. Vera Wood of Springfield elected eighteenth President.
- Mrs. Wood attended a national conference in Arizona to study problems concerning the welfare of children. One out of four children reads below grade level.
- The New Bedford PTA Council helps the Massachusetts PTA run the 1969 convention. Workshops included drug abuse, community involvement, emotional health project, smokeless generation, and 'Power To Do The Job' (for PTA leaders).

1970's MILESTONES

- 1970—Mrs. Helen Whiting elected nineteenth President.
- Fact sheets on drug abuse were published and distributed.
- The PTA formed a coalition on tax reform. Much PTA effort during the decade focused on state aid to schools for children of low income families. Schools were dependent on revenue from property taxes which was harder to raise in poorer cities and towns.
- Massachusetts hosted the National PTA Region I Leadership Conference.
- Massachusetts PTA participated in the Massachusetts Educational Conference Board (MECB) which was founded by PTA twelve years earlier. All major education organizations were represented.
- An exhibit was prepared for the Careers Exposition in Boston which was attended by 32,000 people.
- 1972—Mrs. Charlotte Ryan elected President for a second time.
- A coalition was formed to conduct an alcohol education pilot program on the South Shore supported by National PTA grant of \$1,250. The project included conferences, in service for teachers, and classes for students. In cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Education, a group of teachers wrote a curriculum. Similar programs were initiated in cooperation with the North Shore Council on Alcoholism and the State College at Worcester.

REFLE

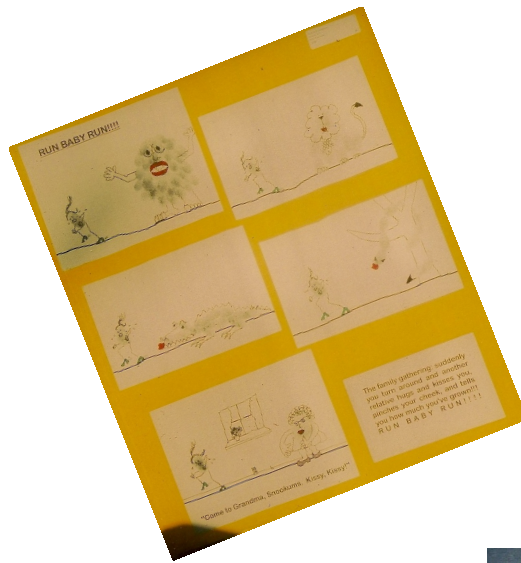
Massachusetts students

1999
**“Suddenly You Turn
Around And...”**

**Award of Merit—Visual Arts
Intermediate division
“Run, Baby, Run!”
Jamie Richmond
Monson PTSA
Monson**

200
"Anything Is

**Award of Merit
Intermedia
"Carson Str
Benjamin
Hollister
Hollistc**



1999
“Suddenly You Turn Around And...”

Award of Merit—Visual Arts
Senior division
“I see pain and depression”
Vicheth Chea
Lynn Classical High School PTSA



1983
“Life In These United States”

First Place-Literature
Melissa Hayes
Belmont High School
Belmont

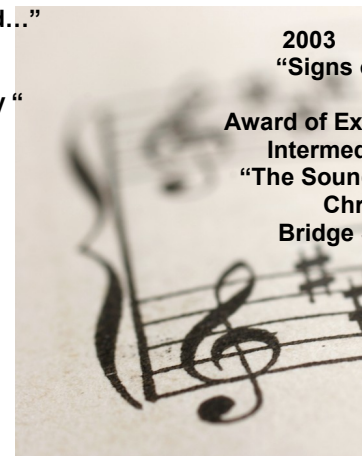


1983
“Life In These United States”

Honorable Mention-Literature
Jessica Church
Miller-Andrew Elementary

1999
"Suddenly You Turn Around And..."

Award of Merit—Literature
“And another year has gone by”
Primary Division
Kylee Deiter
Monson PTSA



2003
"Signs o'

**Award of Excellence
Intermediate
"The Sound of Music"
Chris
Bridge S**

LECTIONS

nts recognized by National PTA

2000
ng Is Possible"

Merit – Visual Arts
mediate division
n *Stradivarius*"
amin Carson
iston PTSA
lliston, MA

2003
"Signs of Courage"

Award of Merit—
Visual Arts
Intermediate division
"Grandpa"
Olivia Goolkasian
Bridge School PTA
Lexington



1998
"Wouldn't It Be Great If..."

Award of Merit—Visual Arts
Middle/Junior division
"Star Writing"
Laura Parrish
Duxbury Middle School PTA

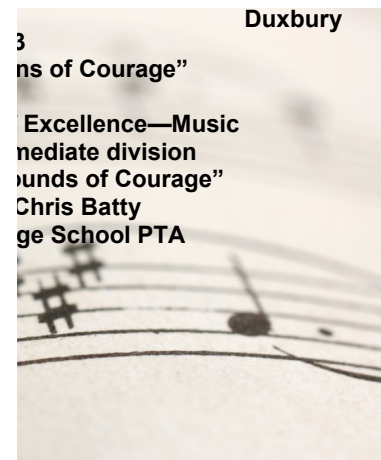


2009
"WOW!"

Award of Excellence—
Visual Arts
Primary division
"Fishy Blues"
Erik Zhou
Lexington

1988
"Wonders of the World"

Honorable Mention-Music
"Violin Quartet"
David Montminy
Alden PTA
Duxbury



3
ns of Courage"
Excellence—Music
mediate division
ounds of Courage"
Chris Batty
ge School PTA



1970's Continued

- Name is changed to Massachusetts Parent-Teacher-Student Association (MPTSA).
- Massachusetts PTSA joined with other New England PTAs , the National March of Dimes, and National PTA to co-sponsor a conference titled "Parenting: A PTA Priority."
- Massachusetts PTSA was heard in opposition to repealing the racial balance law. Supported was the Children's Reform Act providing better care in foster homes and in adoption. Also supported was a provision for cable television channels for public schools and colleges, extension of school construction aid, better funding of occupation education programs, correction of the school aid formula, incentive funds for collaboration among school districts and student rights.
- 1975 Massachusetts Teachers Association sent representatives to workshops on parent involvement and school/community cooperation and initiated projects with local PTAs.
- Close cooperation with Statewide Student Advisory Council took place. The chairman attended state board of manager meetings and served as a member of the state board of education.
- Massachusetts PTSA was represented on the advisory committee to the Massachusetts Board of Education on the new law, Chapter 766, regarding special education and mainstreaming of students with special needs. This law was the model for the national legislation.
- A book on parenting by Freyda Siegel, Chairman for Parent and Family Life Education, entitled *The Magical Touch with Children* was published in 1976 (second printing in 1981).
- A book about PTA was prepared in Portuguese in 1976.
- Massachusetts PTSA was commissioned by National PTA to produce a handbook for use with a series of alcohol education films. Called *How to talk with your children about drinking: A Parenting Guide to Alcohol Education*, the program was piloted by Littleton PTSA. Other PTAs were trained following its publication..
- 317 Massachusetts PTSA members responded to a National PTA Commission questionnaire about TV violence. Massachusetts PTSA held a workshop for volunteers who would help local PTAs set up monitoring projects to educate network producers and the general public in the promotion of better programs for children and the encouragement of more discriminate viewing.
- The convention included a demonstration of artist-in-residence programs.
- 1978—Mr. Vernon "Gill" Graves elected twenty-second President. He was the first and only male president during the first 100 years.

- Prior to taking a position before the Massachusetts Board of Education, the state Board of Managers published a survey for input from members on competency standards and testing. At the convention a workshop was held on guidelines adopted by the Board of Education. In January PTAs were encouraged to take part locally in writing a plan for adjusting local curriculum in order to help all students achieve skills competency.

1980's MILESTONES

- Workshops offered by the PTSA included School Budgets: The Important questions to Ask; Parents and Teachers as Partners; Rules of Collaborative Bargaining in Our Schools; and The PTA that Makes a Difference.
- "A Guide to Community Involvement in Basic Skills Improvement" by Charlotte Ryan is published and distributed by Massachusetts PTSA.
- Massachusetts PTA educates people about the damaging effects in schools if Proposition 2 ½ passes. It passed in November 1980.
- 1981—Mrs. Marilyn Forde elected twenty-third President.
- **Alden PTA – recognized by National PTA MA Outstanding Unit**
- Governor Michael Dukakis is awarded honorary Massachusetts PTSA Life Membership.
- Massachusetts PTSA was represented on the Legislative Joint Committee's Resource Group, and the Commissioner's Ad Hoc Committee on School Financing.
- "Dear Freyda," a column answering parent's child-rearing questions, first appeared in the December 1982 issue of the Bulletin.
- Massachusetts PTSA joins with other organizations to defeat referendum question #1 which would allow public funds to be used to finance private schools.
- Lexington Preschool PTA was recognized by National PTA with 1983 Outstanding Local Unit award.
- 1984—Mrs. Diana Gargalianos elected twenty-fourth President.
- McKinley PTA, Revere, is recognized by National PTA with 1984 Outstanding Local Unit award.
- Paul Revere PTA, Revere, was recognized by National PTA with 1986 Outstanding Local Unit award.
- 1987—Mrs. Terry Johns elected twenty-fifth President.
- Board members represent Massachusetts PTAs with
 - Century III Scholarship Committee
 - WGBH Project Literacy Plus
 - State house state-wide safety exhibit
 - Massachusetts Education Conference Board (MECB)
 - Department of Education teacher Competency Testing



- Health and Welfare Commissioner prepared packets on implementing school-based health clinics.
- Lincoln Park Community School, Somerville, is recognized by National PTA with the 1988 Outstanding Advocate for Children award.
- Participated in seminar on school finance sponsored by MECB, "School Funding Issues of the 1990's: An Agenda for Action."
- 1989—Mrs. Patricia Campbell elected twenty-sixth President.

1990's MILESTONES

- Abraham Lincoln School PTA, Revere, is recognized by National PTA with the 1989 Outstanding Advocate for Children award.
- The state PTA office moved from Stratton school in Arlington to Arlington High school at 869 Massachusetts Avenue.
- Co-sponsored by Massachusetts PTA, 5,000 people converge in school buses on the state house in a "Buses to Boston" rally to call for increased funding for education in the state budget.
- Massachusetts PTA files the School Aid Reform bill to separate chapter 70 school aid money from municipal monies.
- Conferences are held on leadership, developing self-esteem in children and overriding proposition 2 ½.
- The PTA distributes suggestions for celebrating Principal's Recognition Day.
- President Pat Campbell appears on School Talk, a weekly talk show with experts and recognized leaders from education and government, discussing parental involvement.
- Massachusetts PTA is represented by its president, legislative chair, and local unit president at a press conference with President Bush in the East room of the White House. This was held in conjunction with the National PTA Legislative Conference attended by 2550 PTA leaders from across the nation. The delegates lobbied congressmen and senators to support the Family Medical Leave Act and the National Goals for Education.
- Massachusetts PTA wins a 1990 National PTA membership award for the greatest percentage of local units (46%) increasing membership by more than 25 members.
- Massachusetts PTA as a member of the Council for Fair School Finance supports the civil suit which contends that the General Court is responsible for ensuring that education in the public schools is adequate for all students including those in poorer communities with low property values. The lawsuit helped to fuel the fire for education reform with earmarked funding.
- Massachusetts PTA board members serve for 5 years on the steering

committee for PALMS (Partnerships Advancing Learning in Math and Science). Supported by funds from National Science Foundations and led by the Mass Department of Education, the committee directs systemic change in the teaching and learning of math and science including the development of curriculum frameworks, professional development and parent involvement.

- Massachusetts PTSA accepts the Massachusetts Teachers Association "Friend of Education" Award for parents of the commonwealth.
- Massachusetts PTA floods Senator Kennedy's office with telegrams to support his opposition to public funding of private schools.
- 1991—Mrs. Margaret Olivieri elected twenty-seventh President.
- Monson PTA is recognized by National PTA with the 1991 Outstanding Advocate for Children award.
- Massachusetts PTA succeeds in getting many amendments to the Education Reform Law providing for the involvement of parents.
- Massachusetts PTA board members serve on committees for Time and Learning, Common Core of Learning, Curriculum Frameworks, and Assessment as required by the Education Reform Law.
- 1993—Mrs. Barbara Bailey elected twenty-eighth President.
- HIV/AIDS education Conference was held at Massachusetts PTSA office in Arlington.
- Massachusetts PTA publishes a leadership handbook and a platform book for use by state board at future conventions.
- Massachusetts PTA adopts a comprehensive legislative platform.
- President Barbara Bailey appears on School Talk along with Rhode Island President Mary Ann Roll. The topic is "How Do Parents Into Ed Reform?"
- Chapter 70 funds are earmarked for education and a foundation. budget is established in the Education Reform Act after years of Massachusetts PTA representation on the Council for Fair Finance,
- President Barbara Bailey appears on School Talk along with Rhode Island President Mary Ann Roll. The topic is "Parents role in Ed Reform."
- 1995—Mrs. Joyce Knippenberg elected twenty-ninth President.
- Forums were held in five areas of the state to inform parents about the provisions of the Education Reform law. Co-sponsored by the PTA and the department of Ed, parents learn how to support the law in their communities.
- Massachusetts PTSA board members serve to evaluate progress of Education Reform both on the Education Review Commission and at meetings held by the Business Alliance for Education.



1990's continued

- 1996- Massachusetts PTSA celebrates the 100th birthday of National PTA at the Children's Museum in Boston. Many families attend, enjoying the interactive exhibits and entertainers as well as a live hookup to the National PTA celebration in Washington, DC.
- Cranberry PTA created to allow people who do not have a local PTA to join and support the Massachusetts PTSA.
- Office moved to 99 Moody Street, Waltham.
- Name is changed from Massachusetts Parent Teacher Student Association (MPTSA) to Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association (MPTA).
- On February 20, 1999 the building at 99 Moody Street, Waltham, housing the Massachusetts PTA state office, burns to the ground. All contents are lost.
- Massachusetts PTA board members spend countless hours gathering materials. A National PTA grant and insurance funds help establish a new office in Sturbridge which opened in August 1999.
- 1999—Mrs. Carol Woodbury elected thirtieth President.

2000's MILESTONES

- The first group of Massachusetts PTA board members are trained in Building Successful Partnerships (BSP). Based on the National PTA's National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement, trained BSP presenters provide workshops on implementing any of the standards.
- In November 2000, Commissioner of Education, David Driscoll, distributed to every school in Massachusetts and to many other interested parties, "The Parent, Family, and Community Involvement Guide based on the National PTA Standards for Parent/Community Involvement Programs." The publication of these standards were the result of years of work by the Parent and Community Involvement Advisory Council to the Massachusetts Board of Education led by a former Massachusetts PTA president.
- Building Successful Partnerships (BSP) workshops were held throughout the state, including one at the Massachusetts Annual Title I Conference and one at the COHES Conference.
- Massachusetts PTA signed on as sponsor of the Sport Parent Code of Conduct.
- President Carol Woodbury appears on School Talk along with Rhode Island President Mary Ann Roll. The topic is "school and the Parent's Voice."
- State president met with Senator Ted Kennedy at Roosevelt School in Worcester as he unveiled "No Child Left Behind."

- Mrs. Woodbury was part of the last group of state presidents to serve on the National PTA board. National PTA ushered in the National Council of States as her term came to an end.
- 2002—Mrs. Jude Porth elected thirty-first President.
- Massachusetts piloted OMDR, National PTA's online membership database.
- Legislation passed requiring the Massachusetts Board of Education to have a parent representative. This came after 10 years of work by MPTA legislative liaison and state representative Ruth Provost. The parent is selected from nominees presented by the Massachusetts PTA.
- Wrote or Signed on to letters on behalf of PTA endorsing
 - The Mercury Reduction Bill
 - The Asthma Reduction (Healthy Cleaners Bill)
 - SAFER Massachusetts (Reducing Top Ten Toxic Chemicals)
 - Nutrition Bill (Eliminating School Junk Food/Vending Machines), Mass Public Health Association
 - The Cape Wind Farm Project
- Letter to the Editor on Preventing Childhood Obesity, co-authored by VP of legislation Ellie Goldberg and Roberta Friedman, points out that Massachusetts is facing an epidemic of childhood obesity. One common sense solution suggested is to encourage good nutrition by prohibiting the sale of junk food and sugar-packed drinks in schools.
- Massachusetts PTA represented on Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education advisory councils:
 - The Parent and Community Education and Involvement Advisory Council
 - Interdisciplinary Health Education and Human Services Advisory Council.
 - AIDS Advisory Panel
- Massachusetts PTA also represented on :
 - MCAAP Immunization Initiative Advisory Council
 - Harvard Prevention Research Center Community Committee (HPRC Community Committee)
- *Massachusetts PTA in Action #3, Legislative and Advocacy News* article, "Improving School Chemical IQ as part of a Healthy School Checkup for National Preparedness Month," resulted in letters of Commendation from Peter Judge, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Joan Jouzaitis, US EPA New England, Maryann Suero, US EPA Region V, and Michael Chernoff, US Dept of Homeland Security.



2000's continued

- Board members worked with National PTA Extension Liaison, Debra Walsh to create a plan to form more PTA units and increase membership throughout the state.
- 2006—Ms. Michelle Tremont elected thirty-second President.
- Massachusetts PTA teamed with other New England states to hold “New England Extravaganza” a regional conference.
- President Michelle Tremont appears on School Talk along with Rhode Island President Katherine Patenaude. The topic is “Middle/High School: The PTA Perspective.”
- President served on Advisory Committee to interview finalists for new Commissioner of Education.
- Ruth Kaplan appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to serve as parent representative to the Massachusetts Board of Education.
- 2008—Ms. Kim Hunt elected thirty-third President.
- As part of International Day of Families, participated in panel discussion, “What Parents Really Need to Succeed.”
- President co-presented workshop on “Engaging All Families in School” as part of the Annual Conference of the Federation for Children with Special Needs. The conference theme was “Visions of Community.”
- President presented workshop on “Opening Doors to Parent Involvement” at Best Practices Conference held at Salem State College.
- Presentation on the work of the PTA to promote parent involvement in schools and support family and community partnerships given to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Massachusetts PTA joins Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families Campaign a national advocacy campaign for smarter federal policies about toxic chemicals.
- Massachusetts PTA celebrates it's 100th anniversary!

Oldest units still in existence

Salisbury PTA - chartered 1910
Southbridge PTA - chartered 1910
Georgetown PTA - chartered 1911
Daniel Butler PTA, Belmont - chartered 1921
Lexington High School PTA - chartered 1930
New Marlborough/Monterey - chartered 1930
Winn Brook PTA, Belmont - chartered 1933
Mary Lee Burbank PTA, Belmont - chartered 1934



Cooperation and Affiliation with Education-Related Organizations

- Alliance for Healthy Tomorrow
- Campaign for Commercial Free Childhood
- Citizens for Public Schools
- Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
- Massachusetts Board of Education
- Harvard Prevention Research Center Community Committee (HPRC Community Committee)
- Mass Partners
- Massachusetts Healthy Schools Network
- Massachusetts Public Health Association
- Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families
- MAHPERD—Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
- PFLAG—Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
- PIRC—Massachusetts Parent Information and Resource Center
- Safe Routes to School
- Tobacco Free Massachusetts

100th Anniversary Historical Committee

Barbara Bailey
Patricia Campbell
Maryalice Foisy

Two sources provided information for the first half century of our history:

- *History of the Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Association, Inc. 1910-1947*
- *The Massachusetts Parent-Teacher, Official Bulletin of the Massachusetts Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.*, November 1959 issue, “50 Years of Service To Children and Youth.”

Milestones and presidents for the second half were gleaned from issues of the Massachusetts PTA/PTSA newsletters and convention programs as well as from anecdotal observations of past and present board members.



**Massachusetts PTA Presidents
1910-2010**

1910-1912	Mrs. Walter R. Merryman	Bradford
1912-1920	Mrs. Katherine Chapin Higgins	Worcester
1920-1923	Mrs. Martha Sprague Mason	Winchester
1923-1925	Mrs. Edward V. French	Andover
1925-1929	Mrs. Mary Goddard Whiting	Cambridge
1929-1933	Mrs. Ann C. Hoague	Brookline
1933-1937	Mrs. Alice Clement Kelsey	Brookline
1937-1941	Mrs. Ann F. Putney	Lexington
1941-1944	Mrs. Burtis F. Dresser	Springfield
1944-1947	Mrs. Harry S. Wright	Hingham
1947-1950	Mrs. William R. Blair	Great Barrington
1950-1953	Mrs. Alice Rigby Chace	Gardner
1953-1956	Mrs. Harold B. Murch	Hingham
1956-1959	Mrs. Grace L. Mayers	Greenfield
1959-1962	Mrs. Charlotte Ryan	Manchester
1963-1965	Mrs. Muriel Anderson	Springfield
1965-1966	Mrs. Robert Krobitz	Wollaston
1966-1968	Mrs. Richard Rolls (acting)	Belmont
1969-1970	Mrs. Vera Wood	Springfield
1970-1972	Mrs. Helen H. Whiting	Lowell
1972-1978	Mrs. Charlotte Ryan	Orange
1978-1981	Mr. Vernon Gilbert Graves (Gill)	Braintree
1981-1984	Mrs. Marilyn Forde	Belmont
1984-1987	Mrs. Diana Gargalianos	Lynn
1987-1989	Mrs. Terry Johns	Malden
1989-1991	Mrs. Patricia Campbell	Reading
1991-1993	Mrs. Margaret Olivieri	Somerville
1993-1995	Mrs. Barbara Bailey	Lexington
1995-1999	Mrs. Joyce Knippenberg	Sandwich
1999-2002	Mrs. Carol Woodbury	Monson
2003-2006	Mrs. Jude Porth	Monson
2006-2008	Ms. Michelle Tremont	Rehoboth
2008-2010	Ms. Kim Hunt	Plymouth



LIVING A LONG LIFE WELL

Eighteen Tips By Freyda

- ♥ *Live in the present, not the past*
- ♥ *Enjoy personal relationships*
- ♥ *Respect every individual regardless of age, status, education, ability, or political affiliation*
- ♥ *Stimulate your mind (reading, games, politics, sports)*
- ♥ *Help other people*
- ♥ *Eat well*
- ♥ *Splurge once in a while*
- ♥ *Exercise and get fresh air*
- ♥ *Avoid perfectionism*
- ♥ *Find the positive in situations*
- ♥ *Don't waste energy on things you can't change*
- ♥ *Avoid bearing grudges*
- ♥ *Kvetch not*
- ♥ *Be a good listener*
- ♥ *Beware of giving unsolicited advice*
- ♥ *Think creatively*
- ♥ *Remain curious*
- ♥ *Have Fun!!*

And Don't forget # 19....

Stay involved in PTA!!!!



Freyda Siegel (front center) celebrates 50 years of service to the Massachusetts PTA with (l-r) Ruth Kaplan, PTA representative to the Massachusetts Board of education, Ellie Goldberg, Massachusetts PTA VP of Legislation, and Jan Harp Domene, National PTA president.

Massachusetts Song

Massachusetts Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.

Official Song

Words and Music by

EDNA E. VILKER

(Copyright—Eu-403322 Class E)

From each corner of our Bay State
From the North, South, East and West . . .
We have raised a mighty army
For the Cause that we love best.

Our objectives are not lofty
They're solid, down to earth . . .
To make our schools the Fin . . . est . . .
Our Children folks of worth.

To better our communities . . .
By working side by side . . .
To improve our living standards
And develop civic pride.

Our leaders of tomorrow
Are the children of today . . .
Let us march along beside them,
Let us guide them on their way . . .

Give them faith and love and knowledge,
Give them courage for the fray . . .
Lift your torch on high and march along
With the Massachusetts P.T.A.