1. Describe work you have done with your local, council or state PTA leadership or other state/national organizations that would support the mission, values and purposes of PTA.

*I believe strongly that we all benefit from sharing information with one another. While President-Elect of the former MDPTA State Congress, I attended the National Association of Parliamentarians Conference and privately lead three weeks of training of PTA leaders of the state, county, and local units with a registered and highly credentialed parliamentarian. Also, I promoted the NAP conference on the Facebook page of the state congress. Following parliamentary procedures is a very important aspect of running a large nonprofit and adhering to bylaws and protocols. Additional work included voting against a State PTA motion that would have limited the voting power of state Board members who didn’t have children in public school. What validates voting authority is paid membership and support to the mission of the PTA and not whether a person has a child, let alone in public school or otherwise, any school for that matter.*

1. Describe how you will ensure the Free State PTA Board of Directors remain transparent and accountable to the membership.

*I believe that our new state congress should have listed on our website each governance document such as bylaws and governance documents such as manuals pertaining to policies and procedures. I will also encourage the Board of Directors (BOD) to read all committee reports and prepare questions, if applicable, ahead of time of the before the Board meetings. These questions can be addressed directly or shared among leadership. Also, I think it is critical to make the members of the State Congress aware of positions that we take by sharing it via social media and email. At each convention, the BOD should provide a collaborative report regarding the state of the PTA which includes highlights of the progress of each officer and committee. Additionally, I think it is critical to have the secretary provide the BOD draft minutes within a week of meeting to provide ample time for review.*

1. PTA has prioritized outreach to the following under-represented constituent groups: families in crisis, English language learners, families in poverty, men, Gen Z/millennial/Gen X-ers generations, immigrants, LTBTQ+, rural/urban families, working parents, and other caregivers/advocates. Have you had personal experience with one or more of these groups, and/or experience in engaging with one or more of these groups? If so, share how this has prepared you to serve these priority populations. If not, how will you prepare to serve these priority populations in the state of Maryland?

*Yes, I have had experience with many of these groups. In fact, I am the co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee of my daughter’s school. Serving these populations includes advocating for them, educating ourselves about their concerns and promoting programming and policy around their interests. Hence, at the state level, we should be tracking and taking a position on legislation that impact these populations. Additionally, we should be partnering with other like-minded advocacy organizations at the state, county, and local level to develop resolutions to support favorable legislation or policies withing school or to abolish or fight unfavorable legislation or policies that harm these populations. At the state level we should host webinars or workshops that uplift how to alter our mindset to a positively embrace and encourage these populations to be a part of PTA.*

1. What is the key to empowering future leaders and cultivating talent? Can you tell us about a time where you demonstrated this quality?

*While the chair of the Advocacy Committee, I captured an education advocate who I witnessed testify at a local Board of Education hearing. I asked her and her mom if she could serve on the committee. She fit a demographic that was underrepresented on my committee, a youth member from a rural county who was homeschooled. She brought a perspective to legislative testimony that was ripe for acceptance. I encouraged her to speak at the Maryland PTA Night in Annapolis and attend the Maryland PTA Convention and, she did both. When I attempted to have her serve on the Maryland PTA Board of Directors as a youth member, the nominating committee stopped her progress in leadership. As to not discourage her voice and continued desired to recognize her aptitude, I recommended her to serve on National PTA’s Youth Engagement Committee. And, it was there, where she was accepted and excelled.*

1. What do you believe is the most critical piece for a nonprofit board in planning for organizational success? Please share an example of when you engaged in such planning.

*I believe relationships are the foundation to making progress. Board members may not necessarily agree but they need to be able to work together to fulfill the PTA mission to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. In terms of relationships, at the first board meeting after the post-convention state board meeting, I managed an ice breaker. It was secondary to having a retreat since it could not be financed via the budget. This ice breaker was a bingo game that required all members to walk around and complete their bingo sheet that described the background or skill sets of members. It allowed for members to identify their colleagues and have an appreciation of one another and of course, get to know one another. Those who had the most correct answers were acknowledged and all participating received a prize.*

1. When you consider committee work that you regard as having been very successful, tell us what you did in planning and execution that made it possible to accomplish the work.

*I was the Chair of the State, Council and Local Relationships Committee where my committee and I would investigate complaints of constituent PTAs. After the committee and I conversed with the complainant and local unit leadership we drafted a matter of resolve that involved an apology. Given the uniqueness of relationships where the local unit PTA president was in a custody battle with her ex-husband and wife, who were the complainants, it was a very delicate tread we had to walk because the president’s lawyer advised her to not make any apology for fear that it may disadvantage her custody case. We worked with a third party whose profession was in mediation, and the Committee devised an amended recommendation. Our sensitivity to the matter along with working with a PTA member that unit who was an interventionist familiar with the culture of the entities involved, got the matter resolved.*