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Happy March!

It has been a very busy month. Currently I am making my way back from the National PTAs Legislative Conference in Alexandria, Virginia. This has been an amazing opportunity to connect with PTA leaders from across the country and others from across the globe.

I was honored to represent Ninth District PTA at California State PTAs Legislation Conference, Feb 1 - 3, 2026, in Sacramento CA. In total, there were seven representatives from Ninth District PTA (2 Council representatives, 1 Unit representative, 4 District representatives). During those few days, we were given an opportunity to meet and connect with members of the CAPTA Board of Directors and PTA leaders from across California, heard speakers/panels covering many topics (Budget/Funding for Schools, Climate Impacts on Children's Learning and Health, AI in Schools, Portrait of a Learner/Graduate, How Parent Advocacy Changed How California Teaches Reading), and we were fortunate to have visits from a few state legislators.

Tuesday was spent at the Capitol Building. The day began in a hearing room listening to a few speakers followed by visits to our legislators' offices. Ninth District PTA did a sweep of the capitol that afternoon - meaning we visited the office of every legislator representing the areas Ninth District PTA covers. Robin Klau, CAPTA Director of Legislation, said Ninth District PTA should be proud - sweeping the capitol is not easy to do, and to her knowledge, we were the only district to do so this conference. While we were not able to meet with the legislator or a staffer at every office, we were able to leave information from CAPTA and Ninth District PTA at every office. We visited the offices of:

Assemblymember Tasha Boerner

Assemblymember LaShe Sharp-Collins*

Assemblymember Christopher Ward

Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel

Senator Catherine Blakespear*

Assemblymember David Alvarez*

Senator Stephen Padilla

Assemblymember Laurie Davies

Senator Brian Jones*

Assemblymember Carl DeMaio

Senator Akilah Weber

Our visit ended with a quick visit to the Governor's Office to visit the state bear. A huge shout-out to our Legislation VP, Amy Flicker, for putting together our talking points and leading our delegation through this conference. I encourage everyone to attend CAPTA's

Legislation Conference at least once. On that note, we have added a new Legislation tab on our website for resources and information about PTA's advocacy efforts on all levels. I encourage you to go check it out: [Ninth District PTA: Legislative/Advocacy](#)

March is full of exciting activities. I hope to see you at our Annual Meeting Founders' Day Breakfast on March 11, 2026. I am also looking forward to our Reflections Showcase on March 12, 2026. Information on both events is on our website.

In the next two months, units and councils should be holding their elections for the 2026-2027 officers. If you need any assistance, please reach out to us. We are here to support you.

--Anne Emfinger, Ninth District PTA, President
president@ninthdistrictpta.org

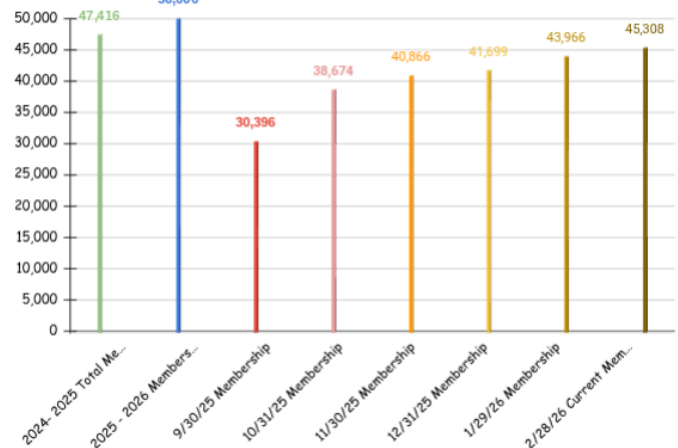


Ninth District PTA 2025-2026 Membership Goal

During 2024-2025 we had a total of 47,416 (green) PTA members. Our goal for 2025-2026 is 50,000 (blue) PTA Members.

- September 30, 2025 - 30,396 (red) PTA members.
- October 31, 2025 - 38,674 (pink) PTA members.
- November 30, 2025 - 40,866 (orange) PTA members.
- December 31, 2025 - 41,699 (yellow) PTA members.
- January 29, 2026 - 43,966 (mustard) PTA members.
- February 28, 2026 - 45,308 (brownish) PTA members.

Ninth District PTA Membership Goal 2025-2026



Keep up the great teamwork, and your membership drive!

Calling All Treasurers:

Being a nonprofit treasurer shouldn't feel like a solo mountain climb—especially when the "financial weather" gets rough. To make our roles easier and our mission stronger, we're launching **The Treasurer's Huddle**, a bi-monthly 45-minute deep-dive designed to trade problems for solutions. Whether you're facing a specific financial crisis or just want to ensure you are on track with your monthly reporting, this is your safe space to ask, learn, and lead.

This Month's Focus: *What do I do with all these filings? Future Fund Connect & Document Storage*

When: March 19, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

Where: [Click Here to Register](#)

The Agenda:

- **The 15-Minute Cents-ible Solutions: Future Fund Connect & Financial Document Storage**
- **The 15-Minute Collaborative Solving: What is the best money handling platform?**
- **The 15-Minute Hot Seat: Open Q&A for your current "financial fires" and roadblocks.**

Can't make it? Drop your questions in this [Google Form](#), and we'll send the "Clarity Recap" after the session. Let's make the numbers work for us, not the other way around.

--Deborah Childers, Ninth District PTA, Treasurer
treasurer@ninthdistrictpta.org

Election of Officers - What to Say

Standing in front of the membership and conducting elections can be nerve-wracking. This script can be used to help run elections smoothly. [Click Here to View the Script](#)

Questions? Contact Sue King, Ninth District PTA, Parliamentarian
parliamentarian@ninthdistrictpta.org

Treasurer's March Newsletter Article

A huge **thank you** to all the units that have already completed their financial requirements for the year—great job! 🎉 I know November, December, and January are some of the busiest months for treasurers as you juggle taxes, Attorney General reporting, insurance payments, and Workers' Compensation reports. Your time, effort, and dedication truly make a difference, and your hard work is appreciated!

If your unit may have missed a deadline or still has a few items to complete, don't worry—I'll be reaching out to offer support and help you cross the finish line. We're in this together, and my goal is to see every unit succeed and remain in good standing.

So... what's next? Believe it or not, it's already time to start looking ahead to the **2026–2027 budget**! Once your 2026–2027 treasurer is elected, they step right into the role of budget committee chair—and this is where the fun planning begins. One great way to kick things off is by asking for input from students, parents, and staff. Surveys are a fantastic way to find out what worked well this year, what could be improved, and what exciting new ideas your community would love to see.

With that feedback in hand, the budget committee can review the **2025–2026 budget** and start shaping plans for the year ahead. This is the perfect opportunity to refresh your PTA offerings—keeping successful programs, letting go of those that no longer resonate, and trying something new! Adding even one new program or event can spark renewed interest and increase family engagement. It may also be the right time to replace a fundraiser that isn't meeting your goals with a fresh, creative idea.

Once your proposed budget is ready, it should be presented to the executive board for approval and then submitted for adoption at the final association meeting of the 2025–2026 year. This ensures your PTA is ready to hit the ground running at the start of the **2026–2027 fiscal year**. The budget will also be presented again at the first association meeting of the new year to officially authorize fall programs and fundraisers.

Need a little extra guidance? Be sure to check out the [California State PTA Budget Toolkit](#)—it's a great resource to help you every step of the way.

Thank you for all you do to support your PTA, your school, and your community. Your leadership helps make amazing things happen! ❤️

--Deborah Childers, Ninth District PTA, Treasurer
treasurer@ninthdistrictpta.org

Financial Review Newsletter Article March

This month, many units are wrapping up their **mid-year financial reviews**—nice work staying on track! For councils and unit associations, the fiscal year typically runs from **July 1 to June 30** (there are a few units that have different fiscal years, so check your bylaws), so your mid-year review should cover **July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025**.

Financial reviews are an important part of keeping your PTA healthy and protected. Our insurance carrier, **AIM**, requires at least one financial review each year. Having that review—and ensuring bank statements are signed by a non-check signer—helps safeguard your unit. In the event of a financial loss, missing documentation could impact whether a claim is paid. While one review per year meets insurance requirements, **Ninth District PTA strongly encourages completing two reviews each year** as a best practice.

So why two reviews? There are lots of great reasons! We're all volunteers, and PTA bookkeeping isn't something most of us were formally trained to do. A mid-year review gives your unit the chance to catch small issues early, make adjustments, and strengthen procedures for the rest of the year. It also helps ensure that newly elected boards don't inherit unresolved financial challenges. Plus, reviewing **six months** of records is much easier (and less stressful!) than reviewing an entire year all at once. Finding and fixing issues mid-year is far better than discovering them at year-end.

If your financial review hasn't started yet, now is a perfect time to begin so results can be shared at your upcoming executive board and association meetings. If your unit or council doesn't currently have a financial reviewer, your executive board may elect or appoint one (check your bylaws to see if it is an elected position) along with at least one additional member. You may also choose to hire a CPA to complete the review—no committee is required when a CPA conducts it, but this can be expensive.

Helpful resources are available to support you every step of the way:

- Financial reviewer duties: California State PTA Toolkit, page F11 <https://toolkit.capta.org/finance/>
- Video training: ****SEE BELOW****
- Forms and additional resources: <https://www.ninthdistrictpta.org/pta-leaders/running-pta/auditor/>

If you have questions or need guidance, please don't hesitate to reach out to your council financial reviewer or contact **David Rogers** at financialreviewer@ninthdistrictpta.org. We're here to help you succeed and keep your PTA strong! ❤️



Attention PTAs/PTSAs with Bylaws

Yeah, that's all of us. The California State PTA has made some changes to the 2025 templates used by associations.

1. Recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and historian will be removed from any PDF fillable bylaws submitted to the state parliamentarian for review. Secretary remains a required officer for all associations. Those roles were removed by the Board of Managers this past summer. We should acknowledge that these roles are no longer listed among the executive officers. To address concerns regarding officers who are currently in these roles, they complete the term and are thanked for their service.
2. If a PTA/PTSA wants those positions to continue, they may be added as Vice President or Standing Committee members. This may change the quorums.
3. The 2024 bylaws template will not be accepted past March 31 by the state parliamentarian. If your PTA/PTSA is in the process of updating bylaws and using the 2024 template, work quickly to submit soon.
4. The Ninth District PTA deadline for submitting any bylaws is set at May 15. This date is to allow time for review and submitting to the state parliamentarian. And hopefully, getting them back signed by the state parliamentarian.

--Sue King, Ninth District PTA, Parliamentarian
parliamentarian@ninthdistrictpta.org

Approval and Procedures for PTA Debit Card Use

Did your PTA unit approve the use of debit cards?

Please remember that debit card use for the PTA is only permitted when proper procedures are included in the standing rules and approved by both the executive board and the association (If you update to the new 2025 bylaws, the procedures are included.). The California State PTA Toolkit provides detailed information on debit card usage. <https://toolkit.capta.org/finance/banking/debit-and-credit-cards/>

The procedures must include the following:

- **Only elected and authorized bank signers, as specified in the bylaws, may be issued or have access to a debit card. The debit card must be issued with the name of the PTA and the officer.**
- An **Authorization for Payment via Electronic Services** form must be completed **before the debit card is used**. This ensures the required two-signature approval for all expenditures.
- **Receipts must be attached to the completed Payment Authorization form.**
- All debit card **expenditures** must be **approved and ratified** by the executive board and the association during treasurer reports.
- **Cash withdrawals from the PTA account are not allowed, as they violate the required two-signature approval for all expenditures.**
- The monthly bank statement review must be completed to ensure that no unauthorized transactions are processed against the PTA's bank account with the debit card. The monthly bank statement review is required by the California State PTA insurance provider.

If a card is stored on a device or linked to an account, it increases the possibility of accidental use. It is strongly recommended that the card not be linked to an account, and the card must be stored securely and kept separate from personal credit or debit cards.

While debit cards can be convenient, they also increase the risk of misuse. Following these procedures protects PTA funds and safeguards board members from personal liability.

Let's keep our PTA finances—and our board—secure.

--Deborah Childers, Ninth District PTA, Treasurer
treasurer@ninthdistrictpta.org

Health

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month serves as a vital reminder that **early detection saves lives**. By shining a spotlight on risk factors and the latest research, this observance aims to empower the public with the knowledge needed to stay ahead of the disease.



Knowledge is Prevention

While there are over a million survivors in the U.S. today thanks to evolving treatments, prevention remains our strongest tool. Understanding the causes and managing the risk factors within our control are the most effective ways to lower the incidence of colorectal cancer. [National Colorectal Cancer Website](#)

National Brain Injury Awareness Month

According to the CDC, a **traumatic brain injury (TBI)** is a disruption of normal brain function triggered by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or a penetrating injury. While a TBI can happen to anyone, **children and older adults** face the highest risk. [Brain Injury Association of American Website](#)

More Brain Related Information

A **speech disorder** (or speech impediment) is a communication condition that disrupts the natural flow, sound, or rhythm of speech. These challenges do more than just make talking difficult; they can significantly impact a person's daily interactions, professional life, and overall mental well-being.

Speech disorders vary significantly based on how they impact vocal production and oral movement. For instance, **stuttering and cluttering** involve disruptions in the natural rhythm or flow of words, while **apraxia** is a neurological condition where the brain struggles to coordinate the specific muscle movements required for speech.

Similarly, **dysarthria** occurs when weakness or a lack of muscle control leads to slurred speech. More rare conditions like **dysprosody** affect the "melody" of a person's voice, altering their pitch, intonation, and rhythm. Together, these disorders illustrate the complex connection between neurological signals and physical expression.

National Nutrition Month

National Nutrition Month serves as a vital educational campaign that highlights the powerful connection between physical fitness and nourishing dietary habits. By prioritizing these pillars of health, individuals can take proactive charge of their bodies, significantly

enhancing their overall well-being and long-term vitality. [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Website](#)

--Mary Patterson, Ninth District PTA, Vice President, Director of Health
health@ninthdistrictpta.org

FutureFund Connect

Have you logged into Future Fund Connect yet? If not, please ask your president to invite you again. Please make sure your contact information is correct for every board on which you serve.

Then when your new officers are elected, input them into Future Fund Connect. Please check [Ninth District PTA: FutureFund Connect](#) for training videos

--Denae Senise, Ninth District PTA, Vice President, Leadership Services Director
leadership@ninthdistrictpta.org

--Deborah Childers, Ninth District PTA, Treasurer
treasurer@ninthdistrictpta.org

SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SLC).

Sow. Grow. Lead.
Saturday, June 6, 2026
(Registration Coming Soon!)

Day of SLC:
Registration Opens at 7:00 a.m.
General Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Location:
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice
University of San Diego
5555 Marian Way, San Diego, CA 92110

PTA Spotlight

If you know of a PTA/PTSA that should be spotlighted in our April Newsletter please fill out this [Google Form](#) and submit it by midnight of March 23, 2026.

--Sonya Vargas, Ninth District PTA, Vice President, Communications Director
communications@ninthdistrictpta.org



Make plans to attend the California State PTA Convention May 1-3 with Ninth District PTA!

The annual state PTA Convention is the ultimate PTA leadership experience! It is also the way that local unit PTAs have the opportunity to participate in the business of California State PTA!

For the first time in our memory, the convention is being held at the Fresno Convention Center. Ninth District PTA will be your guides to where to be and what to do. In order to plan the best convention experience for our San Diego County PTA Leaders, we would like your input!

If you have attended Convention before and are planning to attend this year, please fill out this survey so we can have a better idea of what to provide. <https://forms.gle/ajPHeJX7HjV7bGBr8>

If you are new to Convention, please, read through the [highlights from last year](#), and then check your calendar and the PTA budget to make a plan to join us. Then you should also fill out the survey to let us know how we can make your experience fabulous! <https://forms.gle/ajPHeJX7HjV7bGBr8>

[REGISTER NOW: Early Bird Registration is Now Open!](#)
Early Bird Registration (February 15, 2026 - March 31, 2026)
Full Time: \$249
One Day Pass: \$149
Student: \$149
Non-PTA: \$500

Hotel Booking Information:
DoubleTree by Hilton
2233 Cesar Chavez, Fresno, CA 93721

Room Rate: \$189+Tax
Hotel Registration opens: March 1, 2026
Room Block Cutoff: April 13, 2026
Self overnight parking is free for hotel guests.

--Karla Orsa, Ninth District, Convention Chairperson
convention-chair@ninthdistrictpta.org

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