



Florida PTA President 2026-2028 Jude Bruno

Though his story didn't start with a song, it could have. It started simple. A kid, a goal, a box of chocolate, and a shot at a limo ride to a fancy restaurant. In all honesty, when people ask how Jude Bruno got involved in PTA, the answer is just that: he wanted to sell enough of that World's Finest Chocolate to win the prize. The dream? Probably a white tablecloth afternoon at somewhere like Planet Hollywood, because let's be real, it would've been a school day field trip, and that was peak luxury at the time. The limo never came, the reservation never happened, but something else did. What started as a small, almost funny beginning turned into more than two decades of service.

Jude Bruno is a husband, father of two, uncle, and mentor, with deep roots in Miami, raised by immigrant parents who came to this country in search of opportunity and built a life for their family through hard work and sacrifice, with public education playing a critical role in that journey. These days, the titles he carries most proudly are Dad and Uncle, roles that keep him grounded and focused on what matters most.

Jude has served at every level of the PTA, as a student representative, local unit president, county council officer, state board member, and member of the National PTA Board of Directors. At the state level, he has served as Student Engagement Chair and as an At Large Board Member, bringing forward student voice and a broader statewide perspective. He also served as Scholarship Chair, helping expand opportunities for students, and later as Treasurer, strengthening financial practices, reinforcing transparency, and supporting more sustainable planning.

As President elect, Jude has supported the work of the Advocacy Commission, working alongside leaders across the Legislative, Advocacy, Resolutions, Convention General Arrangements, Strategic Planning, Events, and Awards Committees to align policy, programming, and priorities.

His perspective is shaped by both service and experience. As a product of the public school system, he has also worked within it, supporting students, parents, guardians, and communities, while representing public school employees in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

And it is that experience, working in and out of our public school system and through PTA and as a parent of public school students, that shapes his lens. It makes clear that we are no longer in a time where little is asked of us. The landscape of education has shifted, and so must we. For what did not start with this generation, but has been carried forward, the modern day civil right is access, access to opportunity, to support, and to a system that works for every child, especially those who choose and need our public schools.

Jude believes leadership means turning urgency into action and complexity into outcomes. He has not promised perfection, only excellence and urgency in how the work gets done, because in this moment, being ready is not optional. We must be, and we will be.

Jude will be installed as Florida PTA President during the 2026 Leadership Convention, marking a new chapter. As he assumes this role, he will become the first millennial, the first Haitian American, and the first male elected to serve as our President.



Lawrence Clermont

President-Elect

Pinellas

From those first moments as a PTA volunteer at Largo Middle School to leadership roles at the county, state, and national levels, Lawrence has been fueled by a simple belief: when families, schools, and communities work together, children flourish. That belief has driven a record of leadership grounded in action — engaging volunteers, inspiring partnerships, developing new leaders, and building connections that make a lasting difference.

Over the past 18 years, Lawrence has contributed significantly to the PTA movement. His roles have included serving as a local unit leader at the middle and high school level and holding the position of Pinellas County Council PTA President. For the last 10 years, he has been a vital member of the Florida PTA Board of Directors currently serving on the Florida PTA Executive Committee as Vice-President Educational Development. Previously he held the role of Vice-President Leadership Development. During his service with Florida PTA, he has served on various committees helping to grow membership and shape policies that benefit students: Vice-Chair Legislation, College/Career Readiness, Resolutions, Region Representative, Resource Development, Bylaws, as well as, internal operation teams such as Personnel, Facilities, and Technology.

In addition to his PTA responsibilities, he serves on various state and local boards. He is currently the Deputy Director for Youth Engagement LULAC Florida, a member of the Florida Immigrant Coalition and NAACP, and a founding member of Kaleidoscope PTA. His involvement exemplifies his commitment to broadening the reach and influence of the PTA.

Lawrence's work has not gone unnoticed. He led the Pinellas County Council PTA team & and was part of the Florida PTA team that received the Jan Harpe Domene Diversity and Inclusion award. His council team was also a recipient of National PTA's Transformative Family Engagement grant. He recognizes the pivotal role that all parents play in their children's academic journey.

A cornerstone of Lawrence's leadership is volunteer engagement. He dedicates time to leadership development initiatives, mentorship, and advocacy training, empowering countless PTA members to recognize their influence in fostering positive changes within their communities.

What truly sets Lawrence apart as a leader is his heartfelt approach to service. He understands that behind every policy, program, or partnership are children—real students with dreams, challenges, and limitless potential. This understanding drives him to form strategic partnerships with businesses, nonprofits, and civic organizations to ensure that resources are accessible and impactful.

Outside of his volunteer commitments, Lawrence cherishes family time, supporting his three children, and embracing his roles as Grandpapa and Tío. He loves anything Star Trek and enjoys outdoor activities.

As President-Elect, Lawrence envisions a Florida PTA that continues to build strong family-school partnerships, honor traditions, embraces innovation, develops a culture where every volunteer feels valued, and champions equity and excellence in every classroom. Guided by empathy, integrity, and collaboration, he is ready to lead Florida PTA into a future where every child's potential is nurtured, every voice is valued, every family and volunteer is engaged, and everyone comes together for one purpose: helping children thrive.



Shelly Pedraza

**Self-Nominated
President-Elect**

Seminole

Shelly's advocacy journey began when her now 17-year-old son was diagnosed autistic at 2½ years old. Like many parents, she found herself overwhelmed, searching for answers, and determined to make sure her child had every opportunity to thrive. That determination led her to PTA, where she discovered a community of people just as passionate about making a difference—not just for their own children, but for all children.

Over the years, Shelly has served in nearly every PTA role—from local unit President, Treasurer, and Legislative Chair to County Council President, State Board member, and now VP of Regions & Councils for Florida PTA. These experiences have given her a deep understanding of the challenges local leaders face. Her goal has always been to support families, uplift volunteers, and make every child's voice heard. She has collaborated with district leadership and successfully changed district policies, trained council and local unit leaders across the state, and advocated for inclusive practices in partnership with other organizations.

She also knows we need change.

Shelly believes it's time to refocus on what matters most: supporting units with meaningful programs and grants, creating membership incentives that help PTAs bring in new members, and providing support families truly need. She wants to expand PTA's footprint across the state—not just to grow, but to advocate more effectively at the state level and strengthen the trust PTAs have with school districts, teachers, legislators, and, most importantly, families. She is passionate about building coalitions with likeminded organizations so we can continue to grow and stand together, stronger, for our children.

This isn't about titles. It's about people. It's about families. It's about making sure every leader feels seen, supported, and empowered to lead and care for all of our babies in Florida.

What's one thing your unit needs most right now?



Karen Mazzola

**Self-Nominated
President-Elect**

Seminole

Karen Mazzola for President Elect! I am a mother, a wife, and a child advocate attorney who brings energy, experience, and a deep commitment to servant leadership. After 10 years on the Florida PTA Board of Directors and service across numerous committees, I have gained the insight needed to help guide our association forward. I am ready to lead at the highest level, building on our strong foundation while navigating change to ensure continued growth and success for Florida PTA.

Like many, my “Why PTA?” began with my child. When my son Nick was in kindergarten, I stepped in as Programs Co-Chair and my commitment never stopped. Over the years, I have served in many roles, including President at both Goldsboro Elementary and Seminole High School, along with nearly every position in between. What sustained me was not just my child, but every child in every school and community. That passion led me to serve at the county council level, on Florida PTA Regions and Councils as a Region Representative, and eventually as State Treasurer and a member of the Legislation Committee.

As Florida PTA Vice President of Educational Development, I strengthened my commitment to advocacy by building relationships, engaging in key discussions, and/or providing testimony at local, state, and national levels. I have presented at both the National PTA and Florida PTA Legislative Conferences and was honored to serve as Florida PTA Legislation Committee Chair for over nine years where I focused on mentoring and empowering members to ensure leadership continuity and strengthening our advocacy efforts.

I have also represented Florida PTA at numerous organizations and events, including the Florida Education Association, Education and Security Summits, Family Café, Equality Florida, Florida Policy Institute Summit, Pastors for Florida Children, and the FDLE Advisory Board for Missing, Endangered, and Exploited Persons, where I served as Chair and served on the Committee.

Currently, as Florida PTA Vice President of Leadership Development, I prioritize elevating student voices through engagement, leadership, and advocacy, while increasing awareness of mental health resources through student led panel discussions. Students are at the heart of our mission, and it is our responsibility to empower them. This year, I also led L3 sessions: Listen. Learn. Lead. focused on the needs of local leaders. Our Leadership Development team developed workshops to strengthen leadership, enhance collaboration, embrace diversity, and help local units thrive.

My goal has always been for every member to feel heard, informed, empowered, and appreciated. When people feel valued, they become more engaged and committed. That energy strengthens leadership and reinforces our mission. My journey has been shaped by the voices and experiences of our members. I am ready to take that passion further.

Together, we can strengthen families, support educators, and advocate for every child across Florida. Let’s keep the momentum going and build something even stronger, together. Elect Karen Mazzola for Florida PTA President.



Charman Postel

Vice President for Leadership Development

Palm Beach

Leadership in the Florida Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is rooted in service, growth, and a shared commitment to ensuring every child's potential becomes a reality. As a candidate for Vice President of Leadership Development, I believe this role is not about one individual, it is about strengthening leaders at every level of our association.

PTA leadership is about building capacity in others. I am committed to identifying, mentoring, and equipping leaders with the tools and confidence to advocate effectively for children and families. Through collaboration, meaningful training, and alignment across local, county, and state and national levels, we can meet evolving challenges together.

Membership is the heartbeat of our association, and nothing we accomplish is possible without the collective strength of all stakeholders, families, educators, administrators, and community partners. By investing in leadership development, we invest in the people who power our mission, strengthening our voice and expanding our impact.

Our mission extends beyond individual schools to advance access and opportunity for all students. Strong leadership ensures this work continues with purpose. Leadership is not about standing alone, but about bringing others forward and building a network of engaged advocates.

As education evolves, we must lead with adaptability, inclusivity, and a focus on student success. My journey, as a wife, mother of four, lifelong Palm Beach County resident, leadership service in corporate and nonprofit organizations, and a PTA leader at every level, has prepared me to serve with purpose and perspective.

I am ready to continue building strong leaders because when we grow leaders, we strengthen our future. My name is Charman Postel and I look forward to being the next VP of Leadership Development.

“Don't tell the world your mission statement. Show the world you are on a mission.” — Jon Gordon



Frank Reyes

Self-nominated

Vice President for Leadership

Development

Hillsborough

I have chosen to run from the floor to be elected as the next VP of Leadership for Florida PTA. I possess many of the qualities, characteristics, and skills that it takes to be an effective leader. Below is a summary of what I believe leadership should be about and why I should be strongly considered for this position.

My believe in three words: Inclusiveness, As a leader I will make sure to include any and all who are willing to be part of the conversations, Engagement, placing people where with their skills set and passion, and empower them with resources, support and encouragement.

First leadership is about cultivating a safe space for new ideas to be expressed. It encourages honest, difficult, and open dialogue from those that a leader is surrounded by and then choosing the best path for all to succeed. This first requires modeling for others. Being a leader also means building confidence with those that you work with, giving clarity and direction as to our “why.” It includes remaining focused, being intentional, and purposeful for the association and its mission.

As VP of Leadership, I will make sure we complete our due diligence on any decision of the EC. I will make sure we consider all ideas and solutions; we consider who will be affected, and how it serves our mission, and how it reflects on our association. My hope is to train others who will soon be stepping into our positions on FLPTA so that our association will flourish with people who have the knowledge, experience, and boldness to continue the advocacy work that our students, teachers, families, schools, and communities desperately need.



Kimberly's greatest inspiration is her three children, whose experiences have shaped her deep commitment to advocacy, leadership, and service within PTA.

With more than twelve years of dedicated involvement, Kimberly has held leadership roles across elementary, middle, and high school levels. She has coordinated volunteers, led the Reflections program, and served as president, vice president, and treasurer, developing a strong understanding of PTA operations and the diverse needs of school communities.

Currently, Kimberly is President of the Hillsborough County Council, where she trains, supports, and mentors local PTA leaders. She has also served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President of Operations, and Vice President of Local Units. These experiences have strengthened her commitment to developing confident leaders and ensuring every unit has the tools needed to succeed.

At the state level, Kimberly has contributed to multiple Florida PTA committees, including co-chair of the Social Responsibility Committee and member of the Family Engagement Committee, where she shared strategies to strengthen meaningful family partnerships.

Kimberly also serves as President of the Florida Special Education PTA, advocating for inclusion, equity, and resources for students with special needs.

At the national level, she is a National PTA Healthy Minds Fellow, promoting mental health awareness and sharing resources that support student and family well-being.

She is actively involved with middle and high school students as a youth leader, reflecting her passion for supporting and guiding young people.

All of Kimberly's experience has prepared her to bring her vision to life by developing and empowering strong County Council Presidents who lead with purpose, collaboration, and impact. She is committed to providing meaningful training and mentorship so that every leader feels prepared, supported, and inspired.

Kimberly McDonough
Vice President for
Regions & Councils
Hillsborough



Shelly Pedraza

**Vice President for
Membership Development**

Seminole

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Over the years, Shelly has served in nearly every PTA role—from local unit President, Treasurer, and Legislative Chair to County Council President, State Board member, and now VP of Regions & Councils for Florida PTA. These experiences have given her a deep understanding of the challenges local leaders face. Her goal has always been to support families, uplift volunteers, and make every child's voice heard. She has collaborated with district leadership and successfully changed district policies, trained council and local unit leaders across the state, and advocated for inclusive practices in partnership with other organizations.

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What's one thing your unit needs most right now?



Kenneth Wong
Vice President of
Educational Development
Broward

Kenneth Wong is a dedicated parent leader, educator, and nonprofit professional committed to advancing student success, family engagement, and educational excellence. As the father of a high school-aged child, he brings both personal perspective and experience to his PTA service, grounded in the belief that every child deserves access to opportunity, support, and a strong education.

Professionally, Kenneth is an adjunct university professor and strategy and market development consultant with more than 20 years of experience across healthcare, education, communications, and partnership development. He is Past President of the American College of Healthcare Executives of South Florida and is board certified in healthcare management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE). He also holds an MBA in International Business, has lived and studied abroad, and brings a multilingual, multicultural perspective to his work. Throughout his career, he has led strategic planning efforts, developed educational programs, built cross-sector partnerships, and facilitated executive-level discussions at local, national, and international conferences.

Kenneth brings this same thoughtful, collaborative, and programmatic approach to his work in PTA. He currently serves as Chair of the Florida PTA Strategic Planning Committee, helping shape the organization's priorities and long-term direction since 2024. His experience in planning, program development, and stakeholder engagement also informs his contributions across statewide committees.

At the Broward County Council PTA/PTSA, Kenneth serves as Scholarships Chair and as a member of the Legislative Committee, helping expand student opportunities and strengthen advocacy efforts. At the local level, he has served as both Committee Chair and Treasurer in support of PTA's mission.

Kenneth has been slated as a candidate for Vice President of Educational Development and, if elected, would be honored to serve Florida PTA by strengthening its role as a trusted partner and leader in learning.



Maria Norton
Secretary
Miami-Dade

Maria has dedicated 24 years to volunteering with the PTA at the local level, serving in a variety of leadership roles, including President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. She is very honored to be slated. Her journey began when her sons were in elementary school after relocating to South Florida as a military family. Maria takes great pride in the fact that she, her husband, and both of her sons are all products of Florida's public school system, which continues to inspire her commitment to public education. She has a deep love for volunteering and is passionate about her commitment to our children.

Maria is the immediate past-president of the Miami-Dade County Council PTA and is currently the Advocacy and Legislation Chair. She also remains actively involved at the local level as her school's current PTA Treasurer and as VP of Advocacy and Legislation for Advocates PTA. Over the past four years, she has served on the Florida PTA Board of Directors as both a County Council President and South Region Representative. Through these roles, Maria has demonstrated strong leadership, collaboration, and a deep commitment to advocacy on behalf of children and families.

Beyond PTA, Maria has a long history of service with other nonprofit organizations. She volunteered for over 15 years as both a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader. She was also actively involved in a youth soccer program that supported migrant children, dedicating her time to the Homestead community. Additionally, she supported the middle and high school parent FFA group as a board member and President, organizing and leading numerous fundraising efforts for 8 years.

Maria attended Florida State University and Nova Southeastern University and currently works as a Speech-Language Pathologist in Public Schools. She is passionate about advocating for all children, especially those with diverse needs.



Erin Kelley
Treasurer
Pasco

Erin Kelley began her PTA journey to be more involved in her children's education and soon discovered that PTA is about more than one school or one child—it's about advocacy and opportunity for all children.

Erin currently serves as President of the Pasco County Council PTA, where she provides leadership, training, and support to local units across the county. She has helped restart and charter multiple PTAs, strengthening the presence and impact of PTA in Pasco County. In addition, Erin serves on the Executive Committees of her local elementary, middle, and high school PTAs/PTSAs and is Chair of the Florida PTA Audit Committee.

With a strong background in finance, nonprofit management, and compliance, Erin is well prepared to serve as Florida PTA Treasurer. She holds a Master's degree in Professional Accountancy, a Master's degree in Public Affairs with a concentration in nonprofit management, and a Bachelor's degree in Finance. Professionally, Erin has worked in nonprofit accounting and built her career in auditing and compliance for highly regulated organizations. She currently serves as an Auditor for Moffitt Cancer Center.

As Treasurer, Erin is dedicated to upholding the PTA's mission by ensuring sound financial management, maintaining strong internal controls, and supporting fiscal responsibility at all levels of the organization. She is passionate about empowering state and local leaders to manage their financial responsibilities effectively and believes collaboration is key to achieving PTA's goals.

Erin and her husband have four children enrolled in Pasco County public schools at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Her active involvement at the local level gives her firsthand insight into the challenges and needs of students, families, and school communities. Erin looks forward to the opportunity to serve as Florida PTA Treasurer and to continue supporting the vital mission of PTA.