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.

**As a Council Leader I had to reestablish our connection with the district and school community in Baltimore city. This was accomplished by creating partnerships with groups such as PCAB (Parent and Community Advisory Board and SECAC (Special Education Citizens Advisory Council). PCAB gave us the opportunity to review school board policy and regulations and provide feedback to the board of school commissioners. SECAC meetings provided the opportunity to see where disparities were and be able to speak on those issues at school board meetings and monthly meetings with the CEO.**

**I have spoken at rallies and townhall meetings in support of fair student funding in Baltimore city and Annapolis. In 2012 I became a member of the MDPTA Board of Directors as** **a council representative and was elected VP for Councils in 2017. At that time the MDPTA board recognized the need to properly train local leaders to become better advocates. I was part of a team that hosted regional training and webinars to reach a wider audience.**

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

**From my** **experience problems arise when people are not sure of their roles and responsibilities. They look at what is required for the position when they apply and never look at it again. I would ask everyone to self check by reviewing their responsibilities monthly and compare them to their action each month. If a change is needed, they need to make it happen. I cannot control the actions or behavior of others however I can lead by example.**

3. “PTA has prioritized outreach…in the state of Maryland.”

**A significant number of schools in Baltimore City have a large ethnic population with many dialects. Participating in the Mayor’s Back to School events each year allowed me to get to know a number of leaders and hear some of the challenges their families face. Attending meetings of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Council has given me the opportunity to hear not only the challenges faced by families with special needs students but the resources available that others may not know exist.**

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

**First you must make an effort to find leaders. I make it a practice I to participate in all district engagement events to meet people where they are. Everyone who visits our booth is a potential leader. I take the time to get to know them; listen to their challenges and other stories they need to share. I make them feel as though t their opinion is valued. If I am respectful and honest it will be reciprocated**.

5. 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.

**The most critical piece for nonprofit board planning is being focused on its mission. The board should provide regular opportunities to listen to its members and use the feedback to make improvements to the organization. When MDPTA reinstated the charter for the council in Baltimore City they gave us 8 pages of outdated and useless contacts. MDPTA refused to send representatives into Baltimore City to provide support to the local units during the time of no charter. It took time but the new council leaders devised a plan to reach out to every school on the list for a status update. We found that we lost 75% of our local units because PTA did not care. We could have given up but we remained focused on the PTA mission. Even though we lost units there were still units who needed to be supported.**

6.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 asked to chair the Finance committee at my church. The Archdiocese had created new guidelines for churches to follow to be more transparent and accountable. I was charged to implement the new procedures. People are not always receptive to change especially “church folk”. I had to remember that people have different skill sets. Some had never been exposed to financial statements or budgeting. I had to familiarize myself with the new guidelines and displayed confidence and patience when I began to teach the committee members. I was able to bring us into compliance without losing any committee members in the process.**