

President's Message (Aug/Sept 2009)

America's PTA



If you were unable to join me at the national convention in Fort Lauderdale this past June, let me say once again how incredibly grateful I am that you have entrusted me to be the first ever male National President of PTA. But I owe you even more thanks for your decision to be involved in this association at this time in our history.

We have reached a defining moment, and members committed to our mission have work to do. When faced with the question of whether you, personally, were committed to helping PTA reach out to all communities, you have stood up and said, "Yes!" When given a choice between supporting your child and supporting all children—even knowing the challenges involved—the decision was clear. Because it's not really one or the other: by working on behalf of America's students, you truly are helping your student, your family, and your school.

These can't just be words, however. We are asking you to follow through in action as well. There is no question that PTA must work harder on its growth and its diversity. The only question is: what will you do to help PTA expand into the communities where it is most needed? We need more men to be involved in PTA, and in children's lives. Will you help PTA raise its male membership from 10% to 20% over the next two years? We need better representation in PTA from the very youth we have chosen to serve. Will you help PTSAs get more students to join us? We need to improve our service to the families who have members serving in our military. Will you help the families in your community when their loved one gets deployed overseas?

Now is the time for serious people to get engaged. At a time when we need to ask everyone in our schools and communities—especially those who have never been asked before—to become part of the PTA family, we need serious people. Serious people who will embrace new ideas, new methods, and a new look. Serious people who will make PTA the family experience it needs to be: a place where all families are welcome. Please join me as we make our PTA, America's PTA.

Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor
PTA National President

PTA.org/chucksaylor