



Orange County Council

# Inside Orange

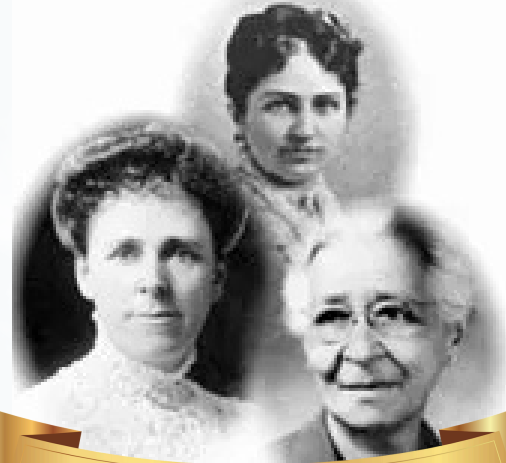


Issue No. 8 | February 2026

## Legacy of Advocacy

As we look ahead to our school year goals, we take a moment to honor the three incredible women who turned a simple idea into a national movement for every child.

- **Alice McLellan Birney:** A mother who dreamed of a "National Congress of Mothers" She believed that if parents were educated and organized, they could change the world for their children.
- **Phoebe Apperson Hearst:** A philanthropist who used her resources and influence to give the movement its wings. She proved that advocacy needs both heart and a platform.
- **Selena Sloan Butler:** A pioneer who founded the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. Her courage ensured that the fight for better schools and safer childhoods included all children, regardless of race.



**Honoring Our Legacy**

**February 17, 2026**

*Celebrating 128 Years of Advocacy  
for Every Child*

*You're Invited*



**OCCPTA**  
ORANGE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PTA & PTSA

# FAMILY



# REUNION

## 02.20.2026

**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**



All PTA Members are invited!  
Come wearing your PTA  
swag or school colors

**General Meeting starts at 7:00 PM**

**ROCK LAKE**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Orange County Public Schools

## FOUNDERS' DAY & PRESIDENTS' APPRECIATION

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/UuD6FFPE1epu9LEA6>

408 N Tampa Ave  
Orlando, FL 32805



# Inside Orange



## Partners Make "Rally in Tally" Possible

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Papa Johns Foundation for Building Community and the City of Orlando for their generous support of our "Rally in Tally" event. Thanks to their crucial funding, students from Orange County have the unique opportunity to visit our state capitol, engage directly with lawmakers, and witness the legislative process firsthand. By investing in our youth and their civic education, these partners are empowering students to become active citizens and the leaders of tomorrow.

We also want to offer a special thanks to the Springhill Road Church of Christ. We truly appreciate their hospitality and kindness in hosting our students for lunch during the trip.



THE PAPA JOHN'S  
FOUNDATION  
FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY



# Inside Orange



**Scholarship Application  
Now Open**

Orange County Council of PTA/PTSAs (OCCPTA) is pleased to offer scholarships to graduating seniors each year to help them continue their education after high school. This one-time award can be used to offset the cost of college. Scholarships are funded through local unit donations, sponsorships and various OCCPTA projects throughout the school year.

**click to apply** 

Don't pass this opportunity by.  
Apply now through  
March 31!

FOR MORE DETAILS EMAIL  
SCHOLARSHIPS@OCCPTA.ORG  
 WWW.OCCPTA.ORG



## How to Donate:

- Suggested donation: \$50-\$300 per unit (any amount is appreciated)
- Please make checks payable to Orange County Council PTA with "Scholarship Fund" in the memo line or pay online via Givebacks
- Scan the QR code below



<https://orangepta.givebacks.com/shop>



## Essential Pieces Awards

**NOMINATIONS  
NOW OPEN**



APPLY AT:

[www.occpta.org/awards](http://www.occpta.org/awards)



Tell us about the great people and great work that has made your unit succeed this year! Nominations for the OCCPTA Essential Pieces Awards are now open until **March 15, 2026**.

# Black History Month



This February, we proudly celebrate the rich history, culture, and contributions of the African American community. At OCCPTA, we recognize the importance of understanding our past to create a brighter, more inclusive future.

Join us in reflecting on the remarkable achievements of trailblazers, artists, and activists who have shaped our society and championed equality. Let's engage in meaningful conversations, share inspiring stories, and celebrate the diversity that enriches our community.

We invite everyone to participate in local events, explore literature by African American authors, and support businesses that uplift this vibrant culture. Together, let's foster understanding, support one another, and work towards unity.

Stay up to date @  
[www.occpta.org/events/](http://www.occpta.org/events/)

## Inside Orange

### Calendar of Events

- February 10th  
Safer Internet Day
- February 17th  
PTA Founders Day
- February 17th-21st  
Take Your Family to School Week
- February 20th  
★OCCPTA Founders' Day, Presidents' Appreciation, and General Meeting  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- February 20th  
OCPA Parent Academy- Spring College & Career Fair
- February 28th  
Florida PTA Scholarship Applications Due
- March 4th-6th  
National PTA Legislative Conference



Check out the  
Treasurer's Mid - Year Review

