

## **“PUT AN “S” IN YOUR PTA”**

PTA is an organization where **ONE SIZE FITS ALL**. The **ALL** includes students and there is much to be gained by including students in the PTA. Including students benefits both young people and adults. The following benefits are reasons for students to join PTA and why parents and teachers should encourage students to become active members of the organization.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?**

1. The opportunity to hear and understand viewpoints from two different age groups.
2. Student members readily express what they feel are the needs of the school and community. They are essential and involved members of the school system. For this reason, they may reveal needs and problems that have been previously overlooked. At the same time, the youth may be able to suggest possible solutions to the problems.
3. PTSA's can serve to help young people develop their leadership skills. The organization can entrust students with responsibilities that may later result in the student being a reliable and dependable adult citizen. This could even lighten the workload of the adults involved.
4. PTSA programs are affected as young people **HELP** choose the theme and plan the programs. They are planned with the needs of parents, teachers and students in mind. With a committee of representatives from all three groups, the membership can be assured of vital programs that are relevant to community needs.
5. PTSA public relations improve because the mass media takes notice when young people become involved in working on their own problems and the needs of their school and community.
6. PTA memberships frequently increase. This happens not only because students join, but also because more parents are willing to take an active part when their young people are interested and involved.
7. Improved human relationships are another advantage of youth participation. As adults and young people work together on committees and projects, the generation gap narrows. This in itself is of tremendous value to family life, the school system and the entire community.
8. Community service can be upgraded. With the added enthusiasm, zest and energy of active, dedicated young people, many improvements can be brought about in the community. Attention can be focused on such areas of concern as drug problems, job opportunities, smoking, health, alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, environmental problems, learning disabilities, and educational needs.

