

## All memberships are equal

A PTA may wish to have levels of membership for different prices but **there is one only level of PTA membership**. All memberships are equal, and all members have the same rights. The actual per person dues amount must always be specified in the bylaws and prospective members must be allowed to join at that price. Remember, in order for a PTA to change its dues amount, its bylaws must be revised and approved through channels and by the association.

Remember – one member, one card, one dues payment.

**If a PTA wishes to solicit donations with levels of contribution**, the PTA may do so as a separate project from the membership campaign. A gold donor/patron could be \$100; a silver donor/patron could be \$50, or whatever categories and amounts the PTA wishes. The details of this project must be outlined in the standing rules and approved annually by the membership.

**Membership dues and contributions must be kept separate in all financial records and reports.** In fact, the amount of per capita that units keep and the amount that is forwarded through channels should also be separated out (“monies belonging to the unit” and “monies not belonging to the unit”) in monthly treasurer’s reports, budgets and annual financial reports. This also facilitates the reconciliation of memberships received and those forwarded.

A good rule of thumb for membership dues is to specify an amount that will cover per capita for the constituent organizations – National PTA, California State PTA, district PTA and council PTA (if in council) – and a small portion of each membership for liability insurance premiums. **Membership dues should not be considered fundraising and a PTA’s dues should be kept affordable so that everyone can afford to join.**

