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A note from Mr. Sergio Chavez, Arizona PTA President regarding Covid-19

March 18, 2020

Dear Arizona PTA Leaders and Members,

Arizona PTA wants to take a moment to share with you, what we know and address questions in regard to the unprecedented Covid-19 outbreak. We at Arizona PTA are monitoring the situation closely and sharing as much as we can as quickly as we can via our social media channels. Below is more detailed information for the main questions we have been receiving.

School Closures:

Governor Doug Ducey and Superintendent Kathy Hoffman announced on Sunday, March 15, 2020 that schools in Arizona will remain closed until March 27. We urge you to visit Governor Ducey's website at azgovernor.gov, the Arizona Department of Education website at azed.gov and the Arizona Department of Health Services at azdhs.gov for more information.

Please follow your individual school district's social media pages and websites for more information pertaining to your individual school district regarding resources for online learning, food services, etc. We urge you to share this information with your members.

PTA Meetings, Events, Gatherings:

As of March 17, 2020 the Arizona Department of Health Services strongly recommends gatherings of ten (10) or more people be postponed or cancelled. The CDC (cdc.gov) also recommends canceling any and all mass gatherings and meetings with close contact. In light of this recommendation Arizona PTA suggests that PTA Executive Boards utilize online meeting services or phone calls to make decisions and meet as a board as needed.

Arizona PTA allows for executive board meetings to be held via phone or video conference and voting as long as all members of the board are able to hear and understand the material being voted on. If your unit needs to hold an executive meeting to vote and you need guidance please reach out to Arizona PTA and we will assist you with this process.

At this time Arizona PTA does not allow for general/ membership meetings to be held via any electronic means. We are working with our State Parliamentarian to address this issue and offer a solution to our leaders should a need arise. In the meantime, you can and should update your membership via email, social media or video conference but no voting can take place by your membership.

PTA Nominations & Elections:

Arizona PTA is working on creating information for units to navigate this ever-changing situation as it pertains to nominations and elections. We will not be penalizing or holding units responsible for violating their Standing Rules if needed. If your Standing Rules state you are to hold elections in April and/or May you will be allowed to suspend them to hold elections later in the school year once we know when/if school will resume. At this time, we recommend you advertise the position(s) your board has up for election this year and continue to share with members the duties and responsibilities of those positions so that nominations and elections can take place when school resumes. Take this time to familiarize your officers with the nominations and elections procedures outlined on our website at azpta.org/leaders. More detailed information about this process will come out from Arizona PTA once we have a better timeline of school reopening.

Please note that although a delay in elections may cause an officer to hold their office past the designated term, once school is back in session elections should be held and new officers will begin their terms.

Arizona PTA Annual Convention:

The Arizona PTA Board of Managers are meeting virtually this weekend to discuss the Arizona PTA Convention scheduled for June. We will continue to share information about extension of early bird rates or other course of action as things evolve.

Arizona PTA offices:

The Arizona PTA offices remain closed. Please do not leave a message on our general voicemail. If you need assistance please email office@azpta.org or contact us via any of our social media channels.

Please understand Arizona PTA has no paid staff - we are ALL volunteers and have families, children home and are in some cases working from home so we will do our best to get back to you as soon as we can. Thank you for your patience!

On behalf of the entire Arizona PTA Board of Managers, thank you for your dedication and hard work on behalf of the children of Arizona.

Sergio Chavez



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