

MONTANA PTA

RETIRED RESOLUTION

BOOK

Note: A complete review of the contents of this book was completed in 1999. The resolutions and position statements contained in this book are retired resolutions of the Montana PTA. Each year resolutions or position statements adopted more than five years previous shall be reviewed for timeliness. *Annual updates shall be provided by the Montana PTA. The local unit president shall be responsible for maintaining a copy of this publication for their unit.*

July 2015

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**ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG EDUCATION 1991
RETIRED 2014**

- WHEREAS, Alcohol is the major drug of choice for all grade levels and both sexes in Montana, and is the largest problem currently facing planners working with juveniles in the state; and
- WHEREAS, Montana students surveyed report that they first drank an alcoholic beverage at grade six or earlier (peak experimental usage of alcohol for twelfth graders occurred in grades 7, 8, and 9), and high risk years for children's first use of illegal drugs begins at age 12 and as early as grade 4; and
- WHEREAS, Sixty-seven percent of Montana's seventh graders, eighty-six percent of ninth graders, and ninety-five percent of twelfth graders have drunk an alcoholic beverage; and
- WHEREAS, Twenty-one percent of all referrals to juvenile probation officers involve illegal possession of alcohol; and
- WHEREAS, Researchers found that alcohol and other drug education programs greatly increased student's knowledge about alcohol and other drugs, but had little or no impact on the use of alcohol and other drugs (sixty-seven percent of Montana seventh graders have taken drug education courses); and
- WHEREAS, A comprehensive approach to alcohol and other drug education programs involving students, parents, school and community has shown encouraging results; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That Montana PTA, its units and councils support ongoing alcohol and other drug education, prevention and treatment programs that have a positive influence on youth, and are initiated in the early elementary grades; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That Montana PTA, its units and council support a no-use message to youth on alcohol and other drugs; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That Montana PTA, its units and councils encourage a comprehensive approach to alcohol and other drug education, prevention and treatment programs that involve students, parents, schools, and communities.
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA make alcohol and other drug use prevention a priority project, and that the Montana PTA Board of Directors appoint an alcohol/drug chairman to work with, provide information to PTA members and others. This position may be an off-board position and may be responsible to the health and welfare chairman.

**TELEVISION AND RADIO ALCOHOL COMMERCIALS 1984
RETIRED 2014**

- WHEREAS, There is a growing amount of alcoholism among our children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, There are many advertisements for alcoholic beverages on television and radio; and
- WHEREAS, Children and youth are watching and listening to more and more television and radio; and
- WHEREAS, Commercials make an impression on the mind; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That Montana PTA and its member Units/Councils advocate doing away with commercials for alcoholic beverages on television and radio.

**ACCREDITATION STANDARDS
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, The Montana Constitution states" It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state;" and
- WHEREAS, Accreditation standards serve two purposes: 1) to establish a measure of adequacy by specifying for schools a minimum upon which a quality educational program can be built and 2) to insure the size, scope and quality a minimum educational program available to the citizens of the state; and
- WHEREAS, A school, to receive state foundation money, must meet these accreditation standards; and
- WHEREAS, The Office of Public Instruction is holding regional hearing to discuss changing the current requirements; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The MPT A supports maintaining the present minimum standards and increasing the standards in areas which prove practical.

**ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARDS 1992
Retired 2010**

WHEREAS, The Montana PTSA believes there is strength in cooperation with other organizations, who are concerned about issues and conditions affecting the education and general welfare of children and youth and the strengthening of their families; such as the Montana School Boards Association, the Montana Education Association and the Montana State Office of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, America 2000 calls for each school district to develop its own annual report and Montana 2000 endorses this concept; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Montana PTSA seek specific support and cooperation from the Montana School Boards Association, the Montana Education Association and the Montana State Office of Public Instruction to aid units in developing the proposed annual school report cards; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Montana PTSA and its Units/Councils adopt the following position statement:

It is the view of the Montana PTSA that its units initiate action with their school boards and actively participate in the development of an annual school report card for their district. Annual school report cards should be "user friendly", allowing parents, educators and community members to evaluate the quality of their schools.

It is important that parents, educators and community members realize that no one educational program is best for all children. Schools and parents together must address the different ways that children learn and how the structure of a school system can provide the best education for all children.

The only thing at stake on an annual school report card should be the welfare of our students. Remember that student failure represents a shared responsibility of the student, the family, the school and the community. Our expectations need to be uniformly high. All students should be encouraged and helped to meet these expectations.

The annual school report card should provide information on the educational environment including curriculum, teacher quality, school organizations, parent involvement, community support and equity. While these indicators are difficult to measure, doing so will help to develop the skills, talents, and competence of our students allowing them to meet the challenge of the year 2000.

**ASBESTOS ACTION
1988-RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Asbestos has been proved to be a cause of cancer; and
- WHEREAS, Asbestos has been widely used in U.S. schools for sound-deadening and fireproofing; and
- WHEREAS, Children are more susceptible to asbestos than adults; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and the Montana Office of Public Instruction be asked to survey all schools in the State to find any schools where asbestos is a hazard; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** The Montana Congressional delegation be urged to support Federal Legislation to fund the removal of asbestos from school.

**ATHLETIC SCHEDULES
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Various national reports on education in the United States have cited decreased time spent on classroom instruction as a factor influencing decreased achievement levels of students in recent years; and
- WHEREAS, Many athletic events and other extra/co-curricular activities have been scheduled during the school day and/or in the evening prior to the school day; and
- WHEREAS, Time spent on academic subject classroom instruction has been lost due to a scheduled extra/co-curricular activity during the regular school day, travel to/from such an activity, or student absence due to fatigue from travel; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA and it's member units and Councils request the Montana High School Association and other policy making boards/groups to schedule all athletic events and other extra/co-curricular activities on Friday and Saturday evening, in those cases requiring travel by participating students, and outside the regular school day for all activities not requiring travel; the exception being major tournament times.

**CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE
1984-RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Television does not need to have a strong impact upon children unless we choose for that to occur, but realizing the influence which this medium does have upon many children; and
- WHEREAS, PTA has a responsibility to be the voice for children's interests; and
- WHEREAS, Cable television is largely regulated by the local franchise process; and
- WHEREAS, Many people are not aware of the franchise process; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That PTAs encourage public awareness of the franchise process and in the present and proposed provisions in their communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That PTAs work with franchising agencies (such as city councils) to provide access to a channel for educational programming, and community input in decisions regarding the length and provisions of the franchise.

**CHILD RESTRAINTS AND SAFETY BELTS
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Automobile accidents rank as the number one killer andcrippler of children under the age of five; and
- WHEREAS, Automobile crashes in the United States cause more than 50,000 deaths and four million injuries every year, many of which involve children; and
- WHEREAS, There is unequivocal evidence that safety belts and child restraints could prevent about half of all such deaths and injuries; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA through its local units disseminate information regarding child restraint and safety belt usage; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA urge local units to promote child restraints and safety belt usage projects based on the National PTA project; and therefore be it further
- RESOLVED,** That Montana PTA support legislation for the mandatory use of seat belts for people of all ages.

CHOLESTEROL IN CHILDREN 1990
RETIRED 2014

- WHEREAS, In the United States an estimated one-quarter to one-third of children have potentially dangerous cholesterol levels above 176 milligrams per 100 milliliters of blood; and
- WHEREAS, A study done by Louisiana State University Medical Center revealed that a parental history of vascular disease was associated with elevated levels of serum total cholesterol and two studies have revealed that not all children
- WHEREAS, There is increasing concern for children with high cholesterol because pathological precursors of cardiovascular disease are now recognized as beginning in childhood and longitudinal studies in children have established that lipid and lipoprotein levels tend to persist with age; and
- WHEREAS, Parents must have information regarding cholesterol in children as accurate cholesterol readings are difficult to ascertain because a single blood cholesterol level in children may not reflect diurnal, day-to-day, seasonal, and instrument/equipment variations; according to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Heart Association these misreadings may cause parents and doctors to put normal children on restrictive diets or drugs as stated in Science News, Volume 13; and
- WHEREAS, Too much cholesterol is a known contributor to heart disease and every known contributor to heart disease among adult-diet, stress, lack of exercise is countered head on by prevention programs; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA and National PTA and its constituent bodies educate parents to the importance of obtaining accurate cholesterol readings in order to protect children with normal readings from restrictive diets or drugs that may harm them; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA and the National PTA and its constituent bodies encourage the total school environment to promote or continue to promote cardiovascular health by balancing its school lunches, monitoring it's physical education program and the teaching of stress management skills; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA and the National PTA and its constituent bodies encourage schools to teach/continue to teach the children the components of a healthful lifestyle, good eating habits and increased exercise habits.

DIAL-A-PORN 1994-1995
RETIRED 2014

- WHEREAS, Two of the objects of PTA are to "promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship", and to "secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth"; and
- WHEREAS, The Attorney General's Commission on Pornography finds non-violent and non-degrading materials to be harmful for children and links early exposure to pornography with greater involvement in deviant behavior and recommends legislation to prohibit the transmission of Dial-A-Porn; and
- WHEREAS, Victor Cline, a psychotherapist specializing in sexual addictions, was commissioned by the US Department of Justice to study the effects of Dial-A-Porn on children. He found it had an "addiction effect"; and
- WHEREAS, Magazines that can be purchased by anyone and late night television ads are filled with Dial-A-Porn phone numbers; and
- WHEREAS, 1-800 telephone sex line advertisements for 1-900 pay calls contain explicit language, can be placed from any public pay phone requiring no money to make the call, and be placed from any private phone without parental knowledge or the opportunity to block its use as can often be done for 1-900 dialing access; and
- WHEREAS International Dial-A-Porn calls can be made whereby after being told to hang up if they are not 18 years old, an obscene message is given with promises of more to follow if they call a further list of numbers; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That National PTA and its constituent bodies inform their membership, through all appropriate publications, of the accessibility of Dial-A-Porn numbers and danger to children in respect to Dial-A-Porn; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the National PTA and its constituent bodies support and/or initiate legislation to prohibit the transmission of pornographic and obscene material through the telephone or similar common carrier.

**SCHOOL CROSSING SAFETY
1982**

- WHEREAS, The National PTA is directly concerned with the safety of children, not only in school, but also going to and from school; and
- WHEREAS, A paramount problem exists in the crossing of major thoroughfares near school; and
- WHEREAS, Traffic devices such as warning signs, warning lights, and stoplights, as well as winter sanding, increases the safety for children; and
- WHEREAS, Obtaining these safety devices on state thoroughfares near schools involves lengthy red tape endeavors often resulting in little or no action; and
- WHEREAS, City government has no control near the schools on these Federal and State thoroughfares; and
- WHEREAS, The local people are attempting to insure the IMMEDIATE safety of their children; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That this organization work for legislation that will give control and decision-making to local government to install and maintain safety devices and procedures in and around schools to insure the safety of children crossing these major thoroughfares.

**COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Many school districts in Montana are experiencing declining enrollment; and
- WHEREAS, Emphasis has been to address only one area at a time (drugs, teenage pregnancy, nutrition, immunization, dental health, etc.): and
- WHEREAS, Life-long habits can be developed at an early age and bring benefits throughout life; and
- WHEREAS, Health education can be incorporated within many existing curriculum areas; and
- WHEREAS, Better health education can result in lower medical costs; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA supports the concept of comprehensive health education in both the Montana schools and the Montana community.

**VIOLENCE CONTINUUM 1995-1996
RETIRED 2014**

- WHEREAS, Violence affects the welfare of children and youth in the home, school and community;
- WHEREAS, Acts of violence committed by children and against children are increasing in frequency and severity and are expected to continue to increase; and
- WHEREAS, Current, fear-driven efforts to reduce juvenile violence target intervention (reaction after violence has occurred) and incarceration policies, which focus the responsibility for reducing violence on policy makers, law enforcement personnel and our criminal justice system; and
- WHEREAS, Community-wide involvement in preventative (proactive) measures must be added to existing efforts, in order to bring about long-lasting and effective solutions to juvenile violence and crime; and
- WHEREAS, Violence has traditionally been defined and publicized in terms of extremely offensive behaviors that are physically abusive and/or criminal, reinforcing public fear; and
- WHEREAS, Violence encompasses many levels of progressively offensive, anti-social conduct which begin with comparatively minor acts of aggression including emotional and verbal abuse, and escalate to more serious, criminal behaviors; and
- WHEREAS, Many factors that are within our power to change, influence a negative social climate which contribute to violence and crime, including: The lack of expectation for appropriate social conduct, the lack of positive role models, the tolerance of lower level aggression ("boys will be boys") the encouragement or modeling of disrespectful or aggressive behavior, the promotion of aggression as an acceptable way to resolve conflict or to succeed, and the promotion of individual rights (a me-first attitude) at the expense of societal well-being; and
- WHEREAS, Violence and crime can be reduced and prevented if a social climate is created wherein consideration and respect for others is expected, modeled and reinforced and no level of violence is tolerated; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTSA and all its constituent bodies work to educate parents, teachers, students and other community members that violence encompasses emotional, verbal and physical abuse, and that the tolerance, modeling or encouragement of any level of violence contributes to the increase in violence and crime, by incorporation this message into violence prevention and character education programs and resources; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTSA and its constituent bodies promote awareness that all citizens have the power to reduce and prevent violence and crime by creating a social climate in all environments within the community, wherein consideration and respect for others is expected, modeled and reinforced and no level of violence is tolerated; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTSA forward this resolution to the National PTA.

**COMMUNICATIONS ACT REVISIONS
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, The NPTA Convention in 1977 passed a resolution directing the NPTA to continue its efforts to campaign against violence on television; and
- WHEREAS, These efforts have been effective in reducing the amount of violence on children's programs and evening programs; and
- WHEREAS, We are working to change the advertising policies of junk food and dangerous toys on children's programs; and
- WHEREAS, We encourage program content improvement; and
- WHEREAS, Efforts to affect these changes were directed toward the sponsors and the networks and not toward censorship by the government; and
- WHEREAS, We recognize the airwaves are public property, not property of either government or the television industry; and
- WHEREAS, Testimony at the Federal Communication Commission is based on language in the 1934 Communications Act, which states the airwaves must serve the "public interest, convenience and necessity;" and
- WHEREAS, Local stations, to retain their licenses under the 1934 act, must serve the needs of their community with public service broadcasts and fair editorial rebuttal policies; and
- WHEREAS, We recognize the importance of local programs to inform the public of school issues and school board candidates positions; and
- WHEREAS, We recognize changes must be made to accommodate technological advances since 1934; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA opposes any changes in the 1934 Communications Act, that does not recognize public ownership of the airways; that grants permanent licenses without proof that local needs are being served; that replaces the FCC with an industry-dominated commission.

**COMPUTER EDUCATION
1984-RETIRED**

WHEREAS, Montana PTA recognizes the important role of computers in today's society, as well as in the future; and

WHEREAS, Computer technology will not only be a part of most of our children's careers, but also a part of their everyday living; and

WHEREAS, School districts and PTAs may be confronted with pressures to purchase computer equipment before a school district is ready to make maximum use of it; and

WHEREAS, Montana colleges, universities, and the Office of Public Instruction have organized state resources in the dissemination of information regarding computers in education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Montana PTA and its member units and Councils urge the local boards of education to develop a comprehensive educational plan for computers in education, incorporating planning for hardware and soft-ware purchases, in-service training for all appropriate school personnel, and use within curricular areas; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Montana PTA actively work to ensure equal opportunity for all students to computer education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Montana PTA encourage the State Board of Education, the Office of Public Instruction, colleges, and universities to continue efforts to make up-to-date educational computing information available.

**EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD
1985-RETIRED**

WHEREAS, Montana PTA wishes to promote and encourage excellence in public education; and

WHEREAS, Montana PTA wishes to reward efforts to promote, reflect, and exemplify excellence in public education; and

WHEREAS, Educators should be accorded respect and esteem by the PTA and the general public to demonstrate commitment to our system of public education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Montana PTA establish an Educator of the Year Award to be given at the annual state convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, That units and Councils of the Montana PTA nominate candidates for such an award based on criteria to be established by the Montana Board of Directors, with the selection of the recipient of the Award being made by a committee of at least three members of the Board of Directors at least two weeks prior to the annual convention.

**ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE COUNSELORS
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Elementary-age children are the most impressionable, most willing to try new modes of thinking and to change behavior; and
- WHEREAS, The increase in divorce, drug use, alcoholism and other social problems affects elementary students; and
- WHEREAS, Learning to handle social situations and conflicts, to develop study skills, and learn decision making will help students to succeed throughout their school years; and
- WHEREAS, Regular students can be helped to accept and understand mainstreamed students through counseling; and
- WHEREAS, Better guidance at the elementary level will lead to less problems at the secondary level; and
- WHEREAS, Counselors can help parents identify and correct faulty goals and behaviors of their children; and
- WHEREAS, The 1976 Accreditation Standard 360 states, "Guidance Counselors Services" shall be provided for elementary schools; and
- WHEREAS, No standards are given as to the number of counselors for various sized schools; and
- WHEREAS, No qualification for certification of elementary counselors are provided; and
- WHEREAS, No provisions for facilities or counselor time are in the elementary guidance section; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA asks the State Board of Public Education to expand and strengthen Accreditation Standard 360 for elementary counselors to the level required for Junior High and High Schools; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the State Board of Public Education certification standards require elementary and secondary counselors, in order to be fully qualified, be educated in the appropriate psychology and guidance courses.

**TEACHER PREPARATION TO UNDERSTAND ALL LINGUISTIC LEVELS 2007
RETIRED 2014**

- Preamble:** A discrepancy exists between classroom instructional practices and the research knowledge-base of literacy development. Part of the responsibility for this divide lies with teacher preparation programs, many of which, have failed to adequately prepare their teacher candidates to teach linguistics and orthography of the English language. New information about language to shape teacher preparation and instructional programs must form a basis of high quality professional development for pre-service and in-service teachers.
- Whereas,** The purpose of reading is to comprehend text. Comprehending text includes the understanding of individual sounds, syllables, and morphemes (meaningful parts) of the English language; and
- Whereas,** Teachers must understand the basic psychological processes in reading, how children develop reading skills, how good readers differ from poor readers, how the English language is structured in spoken and written form, and the validated principles of effective reading instruction; and
- Whereas,** Teachers’ formal knowledge is acquired through explicit instruction and ample practice with each of the concepts of the issue (linguistic and orthographic components of the English language); and
- Whereas,** Standards should be consistently rigorous and focus on providing clear and objective evidence of teachers’ subject matter knowledge. Standards should reflect an understanding of the law’s intent and demonstrate a commitment on the part of each state to genuinely address the problem; and
- Whereas,** There is a need for increased preparation of pre-service and in-service teachers of the linguistic components of our English language including orthography, morphology, etiology, grammatical structure, and vocabulary. All facets develop students into lifelong learners; and
- Whereas,** “Teachers’ actual knowledge is too low.” Teachers are not given enough knowledge and training in the linguistic and orthographic information needed to teach effective reading, be it therefore
- Resolved,** That the Montana PTA, its Units/Councils advocate to provide current and future teachers with necessary tools they will need to effectively teach the linguistic and orthographic components of the English language; and be it further
- Resolved,** That the Montana PTA, its Units/Councils will continue to express to the Montana Board of Public Education, and other appropriate agencies, the need for increased preparation of pre-service and in-service teachers of the linguistic and orthographic components of the English language concern in teacher preparation courses.

**ENERGY PRIORITY 1979-AFFIRMED 1991
Retired 2010**

- WHEREAS, Busing is required in all school districts in Montana to carry out the required programs to educate the students; and
- WHEREAS, Fuel is required to heat schools in the winter so that school can be held; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA requests that the allocations of fuel for transportation to and from school and for heating of school buildings be given the highest priority.

**"G" RATED MOVIES
1984-RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, National PTA supports "G" rated movies for school age children; and
- WHEREAS, Many local PTA Units/Councils sponsor movie series for children; and
- WHEREAS, With some editing changes, there are "PG" movies that could become appropriate "G" rated movies; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That Montana PTA advocate the production of "G" rated movies for school age children.

**MEMBERSHIP
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Single parent headed families are increasing in numbers; and
- WHEREAS, These families need special understanding, and the moral support of other children and other parents; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That MPTAs be urged to actively seek parent membership.

**GUIDANCE COUNSELORS – SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, The incidence of child abuse/neglect is on the rise; and
- WHEREAS, Children come from a variety of family settings; and
- WHEREAS, There are more children with one or all parents/guardians employed outside the home; and
- WHEREAS, The opportunity for parental guidance of children may be significantly reduced by other roles parents are required to perform; and
- WHEREAS, Children are more often and at younger ages having to make decisions of importance outside the family unit; and
- WHEREAS, A guidance counselor may help a child to correct, at an earlier age, habits and/or attitudes which may negatively affect school performance; and
- WHEREAS, Preventive measures are more cost effective than treatment after the school problem manifests itself; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA encourage and work for the provision of Guidance and Counseling professionals at the elementary school level (K-6) at a level similar to that recommended for secondary schools; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the MPTA and its local units work to encourage a broadened role for school psychologists to include services for all children; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the MPTA support a reduction of the current school psychologist to student ratio of 1:1,500 to 1:1,000.

**REFLECTIONS
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, The funding for Reflections was eliminated from the MPTA budget due to a decline in participation by units; and
- WHEREAS, MPTA should encourage and recognize art expression in light of school art programs being reduced due to budgeted restrictions; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That MPTA again support Reflections and encourage participation by local units to support artistic development.

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS,** The U.S. Commission on the International Year of the Child has areas concern. Poverty, child abuse and neglect, lack of dental and medical care, teenage pregnancy and suicide, alcoholism, illiteracy, crime, school dropouts, and foster and institutional care, parallel to those of PTA; and
- WHEREAS,** The solutions proposed by the commission and education of whole families in child nurturing, improved health care, education within the public education system. Improvements in the juvenile justice system, recognition of the impact of the media on children, and lastly a concern for children worldwide, especially in the developing countries; and
- WHEREAS,** The Objects and Principles of the PTA express the same concerns and solutions; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA supports the International Year of the Child; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA and its units cooperate with the State of IYC Committee in studies of issues raised in this Year of the Child.

**JUNK FOOD IN SCHOOLS
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS,** The MPTA has traditionally supported good nutrition in the school lunch program; and
- WHEREAS,** Junk foods are defined herein as carbonated drinks, hard candies, and candy bars, popsicles, and gum containing sugar; and
- WHEREAS,** Many desirable food, fruits, granola bars, milk, nuts, etc. are not included within this definition; and
- WHEREAS,** Alternatives to supporting extra-curricular activities at the expense of good nutrition can be found; and
- WHEREAS,** Junk food competes with school lunch program; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The MPT A opposes the sale of junk food in schools during the regular school day.

**LABELING AND PACKAGING WINE COOLERS
1989-RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, The problems of drug and alcohol abuse by youth have been identified as a priority to be addressed by the PTA; and
- WHEREAS, According to a 1988 Weekly Reader Survey, the use of wine coolers by children and teens is widespread and children and teens hold many misconceptions about the popular beverage and are misled by its packaging and labeling; and
- WHEREAS, National PTA condemns the sale of alcohol under the guise of a harmless soft drink; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the National and State PTAs support and/or initiate legislation requiring all wine coolers be clearly identified as an alcoholic beverage; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the National and State PTAs support and/or initiate legislation requiring the packaging of wine coolers be different than that of soft drinks.

**LEGAL DRINKING AGE
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Studies by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and
- WHEREAS, Teenagers are usually inexperienced both drinking and driving, and according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study, even a moderate amount of alcohol e.g., one beer per hour, can significantly impair a young person's judgment and driving; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA support legislation that will raise the age to 21 for the purchase of alcoholic beverages; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA encourage local PTA/PTSA to create an awareness of this problem in their communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA work with existing appropriate agencies within the state to disseminate information on effective programs on alcohol use.

**LIABILITY INSURANCE
1987-RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, PTA members/ Units/Councils engage in a variety of fundraising and other activities in which they may incur liability for their actions; and
- WHEREAS, The liability insurance carried by most school districts does not cover PTA members or PTA sponsored activities even though the activities may be carried out on school property; and
- WHEREAS, PTA members/ Units/Councils must carry the responsibility for their actions while conducting PTA sponsored activities/projects regardless of the location; and
- WHEREAS, Liability insurance is more economical if purchased for all PTA members/ Units/Councils; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA through the action of its Board of Directors may purchase liability insurance for all its members/ Units/Councils; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That each Unit/Council be given the opportunity to purchase liability insurance each year with the cost of such insurance to be determined annually by the Montana PTA Board of Directors.

**MANDATORY MUMPS IMMUNIZATION
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, The Montana PTA supports the prevention of disease through immunization; and
- WHEREAS, The 1979 Montana Legislature has passed mandatory immunization of all children in Montana schools against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, rubella and measles unless specifically exempted; and
- WHEREAS, Mumps can cause permanent irreparable deafness or brain damage; and
- WHEREAS, Children who develop these complications may require expensive special education; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA urges the 1981 Montana Legislature to require all school children be immunized against mumps before entering Montana schools.

**MILK PRICING FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, The Montana PTA has worked for good nutrition in school lunches; and
- WHEREAS, The Montana PTA has opposed junk foods and harmful preservatives in foods served in the school lunch program; and
- WHEREAS, Extra fat in whole milk and extra sugar in chocolate milk are not in the best nutritional interests of the school children of Montana; and
- WHEREAS, The pricing structure now accepted by the Montana Milk Control Board makes half-pint whole milk and chocolate milk cheaper than the more nutritionally sound skim and 2% milk; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana Milk Control Board be urged to change the pricing structure of the half-pint containers to encourage the purchase of milk more suitable for the school lunch program and the needs of children.

**MILL LEVY
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, A voted mill levy may provide a considerable portion of each school district's yearly budget; and
- WHEREAS, Under Montana law the entire voted mill levy portion of the is presented on the ballot; and
- WHEREAS, The failure to pass the entire voted levy portion of the budget curtails and disrupts the education of our youth; and
- WHEREAS, In many states, the electorate votes only on that portion of the voted mill levy which represents a change in the amount authorized for the preceding year; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That Montana PTA asks the Montana Legislature to require a vote only on that portion of the mill levy which is an increase over the previous voted levy.

**MONTANA STATE PTA MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE
1989-RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, The Montana PTA is the largest child advocacy organization in the state addressing the education, health and welfare of children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, No effectiveness is due to its large membership; and
- WHEREAS, The membership dues of the state office have not been raised since 1980; and
- WHEREAS, The rate of inflation has risen substantially since the last dues increase; and
- WHEREAS, Paper and postage, which are essential in making our organization an effective organization, have risen dramatically in price over the last few years; and
- WHEREAS, The demand for increased services for existing local Units/Councils has risen substantially; and
- WHEREAS, The membership dues are still among the lowest of any State or National Organizations; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA raise its yearly membership dues from \$.70 per member to \$1.00 per member.

**PRIVATE SCHOOL REGISTRATION
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, All children from 7 to 16 years of age are required to attend school unless they complete the eighth grade; and
- WHEREAS, Enforcement of this truancy law requires knowledge of all schools in the state; and
- WHEREAS, Long-range planning needs accurate projections of school populations; and
- WHEREAS, Many private schools are being started in Montana; and
- WHEREAS, The state immunization law cannot be enforced unless we know where the students are; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The MPTA urges the legal requirement that all private schools in the state register with the State Superintendent and the County Superintendent the name of their school, its address, the name of the principal and the number of children at each grade level.

**NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Sports are an important part of high school activities for some students; and
- WHEREAS, Intramural and Intrascholastic programs exist in many sports for both boys and girls; and
- WHEREAS, Considerable money is now spent on these activities, possibly cutting into academic programs; and
- WHEREAS, Especially during state championship tournaments, students lose school time to participate in and watch the competition; and
- WHEREAS, Over-involvement with athletics may detract from academic achievement of involved students and may interfere with the operation of schools for majority of students; and
- WHEREAS, High school students generally are not mature enough to handle the emotional pressures national competition would create; and
- WHEREAS, No comparable programs exist for academically or artistically talented students, even at a state level; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA is opposed to formulating a National Athletic High School Championship in addition to existing state-wide activities.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT 1992
Retired 2010**

- WHEREAS,** The mission of the PTA as it forth in our objects is to enable parents to be involved with their children's education and to work cooperatively with school, teachers, staff, and administrators so that education policies are implemented in the best interest of all children; and
- WHEREAS,** The National PTA Legislative Policy unanimously supported by the 1992 Montana PTSA Convention Delegation reads:
- To encourage parental involvement, an essential part of the PTA mission, by promoting an environment in which parents are valued as primary influences in their children's lives and essential partners in their children's education and development; and
- WHEREAS,** The America 2000, track # 1 states:
- "Every student, parent, teacher, and community needs the tools to know how good their schools are and that means to make them better. These tools include ... school based management, so that teachers, principals, and parents have the authority and the responsibility to make important decisions about how their school will operate"; and
- WHEREAS,** The Montana School Accreditation Standards recognize the importance of parent involvement (Sup-Chapter 7, School Leadership (7)) as contributing to harmonious relationships within the school; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTSA seek the addition of parent involvement as the 7th goal of Montana 2000 by requesting that the Governor, Montana Board of Public Education and/or Montana 1993 Legislature, each or all, make parent involvement a goal required by State Law; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That such a goal read: Montana Schools will encourage parent involvement by promoting an environment in which parents are valued as primary influences in their children's lives and essential partners in their children's education and development; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTSA establish the position of Parent Involvement Coordinator to help promote goodwill between education programs in Montana, to coordinate a parent involvement conference and to help educate PTA/PTSA leaders as to how to implement parent involvement within their Units/Councils.

**OPTIONAL BIENNIAL SCHOOL BUDGETS
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, The PTA has always recognized the importance of local control in our public schools; and
- WHEREAS, The school budgets in Montana are set by democratically elected school boards; and
- WHEREAS, School budgets are the only budgets submitted to the voters if any additional local mill levies are involved; and
- WHEREAS, The money spent to submit and resubmit levy proposals without which schools cannot operate would be better spent on the scholastic program; and program; and
- WHEREAS, A major portion (75%) of all school budgets is spent on salaries and many school districts now signing two-year contracts with teaches; and
- WHEREAS, Better use of the taxpayer's money can be made with longer range planning than with one year at a time; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA supports the option for school districts to submit a two-year mill levy a two-year mill levy to the voter.

**PRESCHOOL FOR HANDICAPPED THREE TO FIVE YEARS OLD
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Early intervention does have a positive effect on both the handicapped child and the family; and
- WHEREAS, Failure to intervene early may compound the handicap, causing secondary handicaps; and
- WHEREAS, The cost-benefit ratio is more economical with early intervention than with later remediation; and
- WHEREAS, The public school system is the largest child serving agency in the State of Montana and is obligated by law, to identify, locate and evaluate all handicap children, it is reasonable for the State Education Agency and Local Education Agency to assume the role of coordinator for services to preschool handicapped children; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana PTA supports mandating the State of Montana to provide a free appropriate public education for handicapped three to five year olds.

**SCHOOL BOARD RESIDENCY LAWS
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, A school board member needs to reside in the community he/she represents full-time so as to be accessible to the public he/she serves, particularly during week days when school is in session as this is the period of time a community would have the most reason to want to reach a school board member; and
- WHEREAS, A school board member working full-time out of the community he/she serves is unavailable for meetings called for emergency purposes; and
- WHEREAS, A school board member working full time outside of the community he/she has been elected to serve is unable to fulfill his/her obligations on committees and to do any investigative studies made necessary by committees; and
- WHEREAS, A school board member that commutes to the community he/she serves requires the rest of the board and community to schedule meetings around him/her causing inconveniences and delays; and
- WHEREAS, Laws and school board policy dictate certain obligations which are necessary for school board members to attend to every school year and which would be impossible to with considering some of the obligations must be done during week-day school hours; and
- WHEREAS, Budgeting, negotiations, presentations of some program possibilities are all dealt with at special meetings, therefore when a school board members lives or works outside of the school district he/she represents, they are unable to attend these very important sessions; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The current Law #1-1-215 be updated to define residency laws as they pertain to the election of school board members in Montana.

SMOKE-FREE SCHOOLS 1988
Retired 2010

- WHEREAS, The first object of the PTA is "to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, and community and place of worship"; and
- WHEREAS, The US Surgeon General has said that tobacco use in any form is unsafe; and
- WHEREAS, Non-smokers absorb nicotine, carbon monoxide and other elements of tobacco smoke just as smokers do; and
- WHEREAS, The 1985 report of the Surgeon General of the United States concluded that the involuntary smoking is a cause of disease, including lung cancer and other respiratory diseases; and
- WHEREAS, According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children are particularly at risk of contracting tobacco related diseases; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA through its local Units and Councils cooperate in educational and promotional activities designed to discourage students from smoking or using tobacco in any form; be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA through its local Units and Councils encourage local school districts to prohibit the use of tobacco products on all school grounds in the State of Montana; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That individual PTA Units and Councils encourage their individual school boards to make all schools within their district Smoke-Free.

STUDY OF MONTANA TAX STRUCTURE 1986-REAFFIRMED
Retired 2010

- WHEREAS, One of the PT As objectives is to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, Communities all across Montana are having difficulty getting local mill levies passed for much needed additional funding; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Montana PTA encourage the State Legislators to study the tax structure in Montana and work to improve and/or make changes, to provide better funding from the state level to the Foundation Program, thereby taking some of the financial burden away from the local communities.

**THIRTY PERCENT (30%) COAL SEVERANCE TAX
RETIRED**

- WHEREAS, Eastern Montana is underlaid with strippable coal; and
- WHEREAS, The national need for fossil fuel will result in mining Montana's coal; and
- WHEREAS, Coal is a non-renewable resource; and
- WHEREAS, Strip-mining will have a tremendous impact on schools and other governmental services as the population of the state may be increased by one-third as mining expands; and
- WHEREAS, 5% of the coal severance tax goes directly into the school foundation program, and 4% goes into the public school portion of the Education Trust Fund; and
- WHEREAS, A bill before Congress would put a 121 1/2 % ceiling on coal severance taxes, but not on oil or natural gas severance taxes; and
- WHEREAS, The various states are constitutionally allowed to levy taxes within their borders; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** The Montana Congress of Parents and Teachers supports maintaining the 30% Montana Coal Severance Tax and opposes Congressional Interference to lower it.