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NOMINEES

President Elect – Cindy Gerhardt



Cindy was born and raised in Pensacola. She is the proud mother of five, all educated and graduated from public schools. She is also an ecstatic grandmother of two perfect angels.

She has spent the past 19 years actively involved in PTA on local, county and state levels. While in the local unit, she served as chair for numerous committees, as well as President. At the county level, she served as Reflections chair, Area VP and eventually County Council President for Escambia County. Also during that time, she served as a mentor in the Take Stock in Children program. She was a member of the Escambia Public Schools' Foundation and the following school district committees: R&R Handbook, District Calendar, Elementary Report Card development, School Attendance Zone Advisory (Chair), Closing/Consolidation Task Force (Secretary), Strategic Planning and Teacher of the Year selection.

Cindy has served as Florida PTA Membership Chair, CCSSI State Lead and Trainer, Treasurer for Sunshine State PTSA and has held positions on the Executive Committee as VP for Organization and currently VP for Leadership Development. She has been a member of numerous committees, such as Awards, Endowment, Leadership/Convention, Site Selection, Legislation, Bylaws/P&P, Budget, Family/Community Engagement, Strategic Plan, Resource Development, State/Local Relations and Nominating Committee.

While employed with the Escambia County School District, she was recognized as the Educational Support Person of the Year and has been presented with a Lifetime FPTA Membership Award.

PTA has been a major aspect of her life, giving her valuable training that has helped in her career and providing the opportunity to make lifelong friends. She is an advocate at heart, and she is excited about inspiring others to find and develop their passions and make education better for our children!



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Vice President for Leadership Development – Linda Kearschner



Linda and her husband Jim are the proud parents of Jacob Ryan, a sixth grade student at Safety Harbor Middle School in Pinellas County and Jordan Elise, a second year student at New College of Florida in Sarasota.

Professionally, Linda is the owner of Intelligentsia Research, an independent, contract research firm organized to support the recruiting efforts of retained executive search firms, consulting organizations, and end user companies around the world. Previously, Linda worked in human resources, training and development, and sales management with major advisory and service industry firms. Linda is a graduate of the University of South Florida. She and her family reside in Safety Harbor, Florida.

Linda is long time child advocate and Parent Teacher Association volunteer and officer at the state, county and local levels. She is currently serving in several leadership positions with the Parent Teacher Association including Florida PTA Resolutions Committee Chair, Florida PTA Legislative Committee Member and Leadership/Convention Committee Member and Pinellas County Council PTA State Board Representative and advisor to the Council President. Linda previously served as the Pinellas County Council PTA Vice President of Communication, Vice President of Advocacy, Legislative Chair and Platform Chair. Her committee involvements have included the Pinellas County Council PTA Common Core State Standards Initiative Grant Committee as well as numerous other special committees. In addition, Linda has served in numerous positions at the local unit level including as President.

Linda continues to represent the Pinellas County Council Parent Teacher Association on several outside committees including the Independent Citizens Referendum Oversight Committee and the recently formed Parents for Pinellas Students. She also supports and has volunteered with several PCCPTA partner organizations including the Pinellas Education Foundation, Live Free!, Clothes For Kids, Ready for Life Pinellas and Suncoast Voices for Children. Linda is currently serving as a parent representative on the Florida Department of Education's Race to the Top Student Growth Implementation Committee and recently participated as a parent representative in the Governor Rick Scott's Education Summit. In addition, Linda currently volunteers as the Education ad Litem for a special needs foster child.

Linda says that it is PTA's ability to capture and focus our "one voice" through the resolutions and convention process, as well as our experience of training and motivating members to be true advocates and leaders that keeps her engaged and passionate about the power of the PTA.



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Vice President for Regions and Councils – Tammy Weaver



Tammy currently serves as Scholarship Chair with the Florida PTA, and, as an active committee member within the Legislation Committee and Convention/Leadership Conference, Tammy has been heavily involved with PTA at the local, county and state level for many years. Prior to her current duties, Tammy served as President for Orange County Council of PTA for two consecutive years and also served as the 2nd Vice President of Programs, 3rd Vice President of Membership, Secretary and Publicity Chair.

Tammy's regional involvement and work included Vice President followed by President of Walker Middle School PTSA. During her term as President, the PTSA earned many accolades including the following awards issued by Orange County Council of PTA: PTSA of the Year, Principal of the Year, and Website of the Year. Within the Pine Castle Elementary PTA, Tammy served as Vice President of Programs and Website Chair. During her tenure with Pine Castle, she was heavily involved in successful events management and promotion including, Math and Science Night, Moms and Muffins, Dads and Donuts, and Family Bingo Night, all of which were free for families to attend. Under Tammy's guidance, Pine Castle's website was also recognized as Website of the Year.

Her hard work and dedication has earned Tammy an honorary Florida PTA Life Membership as well as Florida PTA's Leadership Certification and an Advanced Leadership Certification in County Council.

Tammy is the proud wife of Pat for 23 years and is mom to three children: Patrick, Amber and Adrianna and one Fur Baby Dog, Diesel. She also has, for 21 years, acted an integral part of the management team, worked within and helped to successfully promote and grow her family's manufacturing business. In addition, Tammy was also actively involved in managing a highly visible industry association.



Vice President for Educational Development – Graham Rabinowitsch



Graham was raised in South Florida. He is deeply involved in public policy in Florida. Much of his work has been concerned with public education and children's services through involvement in PTA at the local, county, and state levels, on school district committees, in nonprofit organizations, and through work projects and his own individual efforts. Graham has a strong interest in public policy, state and urban issues, organizational processes and structure, and strategic planning.

Graham, an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Florida PTA, began his PTA experience as the founding president of a local unit. Additionally, he served Broward County Council as student representative, historian (elected officer), social media chair, scholarships chair, and consultant (organizational processes). He led the application and initial implementation of the Urban Family Engagement grant in Broward County. Graham served as Florida PTA Student Involvement Chair from 2010-2012, introducing new workshops and methods of engagement, and was brought back on the Board in the same role in fall 2013 to build student engagement initiatives. He served on the Florida PTA Legislation, Resolutions, Strategic Planning, and Student Involvement committees. Outside of PTA, Graham has experience in training and development, policy and program development and management, and organizational change. In Broward County, he led and participated in initiatives to review school district policies and procedures. Professionally, he has worked as a policy analyst and program developer.

Within PTA, Graham designed and implemented initiatives on a variety of subject matter, primarily advocacy/policy and organizational development. He developed educational materials through Florida PTA and his professional work. For PTA, his public policy analysis has focused on the education system, including learning transitions and governance. He has provided extensive analysis for the Legislation Committee. As an officer, Graham would bring leadership to the Educational Development Commission to analyze policy and programs, and assist our members in understanding and navigating the education system, governmental and community organizations, and other avenues pertaining to health, education, and well-being.

Education

BA Organizational Sciences with Special Honors and Political Science (Public Policy Focus), The George Washington University, Washington, DC
McFatter Technical High School, Davie, FL



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Vice President for Membership Development – LaTasha Green-Cobb



LaTasha Green-Cobb has been nominated for Vice President of Membership Development. LaTasha has been involved with PTA consecutively for over fifteen years. She was first introduced to PTA when her father was PTA President of her sixth grade school. She believes in giving her time to further great causes. She is inventive and organized. LaTasha believes in aligning committee plans with the association's goals.

LaTasha has held several PTA positions at the local, county and state levels. She is committed to the mission, values, and vision of PTA. She understands the importance of staying involved and speaking for those who don't even know they need to be spoken for. LaTasha is ready to be a part of the Executive Committee to continue the excellence of this association by furthering initiatives already set in place as well as being innovative to guide the association in future endeavors.

LaTasha and her husband, Curtis, have been married for almost two decades and have two sons. LaTasha is professionally an Executive Director of a HUD-approved housing and financial counseling agency. She resides in Jacksonville, located in Duval County. She is driven by helping others and sharing knowledge. LaTasha enjoys spending time with nature and watching criminal shows.



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Secretary – Joe Picora



Joe is a believer in all that Florida PTA stands for. He currently serves as the male involvement chair for Florida PTA and is on the membership committee, leadership/convention committee for Florida PTA. He previously served as the Hernando County Council PTA secretary for two years, as well as nominating committee chair, treasurer and secretary at his local unit. He has been a PTA member since the age of 6, when his mom joined back in New York.

He believes that all children are worth speaking for. Personally, he has no children, but works at a school of 1800 students and feels that all students need a voice. He is the Data Entry Operator for Explorer K8, the largest school in Hernando County and loves his job. He also believe it's not what you can do for him, but what can he do for you. What do you as the local unit members want to see from the state board? It has been an honor to serve as male involvement chair for two years and can't wait to see what happens next.

He thanks his parents for supporting him through his PTA journey. Since moving from New York to Florida, Florida PTA has opened his arms and have opened their arms to him and he's grateful for them! Why Florida PTA? Because our children matter!



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Treasurer – Jen Martinez



Jen currently serves as the Palm Beach County Council PTA/PTSA President. She also serves on the Florida PTA Leadership/Convention Committee, and the Reflections Committee. Jen has been actively involved in PTA for over 16 years.

Jen has served as Palm Beach County Council President for three years. In addition, she has been the President Elect, VP of Communications and has chaired several other committees at the county level. Jen has personally trained and mentored many new presidents and treasurers, both for the county council and local units.

At the local unit level Jen has served as President, Vice President of Membership, Secretary, Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator, Committee Liaison and several others. Jen has been the Sunshine State PTSA VP of Membership for two years.

Jen has worked for Target in Human Resources for nine years and before that worked at Publix for 16 years. Her duties have included leadership training, staffing and development, account management and more. Jen is married to Moises and has four children, Daniel, Michael, Jason and Jacquelyn.