

>>> 5 MISTAKES PTO LEADERS MAKE <<<

**AND WHAT TO DO
IF YOU'VE MADE THEM**



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Part of figuring out the *right* things to do as a PTO leader means learning to avoid mistakes. I'm covering five of the most prevalent mistakes PTO leaders make, so you can stay away from them!

If you've already made these mistakes (I totally have), don't be too hard on yourself and recognize that change is needed!

MISTAKE #1: PTO TAKES OVER THEIR LIFE

I'm starting off with a biggie, for sure! There's a constant temptation to do #allthethings as a PTO leader. And when you try to do everything, it will take over your life for sure.

Once when I was President, I met with my fundraising chairs to hash out plans for the upcoming year. They were both working full time as elementary school teachers and had been honest with me that they were reluctant to take on such a large role.

Well, during the meeting, they named off no fewer than 10 different fundraisers they wanted to do for the year!

Let me be clear that for so many reasons, having 10 fundraisers during a single school year is a horrible idea!

Having such an aggressive plan will leave little time for anything else and if the fundraising chairs had gone through with their overly ambitious plan, they would've been stressed out, over committed and burnt out.

SOLUTION: Use a calendar to schedule in time for PTO work and then stick to it!

MISTAKE #2: SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME AT SCHOOL

This mistake goes part and parcel with the previous mistake. It's kinda hard to distinguish which comes first, sorta like the chicken or the egg. Both are deeply interconnected and can lead to a very unhappy PTO leader.

In fact, I know of a PTO leader in my area who actually has dedicated office space in the school where her children are enrolled. She works from home, so she persuaded the school to give her an unused room in the building for her to do her work. The end result is that she's there 24-7, responding to every request and whim of the teachers and principal. #reallybadidea

This situation reeks of near co-dependency and isn't healthy at all. Being a PTO leader doesn't mean you have to live at the school. If you are at school every day, then you're doing too much. Period.

SOLUTION: Each week, figure out how much time you actually need to spend at school (build in a bit of time as a buffer) and then spend only that amount of time there. Pull out your calendar and write it down as a commitment to yourself.

MISTAKE # 3: DOING WHAT'S ALWAYS BEEN DONE, JUST BECAUSE

People get caught up in being so busy that they don't take the time to see if what they're doing makes sense. They're just doing what's always been done, whether or not it's working anymore or why they're doing something in the first place.

This specific mistake happens all the time, and not just in the PTO world, either.

Have you ever heard of the story about the woman who always cut both ends off of her pot roast to make it a certain size, only to find out that her grandmother had done it that way to make it fit into the only pot she had? #doh

SOLUTION: Evaluate your events, fundraisers and programs to see if they're actually working for your school and PTO. If not, then it's time for a change.

MISTAKE #4: RE-INVENTING THE WHEEL

Instead of focusing on things that they're truly gifted at, PTO leaders tend to re-invent the wheel rather than looking for done for them solutions that they can print and use right away.

They waste precious time designing event flyers when they're not all that good at coming up with a design they're proud of. They spend countless hours trying to get the wording for a letter to a parent who's bounced a check just right. They stay up late at night looking for ways to piecemeal together a binder.

SOLUTION: Invest in solutions that can be used year after year by your PTO, like the [Complete Collection for PTA/PTOs](#). It's appropriate to use group funds for purchases like this since it won't just be you benefitting, but rather the entire group!

MISTAKE #5: THINKING THEY'RE ALONE

Where you're in the PTO weeds of events and things to be done, it can feel pretty isolating, especially if your spouse isn't as supportive as they could be.

SOLUTION: Join the community with the concentrated brainpower of thousands of brilliant PTA and PTO leaders who have been where you are, where you want to be, all with the guarantee of getting advice and positive support! It's the perfect place to get feedback, make friendships and ask questions.

Request to join here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ptoleaders>



HELLO!

Thanks for downloading 5 Mistakes PTO Leaders Make. I too have been guilty of most of these mistakes, so don't feel alone if you've done the same for one or two, or even all of them!

Here are a few more resources for you to know about! I mention all of these options here so you won't miss out on anything that will help you during your time as a PTO leader!

The [PTO Answers blog](#) is a great stash of everything you need to know! As a PTO leader, you've got a ton of questions. This blog has the answers!

Next, as I mentioned earlier as a solution, I host a community of over 5,000 PTO / PTA Leaders in the Super Star Leaders Facebook Group. I don't know of a better place to meet other leaders with great ideas and perspectives to share! Join the conversation at <https://facebook.com/ptoleaders>.

Love to learn via video? The [PTO Answers YouTube Channel](#) is quickly becoming a robust library for PTO leaders to have access to advice and how-to videos on all things PTO!

And last, but not least, over on the [PTO Answers Facebook page](#), you'll find daily inspiration and guidance along with frequent Facebook Lives on hot PTO topics.

Yours truly in PTO sisterhood,

Christina Hidek

Creator of the

[*Complete Collection for PTA/PTOs*](#)