

**Executive Committee**

**President**

Brian Minsker

**President-Elect**

Kristin Kramer

**Vice President of  
Field Operations**

Carolyn McCarty

**Vice President of  
Program Services**

Connie McElyea

**Secretary**

Lillian Ball

**Treasurer**

Michelle Lassak

**Executive Director**

Jolene Lowder

One of the greatest challenges the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) can face is a strike or work stoppage that interrupts the educational environment of our children. Everyone involved is affected and often emotions reach fever pitch. The Illinois PTA has developed both Statements of Position and Continuing Positions, adopted by the statewide membership, that address the concerns raised by a strike or work stoppage.

We believe that during strikes or work stoppage by educational personnel, the PTA should act as a source of information and maintain its position as advocates for children.

We recommend that all members of the Parent Teacher Association and the school personnel be made aware of the official positions of the Illinois PTA, whether through meetings, newsletters, or public interviews. All such information should be consistent with the statements of position and continuing positions of the Illinois PTA.

In keeping with established policies, the PTA:

- Does not staff classrooms in case of a strike.
- Does not march in picket lines.
- Does not serve refreshments to strikers or others involved in the strike.
- Will not “take sides” during a strike.
- Will not distribute literature from either side, but may present information on the positions of both parties to the action.
- Will continue to urge personnel to return to contractual responsibilities during negotiations.
- Will continue to work for adequate funding for schools and all other legislative positions supported by the Illinois PTA in the Legislative Platform.

Not taking sides requires the PTA to remain neutral throughout the strike or work stoppage. The PTA must remember that they have not been party to the negotiated contractual responsibilities, and, therefore, should not request or encourage the “staffing” of any of those responsibilities. Liability issues arising from staffing such responsibilities would be those of an individual, not the PTA.

Finally, it is imperative that the PTA recognize the relationship that exists between the parents, teachers, and school personnel. We are partners in the educational process and must consider the potential damage to relationships with the PTA that could ensue should we fail to maintain our neutrality.

(For further information, please refer to the PTA publication [Strikes, Protests, Work Stoppages and the PTA](#))