

WHY PTA?

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE!

Some people think PTA and PTOthers are the same. They are not! PTA is a local unit affiliated with the Montana PTA and the National PTA. PTO, PAC, PTC and others stand for parent-teacher other organizations and refer to lone local parent-teachers groups that are not affiliated with a State or National organization.

PTA

PTA IS THE LARGEST CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP

Over 5 million members. The National PTA is 115 years old and is a volunteer advocacy and parent involvement organization designed to serve all its members.

Montana PTA has nearly 90 units and nearly 5500 members.

Access to the National PTA office, which is staffed by people ready to assist units with concerns about children and school with an 800 number and Members-only Web access.

Access to Montana PTA office and its staff, board and volunteers available for programs, resources, etc, with e-mail and web page. There is no need to spend hours doing research on local problems needing solutions. The assistance of experts from all over the state and the country is at your disposal.

PTA SPEAKS FOR ALL CHILDREN

The sole purpose of the organization is the welfare of ALL children at home and in school. Our joint voice makes a difference with local, state and national agencies and legislators.

National PTA trademark and media campaign to promote unity in the organization.

Access to a Washington, DC, office of Governmental Relations. PTA provides a unified attack on major issues, a unified push to improve legislation.

Legislative Committees at state and national levels working to promote laws that benefit and protect children.

PTA PROVIDES UNIFIED ACTION

PTA representation at national and state conferences and workshops dealing with school/children issues. The local units extend their influence beyond their neighborhood and help secure state and national action for the benefit of all children, not just their own.

PTA cooperates with other state and national organizations concerned with family and child oriented programs.

PTA PROVIDES INFORMATION

Leadership training is provided on every level (national, state and local) to help local PTAs find success.

Established network of volunteers who may progress to state and national leadership roles through nomination or appointment.

PTOthers

No track record or mission statement.

No state organization or staff.

No national office or staff.

No state office or staff.

The sole purpose of organization is to raise funds for only one school.

No trademark or unity campaign.

No legislative office or contact.

No advocacy outside of their school.

No consistent legislative effort at any level.

No recognized representation for parents beyond their school.

No ties to other state organizations.

No leadership training one-on-one.

PTA resources including publications, videos, CDs available for free or low cost, dealing with school/children issues on loan from the Montana PTA office and National PTA.

Workshops/speakers available free.

PTA Conventions to network, train leaders and access valuable information workshops.

Official National PTA President's Quick Reference Guide to assist officers. Montana PTA provides a Unit Leadership Information CD to provide up-to-date data for our units and councils. The *Montana PTA Voice* an e-newsletter provided local PTA officers and interested members of each unit free of cost.

Free subscription to "Our Children" magazine to PTA president.

Free state and national mailings dealing with PTA/legislative/school/children issues.

PTA PROVIDES RECOGNITION

Life membership available to honor those PTA volunteers who have given outstanding service on behalf of all children.

National PTA awards and grants to local units for various projects dealing with health education, arts in education, etc. often funded by partner organizations.

Recognition for best PTA units, volunteers and educators at state level.

Recognition of students' talents in the cultural arts via the PTA Reflections Program.

Statewide scholarship program to ensure quality teachers, which awards two \$1,000 scholarships to Montana students majoring in teaching/education fields

PTA GOVERNED AT LOCAL LEVEL

Membership dues set by local PTA with \$3.25 going to the Montana PTA and \$1.75 going to the National PTA for member support. Free membership cards provided by the Montana PTA office.

Governed by PTA bylaws and standing rules established by PTA members, thereby recognizing the importance of elected officers and open meetings.

PTA PROVIDES TAX AND INSURANCE BENEFITS

Low cost general liability to cover events and officers/directors insurance coverage for units in good standing. Additional low cost insurance is available.

Covered by IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit tax exempt status. Assistance for filling out IRS 990 forms for schools that need to do so.

PTA HAS NAME RECOGNITION

PTA has been around for over 112 years, long enough to be recognized as a powerful force working solely for children.

Little or no network of volunteers on any level.

No brochures, videos, CDs or publications. Does have a website funded by fund raising companies.

No statewide workshops or trainings. No statewide conventions.

"PTO Today" is a free publication designed and paid for by fund raising companies.

No state or national recognition.

No national or state awards or grants.

No statewide recognition.

No student recognition.

No statewide scholarship opportunities

No policy for dues. Membership cards must be generated locally.

Usually run by the principal and/or a small parent's group/executive board.

Liability insurance available at a much higher individual rate.

Must be obtained individually for a significant fee.

No prominent endorsement of philosophy or nationwide philosophy.

No long term organizational ties.