

PTA - A Membership Organization

Do We Need to Know Our Members?

National PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer association working exclusively on behalf of all children and youth. Any individual who subscribes to the Purposes and basic policies of PTA becomes a member upon payment of dues to a PTA or PTSA unit.

Must units collect names and addresses of their members?

Federal law requires of all corporations the ability to contact their members. Therefore, National PTA has developed the Online Membership Data Reporting (OMDR) system.

According to the California Corporations Code Section 6320,

<http://law.onecle.com/california/corporations/6320.html>

(a) Each corporation shall keep:

- (1) Adequate and correct books and records of account;**
- (2) Minutes of the proceedings of its members, board and communities of the board; and**
- (3) A record of its members giving names and addresses and the class of membership held by each.**

What does this mean?

Each PTA must keep a record of its members' names and addresses for its own use and forward this list through channels.

“Every individual who is a member of this association is, by virtue of that fact, a member of the National PTA and of the California State PTA by which this local association is chartered, and is entitled to all benefits of such membership.” *Bylaws for Local PTA/PTSA Units, Article IV, Section 1.*

Each PTA must keep its own financial records (*correct books and records of account*) and minute books and normally does not need to forward through channels.

Unit PTAs “are self-governing bodies for the purpose of planning programs and activities to meet local community needs. However, they are required to observe the policies of the California State PTA.” *California State PTA Toolkit, 1.2.*

How does National PTA use member information?

Once members are entered into OMDR, they will receive a welcome email from PTA explaining the various resources, such as e-newsletters, on-line learning courses, offers from PTA partners and information on benefits available to PTA members and how to opt-out of receiving this information.

What if our members do not wish to provide their contact information?

As PTA leaders, we must continually stress to our members that their information will only be used for PTA purposes. National PTA and California PTA will not sell or rent member information to telemarketers, mailing list brokers, or any other companies unless they have been contracted with National PTA for member services or benefits. National PTA protects the data base with privacy protection programs. Review National's Privacy policy at www.pta.org/privacy_policy.html.

If a member insists on not providing contact information, it is okay to use the address of the PTA president or the school. Presidents however must give a home address.