



Arizona PTA E-News - September 2023 #1

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

– F. Scott Fitzgerald



Online Banking and Payment System Use By PTA/PTSAs

As many PTA/PTSA units move to online banking and payment systems, it is important to understand the possible liabilities and rules regarding such.

‘Peer to peer’ cash payment applications such as [Venmo](#), [Zelle](#) or [Cash App](#) should NOT be used for PTA/PTSA banking needs, for the following reasons:

1. Cash payment applications are ‘peer to peer’ platforms, and do not support nonprofit accounts or offer bank level security.
2. The use of Venmo for any financial transactions related to your unit (including accepting payments for membership dues) violates the terms of Venmo’s own user agreement.
3. Despite Venmo’s new ‘Venmo Business,’ PTA/PTSAs still cannot use this app for any payments, as it is still considered a ‘peer to peer’ platform.
4. Venmo Business has this added language, which would put you as unit leader in an unacceptable liability situation:

"Authority of Officers and Employees. You agree that all officers, employees, agents, representatives and others having access to the username and/or password shall be vested by you with the authority to use Venmo and to legally bind you. You shall be responsible for all actions by current and former officers, employees, agents, representatives and others, regardless of whether authorized by you, that access the Venmo Services using your username and password. YOU ASSUME THE ENTIRE RISK FOR THE FRAUDULENT, UNAUTHORIZED OR OTHERWISE IMPROPER USE OF YOUR PASSWORD. WE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RELY ON THE GENUINENESS AND AUTHORITY OF

ALL INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED BY US WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY SUCH PASSWORD, AND TO ACT ON SUCH INSTRUCTIONS."

5. There is little to no financial protection for your unit, or for you as a unit leader, when using cash payment applications.

6. Your Fidelity Bond (Crime) Coverage through AIM is NOT intended to cover claims for loss of funds related to the use of Venmo or other like cash payment applications for the aforementioned reasons.

Local PTA/PTSA units that want to accept electronic, or credit card payments can use programs like Givebacks, PayPal, Cheddar Up, Stripe or Square. These programs have sufficient banking and financial protections for your unit, and for you as a unit officer, and not for profit use of the aforementioned electronic or credit card payment programs is allowed.



In the Spotlight

Mavericks PTA of Buckeye, Arizona was recently featured in National PTA's Weekend Update and on the National PTA website. This PTA wanted to help families make mental health an everyday priority. Using their grant from National PTA and The Allstate Foundation, they hosted a National PTA Healthy Minds program, inviting families to an event where they shared how to have important conversations about mental health. They also shared resources on social and emotional well-being.

[How We PTA - Social and Emotional Well-Being | National PTA](#)

In the Spotlight

Canyon Rim Elementary PTA, of Mesa, Arizona, has their accomplishments featured on the National PTA website. Through the School of Excellence program, the PTA took matters into their own hands and started a safety initiative on campus. Members of the PTA made safety and mental health key priorities for Canyon Rim Elementary School. This PTA took steps to care for their community and support future growth. [How We PTA - Social and Emotional Well-Being | National PTA](#)



The **Senita Valley Elementary PTSA** of Tucson, Arizona also has their accomplishments featured on the National PTA website. This PTSA recognized the challenges of the hybrid model of learning at their school. Using their COVID 19 Relief Fund Grant sponsored by Norton LifeLock, the PTSA purchased iPads for teachers, which connected to projectors in their classrooms. Using the iPads, teachers could stream lessons and educational videos to the students in the classroom while simultaneously working with their

students learning at home. The PTSA enabled teachers to support both groups of children, keeping them on track and connected to each other. [How We PTA - Resources for Distance Teaching and Learning | National PTA](#)



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

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School of Excellence

The 2023-2024 National PTA School of Excellence program is a great opportunity for local PTA/PTSA units. Once enrolled, local PTA/PTSAs will gain access to all of the tools needed to run their School of Excellence program. Local PTA/PTSAs are encouraged to enroll early to start building their Excellence Teams and to familiarize themselves with the program process. Enrollment for the 2023-2024 program will be open until October 15, 2023. The School of Excellence program is designed for individual and local PTA/PTSA units to make a direct impact at their schools. Therefore, the School of Excellence designation should not be sought by multiple schools under one PTA. [School of Excellence - Programs | National PTA](#)



Notes From the Backpack

Notes from the Backpack is a PTA podcast designed for millions of parents and the decisionmakers they influence. Through the unique combination of expert, parent and educator guests, each episode features engaging conversations that offer real-life advice and ideas on how to support children's learning and development—all in parent-friendly language. Be sure to check out the latest podcast "How to Talk with Your Kids About Addiction". [Notes from the Backpack - Podcast For Families | National PTA](#)

Advocacy

National PTA was founded by advocates and has a strong history of impacting education policy and advocating for children. Advocacy is required to achieve success for all children. You and your members can help PTA with advocacy efforts by

visiting the Take Action section of the National PTA website. You can take action by urging Congress to support legislation addressing Childhood Trauma and much more. Visit the Take Action page today.

[Take Action - Advocacy | National PTA](#)



STEM + Families Science Festival

The STEM + Families Science Festival, sponsored by Bayer Fund is a program for elementary schools. 30 local PTAs will be selected, and each will be awarded \$1250 in funding and two District/Council/Region (DCR) or SEPTA/Community PTAs will receive \$5000. To be considered, PTA/PTSAs must be located within a 55-mile radius of the following cities:

- Arizona (Marana, Tucson)

[Grants & Awards Opportunities - Run Your PTA | National PTA](#)

Wellness Fairs

Last school year, National PTA awarded over \$650K in program funding to nearly 500 PTA/PTSAs across the country to help support the work PTA/PTSAs do. New this year, National PTA is excited to launch PTA Wellness Fairs, sponsored by Walmart. PTA/PTSAs can apply to receive funding to host wellness fairs that fit the needs of their unique school community! Learn more about this opportunity and other new available opportunities at [PTA.org/Grants](https://www.pta.org/Grants).

The application process for available program funding will close Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. PDT.



Hispanic Heritage Month

In 1968, the U.S. Congress set aside a week for this observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. It stretches from September 15 to October 15. Historically September 15 is a good day to begin as it is the anniversary of independence in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. During the designated period Mexico and Chile, celebrate their independence on September 16 and September 18, respectively. [24 Activities To Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month \(2023\) \(goodgoodgood.co\)](#)

Deadline is Approaching

Don't forget by September 30, 2023, local PTA/PTSA units must submit a copy of their Budget, Bylaws, Standing Rules, Financial Review/Audit to Arizona PTA.



Any officer's list not turned in previously or updated officers lists are also needed. Please use, sign and submit the "Arizona PTA Standards of Affiliation for Constituent Associations Local PTA/PTSA Units and PTA Councils" document to maintain compliance.

[Leaders & Documents | Arizona PTA \(azpta.org\)](#)



Calendar

9/20/2023 - Membership Dues Reporting to Arizona PTA

9/30/2023 - Arizona PTA Teacher of the Month Applications Due [Teacher of the Month | Arizona PTA \(azpta.org\)](#)

9/30/2023 - Local PTA/PTSA Standards of Affiliation Documents Due

10/1/2023 - Applications for National PTA Leadership Position Due - [Become a National PTA Leader - About PTA | National PTA](#)

10/4/2023 - National PTA Grant Closing Date

10/15/2023 - National PTA School of Excellence Enrollment Deadline [School of Excellence - Programs | National PTA](#)

11/15/2023 - IRS Tax filing due for local PTA/PTSA unit [Form 990 | File 990-N & 990-EZ Online | Nonprofit Tax E-filing | File 990s](#)

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