On February 17, 1897, our founders, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, gathered for the Mothers Congress’ first meeting in Washington, DC, and saw the beginning of the largest (and now oldest) volunteer organization that works exclusively on behalf of children and youth.

In 1926, Selena Sloan Butler formed the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT). In 1970, the two organizations united to expand their reach and protect the needs of children and youth.

126 years later, Founders Day is celebrated each year on February 17 to honor the founding leaders of National PTA and NYS PTA.

126th
126th

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Advocacy is at the heart of PTA’s mission and vision. Growing PTA membership strengthens PTA’s voice, bringing attention to critical issues that affect the education, health and welfare of children and youth.

HOW TO CELEBRATE FOUNDERS DAY

• Acknowledge volunteers, educators, staff & community members who have supported the PTA and made a great impact in their school and community with an Advocate-in-Action Award, Distinguished Service Award, or a NYS PTA Honorary Life Membership Award

• Celebrate each anniversary of PTA with a Founders Day school or district-wide event

• Recognize supporters with a donation to the NYS PTA Annual Giving Fund for teacher & student grants and scholarships

• Challenge students to research PTA and create a school display or mural. Begin your school’s PTA hall (or wall) of fame

• Share on social media pictures, facts, and memorabilia describing PTA’s 126-year history and PTA’s achievements.

• Observe the inclusiveness of PTA’s founding by organizing a culture festival celebrating your community’s various ethnic and cultural groups

Together we continue to work for a common purpose: to secure adequate laws, regulations and policies for the care and protection of children and youth. Advocacy is at the heart of PTA’s mission and vision. Growing PTA membership strengthens PTA’s voice, bringing attention to critical issues that affect the education, health and welfare of children and youth.