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A note from Mr. Sergio Chavez, Arizona PTA President

February 21, 2020

PTA leaders,

Arizona PTA would like to take a moment to remind local units that gambling and games of chance are strictly regulated in the state of Arizona.

During the week of February 17, 2020, Arizona PTA became aware that a local Arizona PTA unit was planning a fundraiser that potentially violated Arizona state law. Upon review, Arizona PTA was advised by the pertinent Arizona state regulatory agency that the fundraiser was in fact illegal. Arizona PTA did not share the name, school or town/city with the regulatory agency and simply gained clarification on the type of fundraiser being held by the unit.

In an effort to prevent the local unit from violating state law, Arizona PTA contacted the local PTA to advise them of the situation. The local unit informed Arizona PTA that they had been given incorrect information regarding the laws surrounding gambling and games of chance in the state of Arizona and therefore was not aware they were breaking the law with said fundraiser. Arizona PTA advised the local unit to contact the regulatory state agency as needed to discuss the legalities of the fundraiser and to clarify the law before moving forward with the fundraiser. Arizona PTA advised the local unit to then discuss either modifying the fundraiser to comply with the law or canceling the fundraiser altogether.

Arizona PTA made it clear that we were willing to help the local unit modify the fundraiser so that laws could be followed while still earning funds for the PTA. Arizona PTA did inform the unit that the potential legal consequences of moving forward with the fundraiser without changes included potential charges of felony activity on the part of the officers of the unit and anyone involved. The local unit did not contact Arizona PTA to follow up and instead decided on their own to cancel the fundraiser. Arizona PTA was made aware of this decision via a Facebook post which stated that Arizona PTA had forced the shut down of the

fundraiser. It is unfortunate that the local unit came to this decision without attempting to modify the fundraiser with the help of Arizona PTA first. Arizona PTA did not force the local unit to cancel the fundraiser, instead we offered to help reach a solution to continue the fundraiser within the confines of Arizona law.

Arizona PTA takes Arizona and Federal laws seriously and advises all of its PTA units to comply with all state and federal laws while planning any and all activities, including fundraisers, for their PTA unit. Arizona PTA volunteers do our best to educate our leaders about how to operate legally within the state of Arizona.

Arizona PTA is here to help! If you are unsure if a fundraiser is legal or possible or you would like new ideas on how to raise funds for your PTA, please reach out to Arizona PTA! Contact your Region Director/ Field Services Chair or email us at: office@azpta.org. We will be happy to guide you through raising funds in a legal and responsible way!

Look for an email coming soon from Arizona PTA outlining how gambling and games of chances are defined by Arizona statutes to help guide you through fundraising for your local unit.

Thank you,

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