Greetings Oklahoma PTA Unit Presidents,

Due to the closing of Oklahoma schools by the State Dept. of Education, many of you are wondering how to conduct essential business for your PTA. Please know that Oklahoma PTA is here for you. We will work together to help your unit continue to thrive.

Some of you have already called or emailed questions: “How do we handle elections?”, “How do we continue to conduct business?”

“All of us are being challenged across our One PTA in how we can best take care of our members and communities, embrace our mission in a changing environment, and make necessary business decisions to support our current and future needs.”

– Leslie Boggs National PTA President

Common law practice provides that a legal requirement or a bylaw that cannot be followed cannot be enforced. The obligation for any organization is to do the “next best thing.”

Where in-person meetings for the conduct of business and/or voting are not possible, due to state of emergency, epidemic, or pandemic, meetings of either your board or member can be held by video conference, providing that “…the members can simultaneously hear/see each other and participate during the meeting.” Oklahoma PTA has developed an Emergency Virtual Conference Call Policy to guide you through that form of a meeting.

While Oklahoma PTA supports meetings by teleconference, we do recommend that your election be postponed if any positions are contested (two or more candidates for the same office) until a face-to-face meeting can be held.

If your standing rules state you are to hold elections in April or May, you can, at a general meeting, vote to suspend the rules to hold elections later. You can postpone until such time when gathering limits are relaxed or wait till school resumes in the fall. A delay in elections will cause officers to hold the position past the designated term, but that possibility is provided for in your bylaws.

We recommend you advertise the positions up for election this year. Share with your members the duties and responsibilities of each position as outlined in the Unit Uniform Bylaws and your standing rules, so nominations and elections can take place when face-to-face meetings are allowed.

PLEASE TAKE SOCIAL DISTANCING SERIOUSLY.

Oklahoma PTA encourages you to follow the letter and spirit of the social distancing requested by health officials. Your utmost responsibility during these times is keeping your members safe and healthy while meeting the goals of your PTA to benefit your students, schools and families.

Please visit National PTA's COVID-19 resource page for ways to support your community during this time.

Sincerely,

Alison Taylor
Oklahoma PTA President
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