

# PTA nominating committees get under way

It's nominating season for the PTAs in Palo Alto. If you would like to answer the call to service issued by President Obama a week ago, consider taking a position on your local school PTA nominating committee.

According to their bylaws, every school must assemble a nominating committee at this time to put together a slate of officers that the general membership votes on, usually at their April meetings. California PTA guidelines dictate that the nominating committee be composed of five to seven new people every year. Ideally, the nominating committee is composed of people who represent all the constituencies in a school.

"We would like to get a person from



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every constituency that feeds into our high school on the nominating committee," said Suzanne Attenborough, PTA president at Palo Alto High School.

Any PTA member in good standing may serve on the nominating committee, and it is a gratifying job that gives you a real chance to help the community in a limited time frame. Nominating committees usually finish their job

in two months or less.

For a PTA to operate, nominees for president, treasurer and secretary of each unit must be submitted to the membership in writing 30 days before the election.

The California State PTA Web site created some excellent checklists and forms this winter to help nominating committees

do their jobs. The PDFs can be found by downloading the forms in the yellow box at [www.capta.org/sections/management/bylaws.cfm](http://www.capta.org/sections/management/bylaws.cfm). This management page has a link called [nominations/elections](#).

While the president of a PTA unit cannot serve on the nominating committee, and it is the job of the parliamentarian to convene the nominating committee, contacting the president is an excellent way to get into the process, especially if you are moving your child from one school to another.

*School Matters is happy to hear your feedback. Please e-mail any comments to [schoolmatters@paloaltopta.org](mailto:schoolmatters@paloaltopta.org) to reach Preeva Tramiel. Look on the PTA Council Web site, [www.paloaltopta.org](http://www.paloaltopta.org), and pull down the leftmost menu, and click on "school matters" to see submission guidelines for press releases.*