Wisconsin Parent Teacher

Volume 81, Issue 5

Special points of interest:

- Legislative Conference Highlights
- Convention
 Information
- LEADers
 Program

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President's Letter



Hello Everyone!

I hope you all had a happy and safe spring break and were able to spend some time with family and friends. I know some of you used this time to either try to catch up on things you do for PTA, but I hope you had family time as well, since we all need a

balance of the two. I know I cannot say it enough, but I appreciate all you are doing in the name of PTA. I know all too well how hard it can be at times but just want you to know it's appreciated.

I hope that you and several others from your unit are planning on attending the state PTA convention April 22nd and 23rd, 2016 at North High school in Appleton. New this year is online registration! Go to our website convention page to find the form to register, a list of workshops (you'll need to choose what you're attending when you sign up) and the entire convention packet! Here is a link to the site: <u>http://51b.aa1.myftpupload.com/ptaconvention/</u>. Once you sign up, you then can

Michael Anton, Wisconsin PTA President

April 2016

mail in a payment to the WI PTA office. If you are paying for more than one person from your unit, be sure to include a list of names for the people you are paying for.

We as a board are looking forward to seeing all of you at convention. We have lots of great things to offer this year, and you will want to have more from your unit attend to catch it all. We have a very full day planned on Saturday which includes voting on a resolution, a bylaw change, and an election for president-elect. We also have great keynote speakers and a fun Reflections ceremony.

If you need to book a room we have two hotels that we are working with, and if you mention Wisconsin PTA you will get a reduced rate, both are just under a mile from the convention site. See the above link for more information. Make sure you book and register soon so we can have your information ready to go!

Thank you again for all you are doing for ALL children, TOGETHER, we are doing great things!

Smart Talk Competition Nets a Win for WI PTA and Milwaukee PTA Council!

Thank you to all of the members that submitted entries for the National PTA Smart Talk giveaway for a trip to Orlando. Because of all the entries you submitted, Wisconsin PTA won a State competition for most entries, which helped us earn an additional \$2,500 for expenses to National Convention in Orlando.

We are thrilled to be able to send additional board members this year, and plan on bringing lots of great information back to our units. We could not have done it without your help, so thank you so much!

In addition, we had a state competition for any councils or units that were sharing the giveaway information. If they submitted proof of sharing it via email or social media, their council or unit's name was entered into a drawing to win a free registration to the WI PTA Convention. Congratulations to Milwaukee PTA Council for winning that competition!

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LEADERSHIP

SURVEY

As we begin to think about the incoming officers and getting them trained, we have come up with a short survey for you. This will give us information on who would like training in their area, as well as providing your unit the opportunity to host a leadership training and to include your officers at no cost!

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey today. Thank you!

CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY

Why Join PTA?

Here are some helpful tips from National PTA to help you gain more members, and retain members for next year. It's never too late to advertise and collect membership payments.

What is PTA? Why join PTA? The number one reason to join the **Parent Teacher Association** is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help your school. But there are many more PTA advantages:

- Get Connected. There's no better way to know what's happening in your school.
- Discover Great Resources. The PTA offers a variety of programs designed for parents as well as students.
- Tap into a Network. PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, building rapport and discussing issues that are on your mind. You can share ideas, concerns, and experiences.
- Watch Yourself Grow. By volunteering with your PTA, you put your skills and hobbies to use for a noble cause—your child and all children in the community.
- Speak Up. PTA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change at your child's school.

by Heidi Nicolazzo, Membership Chair

- Witness Improvement. By getting involved at your child's school you'll be part of the solution, helping make positive changes. Local PTAs play an important role by supporting building improvements through advocacy and play an important role in fundraising for curriculum based programs and social events.
- Be a Role Model. By becoming a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.
- Enjoy Substantial Benefits. Individuals and local units can take advantage of a host of benefits from PTA membership including discounts and offers from member benefits providers_ and sponsors, magazine subscriptions, leadership training, e-newsletters and much more.

For less than 3 cents a day, you can become a PTA member, joining more than 4 million other people who share your interest in issues affecting children. Everyone—parents, educators, students and other citizens active in their schools and communities—is invited to join our not-for-profit parent association.

School of Excellence Applications Open April 1st

PTAs participating in the National PTA School of Excellence Program have worked hard this school year to engage families and improve their school. Starting **April I**, the final School of Excellence Application will open at <u>PTA.org/ExcellenceTools</u>.

PTAs on the path to excellence are encouraged to join us for a webinar on <u>Tue</u>, <u>April 5 from 7-8 p.m. EST</u> to learn how to prepare their final application. The application period will end on **June 1**. For State PTA Leader resources,visit <u>PTA.org/</u> <u>StateExcellenceLibrary</u>. Questions? Contact Excellence@PTA.org.



Why I Choose PTA

There seems to be some talk lately about schools wanting to become an unaffiliated parent group or Parent Advisory Council. This has prompted me to write my Legislative Article on the importance of PTAs and why we offer so much more than a PTO can.

Let's get down to basics. We all know PTA stands for 'Parent Teacher Association' and PTO stands for 'Parent Teacher Organization'. All parent groups have one thing in common, they all work to orchestrate communication between schools and parents, both provide extras for their schools, such as special events and activities and both are required by law to file paperwork with the IRS.

The difference comes in this, PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States. Founded in 1897, PTA turned 119 years old this past February. When someone joins PTA, they are joining a successful advocacy group that has a long history of promoting education, health and the well-being of ALL children, not just the children of one particular school.

The important benefits of advocacy and affiliation that PTA provides, allow you access to a network of individuals working on behalf of children, with whom you can share ideas and issues. This is real distinction between PTA and other parent organizations. PTA has a rich history of accomplishments in the pursuit of fair and equitable opportunities for our nation's children, in the areas of health, education and welfare.

The most common reason that I have heard for parents wanting to change from a PTA to a another type of group is that PTA members must pay dues to join, whether it be \$5 or \$10, (whatever the local unit has determined). They want to keep that money for themselves instead of sending \$3.00 to the state and \$2.25 to National. In reality, there is definitely a lot to be said for the value of a PTA membership. The \$3.00 per member stays at the state level to finance projects and programs to benefit local units. The \$2.25 per member goes on to the national level to finance projects and programs, such as Reflections. What we get for our dues, is a tremendous amount of support from State and National PTA and the

By Angie Mattes, State Legislative Chair

knowledge that you are helping every single child. PTA has a powerful voice which advocates for the children and youth of this great nation.

How do we advocate, you ask? We advocate by conducting visits with members of Congress. We lobby for education and help secure adequate state and local laws for our students. We provide legislative news and put out Legislative Alerts to our membership. We provide Leadership training and hold workshops for our local units during Convention and other times throughout the year.

PTAs are accountable. We must have a budget and Bylaws and we file taxes with the IRS because of our tax exemption. There are rules for a reason and recently, I have heard terrible stories of a few principals who want to rid their school of PTAs because they want control of the check book. They want to become a PTO so they can take control of the finances. The scary side of being unaffiliated is that they lack support and guidance and do not have a seasoned team of professional and volunteer leaders behind them. In addition, PTA provides a network of caring parents and leaders across the country and that is why I would choose PTA over another parent group any day.

National Standards for Family-School Partnerships





Back to School!

Appleton North High School April 22-23, 2016

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TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 2-6, 2016

Teachers are real life superheroes. They educate, innovate, encourage and support. Every day they touch the lives of millions of children and their work and impact extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Take the time to celebrate these real life superheroes during **PTA Teacher Appreciation Week.**

Here is a link for tips on how to celebrate at your school:

http://www.pta.org/ programs/ content.cfm? ItemNumber=3270 &navItemNumber= 4664

Get Ready for Nutrition Education in Lunchrooms!

Over \$250,000 available to schools for lunchroom learning programs



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If you're a parent, guardian, teacher or lunch lady, you know that it's not always easy convincing kids to eat their vegetables and fruits. USDA school food standards require a serving of fruit or vegetables on every school lunch tray. But what happens when students won't eat it?

Nutrition education that includes samplings of fresh fruits and vegetables helps kids accept and enjoy the foods that are key for good health. That's why Chef Ann Foundation created <u>Project Produce: Fruit and</u> <u>Veggie Grants for Schools</u>, to help schools increase kids' access to fresh fruits and vegetables and provide nutrition education through fun lunchroom learning activities.

"Grants like this really help support doing something different, and forced us to think outside the box. Project Produce gave us the opportunity to have meaningful food experiences with kids and allowed food service to become an extension to education," reports Shelly Allen, Food Service Director from St. Vrain Valley School District in Longmont, Colorado. Read about the incredible impact the program had at St. Vrain Valley Schools here.

About the Program

Project Produce is a grant program designed to help create experiential nutrition education when and where students make their food choices: in the cafeteria. The \$2,500 one-year grants support food costs to incorporate school-wide fruit and vegetable tastings into the school's nutrition program.

- Any district or independent school participating in the National School Lunch Program is eligible to apply
- Districts may apply for grants for up to 10 schools
- Applications for schools with 50% or higher free and reduced eligible enrollment are encouraged
- There is no deadline and grants will be administered on a rolling basis
- <u>Read this article</u> for helpful application tips

For more information and to submit an application, please visit: <u>http://</u> www.chefannfoundation.org/programs-andgrants/project-produce/

Please forward this information to school districts in your area. We look forward to receiving their applications!

New Wisconsin PTA Website is LIVE!

Have you visited yet? If you haven't, now is the time to check it out! Visit our site today for the latest information on holding an officer election, doing your audit, getting ready for the end of the fiscal year, and just general information about being a PTA member. Visit us today at: www.wisconsinpta.org



Federal Legislative Conference Recap and a Visit to the Hill By Cyndi Barbian, Federal Legislative Chair

The opportunity of meeting and speaking with Wisconsin legislators and their aides in Washington, D.C. is one of the greatest means we have of speaking on behalf of the children of Wisconsin.

Michael Anton, PTA President and I, your Federal Legislative Chair had just this opportunity during the 2016 National PTA Legislative Conference held in Washington on March 8 – 10, 2016. First we were afforded the expertise of the PTA legislative and Resolutions committees, extremely qualified speakers, as well as the excellent PTA staff.

Speakers and guests of the conference included former Assistant Secretary, Elementary & Secondary Education, Susan Neuman; Cecillia Munoz, Assistant to the President and Director of Domestic Policy Council; Katie Brown, Senior Legislative Assistant to Rep. Glen Thompson; Rebecca Campoverde, Senior Vice President for Government Relations, Kaplan, Inc.; and Frances Frost, President, Montgomery County Council of PTAs in Maryland. These talented women, and about half dozen other men and women, through speeches and panel discussion, helped everyone learn how to be address the issues of PTA and how to specifically ask for the support of our lawmakers in Washington. Many of these techniques can be used by local units and councils as they speak with their school boards, State legislators and city councils. The primary focus of National PTA was and is the statewide family Engagement Centers grant program.

As Michael and I met with Senator Tammy Baldwin and staff members and aides of Sen. Ron Johnson, Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner and Speaker Paul Ryan, we were able to explain the value of Congressional funding for the SFECs at a robust level – of not less than the authorized level of \$10 million that is set as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We also asked, but were not overwhelmingly successful with our request for Wisconsin lawmakers to send a "Dear Colleague" letter in support of SFECs.

If successful, SFECs will be able to work with state and local communities and school districts to ensure family involvement activities and strategies, which are part of policies affecting education, children, families and communities. Assistance for such programs would come in the form of grants with a minimum value of \$500,000. SFEC is more or less an update of the original NCLB program called Parental Information and Resource Centers, or PIRCs. Sadly, PIRCs were lost during the sequestration funding cuts were implemented in 2010.

While in meetings with our senators and representatives, we also had opportunities to share PTA positions on education funding at the federal level, special education needs and concerns and child health and school safety. All in all it was a fun and fact-filled day neither of us is likely to soon forget, hopefully the same can be said for our legislators!



National PTA President Laura Bay at the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.



WI Senator Tammy Baldwin and WI PTA Federal Legislative Chair Cyndi Barbian

NEW LEADERS JOINING YOUR PTA BOARD? WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Many local PTAs are in the process of transitioning leaders. Have you started to train your local PTAs for the coming school year? <u>National PTA</u> <u>E-Learning</u> can help!

National PTA has 20 courses online and ready to help you train your local leaders. Visit <u>pta.org/</u> <u>elearning</u> to access them all.

Treasurers: Get Ready For The Fiscal Year End

Sometimes it seems the treasurer's job is pretty much a solo job, but let's not forget all the support he/she needs as well!

The fiscal year end is coming closer for your PTA, and there are a few things to complete prior to that June 30 deadline.

1. Make sure your unit has a June 30th fiscal year end. How do you find out? Check on the IRS Select Check site if you have e -filed, or look on the last 990 that your unit completed. It's listed on the top of the form. If you do not have the correct year end, you must complete IRS form 1128 (click here for information and a form: https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Exempt-Organizations-Annual-Reporting-Requirements-Filing-Procedures:-Change-in-Accounting-Period) to get the date changed. State, National PTA and your bylaws state that you need a June 30th year end, so get it changed right away. Not getting it changed right away will cause your units to do unnecessary audits and more work

 Start working on your paperwork for your annual audit. This needs to be completed at the end of the fiscal year and whenever there is a change in officers. You will need to select three PTA Members to be on the Audit Committee, or you can have it done by an accountant. Members of the committee cannot be the treasurer or

than is needed.

By Brenda Ward, WI PTA Treasurer

blood relative or someone that lives in the same household as the treasurer. There are helpful tips on both WI PTA website (<u>https://app.box.com/s/</u> <u>I07mI173uldlcrze7uwlhobbfep2hilb</u>) and the National PTA website (<u>http://</u> <u>www.ptakit.org/Finance/The-PTA-Audit/</u> Overview.aspx).

- 3. After the audit is completed its time to complete the taxes. If your unit is under the \$50,000 threshold for income you are able to just complete a simple post card on the IRS website: (<u>https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Annual-Electronic-Filing-Requirement-for-Small-Exempt-Organizations-Form-990-N-e-Postcard</u>).
- 4. Lastly: the budget. The treasurer forms a committee of at least three PTA members. It helps to have last year's budget in front of you so you have a basic idea on what your needs will be for the next year. After the budget is completed it needs to be posted for 30 days and then voted on by the membership at a general membership meeting.

Don't forget that it's all of the board member's jobs to make sure these requirements have been completed on time. And please send us a copy of your audit and 990. It's a requirement for your unit to be in good standing. If you have any questions, please contact us for more information.

LEADers Program-Get your forms turned in!

Did you participate in the LEADers program this year and complete your packet? If so, now if the time to get the forms to us.

We will be recognizing any members at convention that have completed the program, so mail, or scan and email your forms to us today.

If you want more information on the program, or want to start it (convention is a great time

to get it going!), visit our website for more information and the forms. <u>http://51b.aa1.myftpupload.com/leaders-</u> program/



SPRING IS FINALLY HERE! (Well, for some of us)

This new season brings new benefits and lots of savings.

This couldn't be a more perfect time to be a PTA member. Check out some of our member benefits below or visit <u>PTA.org/</u> <u>MemberBenefits</u> for more info or<u>download</u> <u>your easy-to-share flier.</u> Share with a friend!



"Let Your Imagination Fly" 2015-2016

Wisconsin PTA applauds our students across the state on their winning Reflections entries. All grand winners are submitted to the PTA National round for further judging. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

LITERATURE

Hillcrest/Leads PTA

Hillcrest/Leads PTA

Charles W. Nash PTA

Charles Nash PTA

County Line PTA

Sam Davey PTA

Roosevelt PTA

Sam Davey PTA

Roosevelt PTA

Roosevelt PTA

Roosevelt PTA

County Line PTA

Four Corners PTA

County Line PTA

Germantown HS

Hillcrest Leads PTA

Charles W. Nash PTA

Four Corners PTA

Literature Primary Charles W. Nash PTA

Grand Winner **Outstanding Interpretation** Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Merit Award of Merit Award of Merit

Grand Winner

Outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Merit Award of Merit Award of Merit

Grand Winner

Grand Winner

Outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence Award of Excellence

Kyra Balch Jill Guenther Juliana Cardenas **Everett Grover** Jane Gerstung Natalie Saxman Hannah Johnson Cason Pitrago

Literature Intermediate Reivah Jacobs Grace Johnson Veronica Scalish Isabella Barajas Stephanie Provo Raima Naurin Natalie Pitrago

Johanna Luo

Molly Balch

Cailey Stolt

Alyssa Balch

Kat McCullum

Jack Shubinski

Kvra Balch

Shelby Finder

Literature Middle

Literature Senior

MUSIC

Music Primary

Mackenzie Grace Ortiz Jefferson Lighthouse PTA

Mahone PTSA North Star Middle PTSA North Star Middle PTSA Mahone PTSA

Superior Janesville Eau Claire Janesville Janesville

Kenosha

Shawano

Kenosha

Shawano

Kenosha

Germantown

Eau Claire

Janesville Germantown Superior Germantown

Kenosha Eau Claire Eau Claire Kenosha

Germantown

Shawano

Kenosha

Eau Claire

Eau Claire

Germantown

Kenosha

Racine

Grand Winner **Outstanding Interpretation**

Award of Excellence

Music Intermediate

Grand Winner

Outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence Award of Excellence

Lydia Jewell Macey Edwards Katelyn Wilson Raima Naurin

Alyssa Balch

Cailey Stolt

Sam Davey PTA Sam Davey PTA Charles W. Nash PTA County Line PTA

Music Middle

Music Senior No entries

Grand Winner Outstanding Interpretation Mahone PTSA North Star PTSA

Kenosha Eau Claire Page 7



Grand Winner **Outstanding Interpretation**

Grand Winner **Outstanding Interpretation**

Grand Winner Outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence Award of Excellence

Reflections Winners, Continued

FILM

Kyra Balch Tyce Gorman

Dara Madson

Alyssa Balch

Molly Balch

Grace Corcoran

Eli Brink

Film Primary Charles W. Nash PTA Sam Davey PTA

North Star PTSA

Mahone PTSA

Mahone PTSA

Mahone PTSA

Kenosha Eau Claire

Film Intermediate Roosevelt PTA Sam Davey PTA Nathan Pederson

Film Middle

Janesville Eau Claire

Eau Claire Kenosha Kenosha Kenosha

Film Senior No entries

DANCE

Dance Primary

Grand Winner

Grand Winner

Outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence

Outstanding Interpretation

Award of Excellence

Award of Excellence

Grand Winner

Hannah Johnson Kvra Balch Emma Brink

Lauren Kincaid

Grace Johnson

Alaina Rossell

Isabella Ruosch

Emma Johnson

Sam Davey PTA Charles W. Nash PTA Roosevelt PTA

Eau Claire Kenosha Janesville

Dance Intermediate

Roosevelt PTA Sam Davey PTA Adams Elementary PTA Charles W. Nash PTA

Kenosha

Eau Claire

Dance Senior No entries

Dance Middle

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Primary

Grand Winner

Outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Merit Award of Merit Award of Merit

Grand Winner

- **Outstanding Interpretation** Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Awards of Merit Award of Merit Award of Merit
- Raya Elliott Janiru Herath Lizzie Blodgett Ryan Corcoran Jill Guenther Andrew Shreve Julianna Cardenas Kyra Balch

Kate Finder

Skylar Bryl

Adams Elementary PTA County Line PTA County Line PTA Charles W. Nash PTA Hillcrest Leads PTA Charles W. Nash PTA Charles W. Nash PTA Charles W. Nash PTA

Photography Intermediate

Grace Johnson Samara Gorman Audrey Shreve Garet Rivord Maggie Giese Megan Schneider

Sam Davey PTA Charles W. Nash PTA Charles W. Nash PTA Sam Davey PTA County Line PTA Four Corners PTA Adams Elementary PTA County Line PTA

Janesville Germantown Germantown Kenosha Shawano Kenosha Kenosha Kenosha

Eau Claire Kenosha Kenosha Eau Claire Germantown Superior Janesville Germantown

North Star Middle PTSA

Janesville Eau Claire Janesville

Grand Winner

Outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Merit Award of Merit Award of Merit

Photography Middle

- Kayci Baumgartner Arianne Pacheco Cailey Stolt Emma Johnson Grace Corcoran Dara Madson Molly Balch Nicole Parmenter
- Kennedy Middle PTSA Mahone PTSA North Star Middle PTSA North Star Middle PTSA Mahone PTSA North Star PTSA Mahone PTSA Kennedy Middle PTSA

Germantown Kenosha Eau Claire Eau Claire Kenosha Eau Claire Kenosha Germantown

Photography Senior No entries

<u>VISUAL ARTS</u>

Visual Arts Primary

Washington PTA

Washington PTA

Sam Davey PTA

County Line PTA

Van Buren PTA

Van Buren PTA

Adams Elementary PTA

Charles W. Nash PTA

Grand Winner

Outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Merit Award of Merit Award of Merit

Grand Winner

Outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Merit Award of Merit Award of Merit

Grand Winner

Outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Excellence Award of Merit Award of Merit Award of Merit

James Rinehart Isak Davis Hannah Johnson Janiya Davis Julianne Cardenos Alyssa Junker Alivia Mantey Kassidy Javan

Angela Zheng

Raima Naurin

I illian Warren

Grace Johnson

Joel Melrose

Evelyn Paull

Reivah Jacobs

Emma Johnson

Makyah Lokken

Grace Corcoran

Cailey Stolt

Alyssa Balch

Shelby Finder

Lily Thatcher

Molly Balch

Reed Hovt

Visual Arts Intermediate

County Line PTA County Line PTA Roosevelt PTA Sam Davey PTA County Line PTA Adams Elementary PTA Four Corners PTA Roosevelt PTA

Visual Arts Middle

North Star Middle PTSA North Star Middle PTSA North Star Middle PTSA Mahone PTSA North Star Middle PTSA North Star Middle PTSA Mahone PTSA

Visual Arts Senior No entries

The 2016-2017 Reflections Theme is:





Germantown Germantown Janesville Eau Claire Germantown Janesville Superior Janesville

Eau Claire Eau Claire Eau Claire Kenosha Eau Claire Eau Claire Eau Claire Kenosha



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We're on the web!









4797 Hayes Rd., Suite 102 Madison, WI 53704 Phone: 608-244-1455

every child. one voice.

PTA Vision: What the future will look like if PTA accomplishes its mission. Making every child's potential a reality.

PTA Mission: The overall purpose of PTA

"To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."

PTA Values: What PTA stands for: **Collaboration:** We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.

Commitment: We are dedicated to promoting children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family, and community involvement.

Accountability: We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.

Respect: We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.

Inclusivity: We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.

Integrity: We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.