1. Everything I have done at the local, state and national levels of PTA has been based on the mission to make every child’s potential a reality. Whether fighting for a parking lot at my local school, training and being a resource to local PTAs in my county or testifying at Board of Education meetings, testifying before the legislature in Annapolis or attending Legcon in DC my purpose is to advocate for all children. The same is true of my work on the education committee of my community association and synagogue. I collaborated with other stakeholders in my county to get a partially elected school board. I work to ensure that all members of the community are included and that decisions are made after considering their effects on all children. My commitment is to bettering the health, well-being and education of all children.

1. Transparency and accountability have always been key to me. The duties of care, loyalty and obedience are things I take seriously. I have and will always continue to speak out if I do not see those things on any board of which I am part. I look at financial reports and ask questions as any board member should. Our duty as board members are to answer to membership. We are a membership driven association and as such need to answer to them. My knowledge of RONR along with keeping up with IRS and State Non-Profit rules will help keep the group accountable. The fact that I always keep good notes and records of meetings has allowed me, in the past, to audit and even write minutes when needed.
2. I am only proficient in English, but, I had bylaws translated to Spanish when bylaws chair. I sent out information in Russian and Tagalog at the local level. At a local, we have large Hispanic and Russian communities who were uncomfortable handing over some of their information to what they saw as the government and even more uncomfortable coming into the school building. We moved the meetings to a recreation center, included members of that community in programming and planning and were able to engage those families. We enlisted members of those communities to get the word out rather than depend solely on email. Having been widowed with young children, I know the hardships of being a single parent. I always am careful of events for Dads or Moms only. There are too many non-traditional families and we need to move past Doughnuts for Dads and Muffins for Moms.
3. The key to empowering future leaders is to listen to them and not to micromanage them. Train them in the basics and any legal or organizational requirements and let them do the job. Flexibility is paramount to success. Just because we always did something in a certain way does not mean we have to continue doing it that way. Give people a job and let them do it. Be there to advise or help if asked but let them do it. It may not be the way that you would have done it. It may be successful or it may fail, but, failure is okay too. Be supportive and be there to help if needed, but, allow people to try new things. Thank them. Encourage them and make them want to come back again.
4. A board must be future focused. It must be data driven. There needs to always be self-assessment and the ability to look honestly at those assessments and change gears where needed. My board sets goals at the beginning of the year. A few must be short term achievable and a few may be more long term. At the end of the year we discuss what worked and what didn’t and what we can do to be more successful going forward. We are also always recruiting our replacements at all times.
5. Committee work that has ended successfully has depended on working as a team, each person having a specific responsibility that they felt comfortable with and knowing that if they needed help with their area of the work, all they had to do was ask. It also meant updates along the way so that if extra help was needed in one area or another there was the ability to call for that extra help. Communication between team members is also key. Each member of the committee was up to date with what each other was doing so that when the whole job was completed everything fit together well.