

Wisconsin Parent Teacher

Volume 82, Issue 1

August/September 2016

Special points of interest:

- **New Education Chair Update**
- **Register for Reflections**
- **New IRS Filing Rules for 990N Form**

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President's Letter



Hello everyone and welcome to the first newsletter of the school year. As summer vacation winds down and the kids start back to school in a few weeks, I know you have been busy getting everything in order from A to Z to start out the new PTA year with a bang, and that is great! The

Wisconsin PTA Board of directors has been busy, too. There have been many phone calls, emails, conference calls, and meetings, getting everything ready to pass on valuable information to our units to help you succeed.

In late July the Wisconsin BOD met at our office in Madison. For two days the committees worked hard to get everything together. It was a time that some current board members were either elected or appointed into new roles, plus we welcomed new people onto our board to shore up some spots where we still had openings.

We would like to congratulate those on the board elected to new positions:

Angie Mattes - President Elect
Cyndi Barbian - New Federal Legislative chair/ Convention Chair (for the second year)
Heidi Nicolazzo - State Legislative Chair
Vanessa Hetchler - Membership Chair/Acting Region A advisor (plus Kenosha)

Michael Anton, Wisconsin PTA President

New to the board of directors are:

Robin Anderson - Region E advisor (minus Kenosha)
Tanya Horn - Region G advisor
Dawn Petrovick - Region F advisor
Brenda Truchon - Education chair
Shannon Mishun - Technology chair
Kelly Serrano - Health chair
Taryn Horn - Youth Outreach chair
Heather DuBois Bourenane - Wisconsin Public Education Network Representative

Please join me in welcoming all these fine people in new positions or new to the board.

New Office Manager

We are also happy to announce we have a new office manager, Sheila Endicott. She will be working from 8:30-1:30 Monday-Friday. Sheila comes to us with vast experience working for non-profits, and we're happy to have her join us!

As a reminder don't forget to like Wisconsin PTA and Wisconsin PTA Leaders on Facebook.

Our board members are here to help in any way. We again have a great mix of seasoned and new PTA board members from local units just like yours that wanted to serve PTA at another level. TOGETHER, all of us are here for you to help in any way we can. So once again Happy School Year everyone, and TOGETHER, let's do great things for the children of Wisconsin! Thank you for everything you do!

Please Send us Your Officer Contact Information!

We have our online form ready for your information to be entered. Please have all of your officer's names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses ready to go before you enter the information, then it will be much quicker for you.

Remember, even if you are in the middle of a two year term, we still need updated information from you!

Sending us your officer list is a good standing requirement, and we cannot send out your membership cards or any other mailings until we get this information from you.

Click here to access the form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GKBTbS4jioM9vUvN-y_dELdM55ABrNVNjFkyfXUmC/viewform



Our next State Legislative Conference will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at the State Capitol in Madison, WI.

Cost will be \$15.00, and lunch will be included.

Time will be from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Come learn about all the current legislation pertaining to our schools, and children.

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Registration information will be sent out soon.

Leadership Training-Register Today!

by Angie Mattes, WI PTA President-Elect



ANNOUNCING WI PTA LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Are you looking to ensure the success of your PTA? Want to enhance your skills and energize yourself? Learn how to promote membership and run an effective PTA?

WI PTA cordially invites you to attend one of our upcoming Leadership Trainings. Topics to include; Officer Training, Membership, Advocacy, Legislation, Finding Emerging Leaders, The Basics of Common Core; and what PTA's position is on this controversial topic. Registration forms and further information will be emailed to you. Cost is \$15 and lunch and refreshments will be provided. A third location is in the works. Stay tuned.

August 27th

Park High School
1901 12th Street
Racine, WI 53403

FLYER: <http://wisconsinpta.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Racine-Leadership-Training-Flyer-2016.pdf>

REGISTRATION FORM: <http://wisconsinpta.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Racine-Leadership-Training-Registration-Form-Aug-27th.pdf>

September 24th

Parker High School
3125 Mineral Point Ave
Janesville, WI 53548

FLYER: <http://wisconsinpta.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Janesville-Fall-Leadership-Training-2016.pdf>

REGISTRATION FORM: <http://wisconsinpta.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Registration-form.pdf>



Membership Matters

By Vanessa Hetchler, WI PTA Membership Chair



GET INVOLVED!

Hello Everyone!

It's hard to believe another school year is upon us! Summer has flown by and it's time to get down to the nitty gritty of planning for a successful school year.

My name is Vanessa Hetchler. I was recently elected to the position of the State Membership Chair. I'm taking over for Heidi Nicolazzo, who is now our State Legislative Chair. I'm super excited to take on this role. I'm no stranger to PTA. This is my 2nd year on the State Board and my 10th year in PTA. Besides Membership Chair, I'm also the Acting Region A Advisor, the PTSA President at Mitchell Middle, the President of Racine SEPTA, Vice President of the Park High School PTSA and the Racine PTA Council Treasurer. I have 3 boys, Jared is 16, Conner is 14 and Riley is 12. I'm a nurse for my local school district (I LOVE my job!) and am in the process of completing my bachelors in nursing. As you can see I'm super busy, but I prefer it that way. PTA is my hobby and truly enjoy doing it.

The membership committee has some exciting things in the works! The theme is

More Members=More Incentives. The harder you work, the more your unit will benefit. Membership is the responsibility of everyone! So get out and recruit, recruit, recruit.

Speaking of memberships, we are encouraging units to get in the habit of turning in dues monthly. No matter how big or small, please send them in by the 15th of each month. If your unit turns in dues by the 15th, they will be entered in a drawing to win some awesome prizes!

Also, don't forget to get your dues in to win the "Back to School Award" and the "Early Bird Award" To get the Early Bird Award, you need to submit 25 members by September 15th. To receive the "Back to School Award" You need to submit an additional 25 members by September 30th.

In closing, I wish you all a wonderful school year. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at Vanessa.hetchler@gmail.com or at 262-721-7710. Thank You for all you do for Wisconsin's children.

BYLAWS TIPS

Welcome to a new school year. We hope you are excited to provide for all children!

Here are a few tips from the bylaws committee to help you stay in good standing.

Please review the due date for your bylaws: They are due every 3 years

Please make (3) copies and send them to the state office.

Pay special attention to your quorum number.

This is a common error. Your quorum number should always be at least all of your board members + 1 from the general membership, or at least 10% of your membership.

If you list (2) Vice Presidents, please list the specific duties for each or we cannot approve them.

Please use the current revision of the Bylaws form. Here is the link to the files on our one drive:

https://1drv.ms/f!s!Apw4OCW07CdJgaEfoZC8x_OCdpbTdw

They will be added to our website very soon!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you and have a wonderful year!

School of Excellence Applications Accepted Through Oct. 1st

National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.

As a **National PTA School of Excellence**, families feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement.

The path to excellence starts with a joint commitment of PTA and school leaders to work together to achieve [PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#).

Through the School of Excellence program, your PTA and school will gain new ways to

engage families in school decision-making, such as improvements to programs, practices and policies related to education, health, safety or the arts. Contact excellence@pta.org or call [\(800\)307-4782](tel:(800)307-4782) for more info.

Enroll before **Oct. 1** for the **2016-2017** school year.

https://www.magnetmail.net/actions/excellence_survey/excellence_form_NTLPTA.cfm?user_id=NTLPTA&sub_group=2796549



BRING IT
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New Voter ID Laws

With both of the major party's conventions over, the 2016 election is now in full swing. PTAs are getting involved in the election by registering people to vote, providing their members with Election Day information and talking with candidates about their priorities.

Learn how you and your PTA can get involved by visiting National PTA's election guides webpage filled with resources to help your PTA stay organized for the election.

Be sure to check out the guidelines on what you can and cannot do for election season as a PTA and visit the series of webinars, which explain the ins and outs of nonprofit election activities.

As far as our children and the education system in Wisconsin and across this great nation – Every Vote Matters!

While the determination as to whether or not Vote ID will be required for the elections, it would be better to prepared and ready than unprepared and unable to vote. To be certain you're all set and able to vote on November 8th, you will need to take some simple steps. First, you will want to familiarize yourself with all of the candidates, their platforms and positions on issues that are important to you. Listen to and read everything you can about the candidates. Do not rely on a single source in determining who will be best suited to what you believe is important.

Second, Wisconsin elections require proper identification be shown at the polling place. Be sure you have valid, unexpired identification when you get there. Acceptable IDs are those such as an unexpired Wisconsin driver license or passport. Contact information to the Wisconsin Driver Information Section can be found at the end of this article.

If you are a U.S. citizen, will be at least 18 years of age by Election Day, and would like a Wisconsin ID card to vote, visit the Wisconsin DMV (wisconsin.gov) website check the ID for FREE box when completing the Wisconsin Identification Card (ID) application MV3004 or when applying for a duplicate/renewal online.

To obtain FREE Wisconsin ID cards for voting: A free ID card is not available under

the following circumstances:

- If you currently have a valid, unexpired driver license, you are not eligible under Wisconsin law to obtain an ID.
- If you will not be at least 18 years of age on the date of the next election.
- If you are not eligible to vote in Wisconsin.

Applying for an original (first time) ID card: Any Wisconsin resident who does not presently hold a valid driver license (from Wisconsin or another jurisdiction) may apply for an ID card. There is no age limit to apply for an ID card. When applying for an original ID card you must visit a DMV customer service center, complete a Wisconsin Identification Card (ID) application MV3004 and provide:

Proof of name and date of birth, for example, a certified U.S. birth certificate, valid passport or certificate of naturalization. (See Document Verification Petition Process if fees arise in order to obtain free ID card for voting).

Proof of identity (usually a document with a signature or photo).

Proof of Wisconsin residency.

Proof of U.S. citizenship, legal permanent resident status, legal conditional resident status or legal temporary visitor status. (See Document Verification Petition Process if fees arise in order to obtain free ID card for voting).

Your social security number.

All ID cards are mailed: A receipt including your photo will be provided to you. This receipt is acceptable photo identification for voting and serves as your ID until your card arrives in the mail.

Driver Information Section

P.O. Box 7983

Madison, WI 53707-7983

Email Wisconsin DMV email service

ID Card for voting phone (608) 266-1069

All other ID Card questions phone (608) 264-7447

Yes, It's Time Once Again--BACK TO SCHOOL!

Brenda Truchon, Education Chair

Hi! My name is Brenda Truchon, and I am the newly elected Education Chair.

I am an advocate just like you. I am there for my kids in the morning, afternoon, and evening. I am making breakfast, lunches and dinners. I am listening, mediating and being watchful. I am learning, understanding and investigating. I am a voice! Their voice. I have the best title in the world- parent! I am new to the PTA State Board - Education Chair. I am here to help. I am here to bring something to the world of education and future for all the students out there. But I know that I am not alone. I know that I have others who share the same passion as me. I am here as a sounding board. Every Child, One Voice. My job as Education Chair is to educate you on what is going on outside the school walls, outside your local district and outside your local community. This is a job, a big job, but not a job that can not be done. My goal this year to bring you information on updates of what is going on and what we can do to help our children, our #1 goal.

So that brings me to my topic this time around: Family Reading.

Did you know that reading as little as 15 minutes a day together will increase the

numbers of words your student encounters? According to a statistic by Renaissance Learning annual report "What Kids Are Reading" - 1.5 million words will be encountered by students that read less than 15 minutes per day. But, if your student reads 15 minutes or more per day they will encounter 5.7 millions words by the 12th grade. With words comes understanding, with understanding comes, knowledge, and with knowledge, there is nothing your student could not accomplish.

Why, why read together? Reading together shows commitment to each other, teaches how to ask questions, and learn a story as one. Communication is key. Communication can not happen without words. To be a strong family, there must be a solid foundation. A solid foundation starts with words. As a baby in womb, we hear words. As we grow, we speak words. To advocate for family engagement, isn't 15 minutes a day a small sacrifice to make? As the school year begins let us mark our daily calendar with a 15 minute time block to enhance our knowledge power.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you [learn](#), the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

108th Annual Wisconsin PTA Convention April 28-29, 2017 Milwaukee Radisson West Hwy 100 & North Avenue, Wauwatosa

Wisconsin PTA is proud to host the annual convention next April in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Make plans now to send several people from your local units and councils! The more people you send, the better prepared your PTA will be to advocate on behalf of the children in your schools, and all schools across Wisconsin.

There are lots of surprises, and as of this moment two very special guest speakers who will be on hand to offer words of encouragement, support and enthusiasm!

Don't miss this one – join TEAM PTA in Wauwatosa!

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PTA Reflections Program-Start Your Project Today

by Nancy Hart, Reflections Chair



**Wisconsin Reflections Deadline:
January 13, 2017**

The National PTA Reflections Art Program encourages students to express their thoughts and feelings through creative arts.

This year the theme is:

“WHAT IS YOUR STORY?”

Children create their own work at home or at school to express the theme. Prizes and recognition are offered at state and national levels. Students are able to submit art in the categories of visual arts, music composition, photography, literature, dance choreography and film production. Participation is open to any student who attends a school with a PTA in good standing.

To register reflections at your PTA go to the National PTA Reflections web page:

<http://www.pta.org/programs/reflections.cfmItemNumber=4571&navItemNumber=510>

Click on the “REGISTER MY PTA” tab to get started.

You will be forwarded category rules and connect with Nancy Hart and Rindy Hart, the Wisconsin PTA chairs @ pta.reflections@yahoo.com.

Enter the National PTA Theme Search Contest

The search is on for a future National PTA Reflections theme to inspire creativity for the **2018-2019 PTA Reflections program theme!**

The deadline to submit your theme to National PTA is **December 1, 2016.**

One exceptional theme will be chosen on February 1, 2017. The winner will receive **\$100** and recognition at the Annual National PTA Convention. Theme Search judges look for a focused and clear theme promoting PTA values that are appropriate for all grades and applicable to all arts categories. **Past themes** are not considered.

- ◆ Congratulations to the **2015** Theme Search Contest Winner, **Brianna Eisman** of Douglas Anderson PTSA, FL. Brianna's theme "**What Is Your Story?**" is featured this year as the **2016-2017** PTA Reflections program theme.
- ◆ Congratulations to the **2016** Theme Search Contest Winner, **Ben Berselli** of Shady Grove PTA, VA. Ben's theme **Within Reach** will be featured as the **2017-2018** PTA Reflections program theme.

For more information on how to enter the National PTA Theme Search, contact pta.reflections@yahoo.com

Attn: Nancy Hart.

The 2016-2017 Theme Search is brought to you with generous support by:



PARK WEST
FOUNDATION

Treasurers-New IRS Rules for Filing

Brenda Ward, WI PTA Treasurer



Welcome to the new and returning unit/council treasurers! I am looking forward to a wonderful and successful financial year. If you are brand new this year please make sure you are getting all the records from the past treasurer.

By now you should all be working on and or have completed your budgets for the new fiscal year. Also, you should be completing the audit and taxes for this past year while completing and closing your records for this past year.

One thing that we would like you to check is your fiscal year end. PTA requires units to be on a fiscal year end of June 30 with the IRS. Please verify that your unit is on a fiscal year end of June 30 when you files taxes, and if not, contact the WI PTA office to learn how you can get it changed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: The IRS has changed the format for completing the 990 N Postcard this year. A link to updated information is <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard>. Please remember you must register with a new log in. Your old login information will no longer work.

If you have any financial questions throughout this year please contact Brenda Ward at either 414-732-4697 or you can email her at Brenda.ward@fhr.com with your questions.

HELP FOR TREASURERS

Visit the **IRS Website** for rules regarding non-profit organizations:

[https://
www.irs.gov/
charities-non-
profits](https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits)

WI PTA Resolutions

For more
information on
resolutions passed
by WI PTA, visit
the Resolutions
page on our
website:
[http://
wisconsinpta.org/
resolutions/](http://wisconsinpta.org/resolutions/)

From the WI PTA Legislative Committee

by Cyndi Barbian, Federal Legislative Chair

Wisconsin PTA's State and Federal Legislative committees have decided to keep you up-to-date on a monthly basis with the recently passed resolutions from Wisconsin and National PTA conventions. Please note, resolutions provide PTA members with the "one voice" for all children. Resolutions are brought to the floor of the State and/or National conventions, discussed and voted on to become a part of the legislative activities of PTA. If you do not agree with a resolution once it is passed, that is your right as an individual. However, when representing PTA, officially or by inference, you may ONLY speak TO the resolution.

In this newsletter we will re-present the resolutions below:

The National PTA convention held this past June in Orlando, FL passed several resolutions including the following:

PTA Guidance on Recognition of LGBTQ Individuals as a Protected Class Resolution

Whereas, All children and youth should be able to attend school in a safe and inclusive environment free from discrimination, and that history has shown that civil rights laws are effective in contributing to such environments; and

Whereas, Explicit federal statutory protections currently address discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, but not sexual orientation or gender identity; and

Whereas, The lack of awareness and understanding of issues facing LGBTQ children and youth has contributed to a higher rate of isolation, depression, and suicidal ideations or attempts; and

Whereas, Education regarding LGBTQ issues increases understanding and cultivates acceptance of and respect for LGBTQ children and youth; and

Whereas, Harassment and bullying policies that specifically mention sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are associated with: students feeling more safe; lower levels of bullying; decreased incidents of harassment related to sexual orientation; increased teacher/staff intervention; and a greater reporting of incidents; now therefore be it

Resolved, That National PTA support current civil rights legislation[1], Department of Education guidance[2], and Department of Justice guidance[3] regarding guidance and protecting all children and youth, and ensuring their equal access to education; and be it further

Resolved, That National PTA seek and support legislation that specifically recognizes LGBTQ as a protected group and addresses discrimination based upon sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression; and be it further

Resolved, That National PTA encourage state, local units, and councils to review school policies in regard to bullying and support revisions and amendments to those policies that specifically address the topics of sexual orientation and gender identification/expression as they relate to harassment and bullying; and be it further

Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations seek and support legislation that creates a safe, supportive and accepting environment in schools, specifically with training for educators and other school related professionals to support all students, updated health education standards that deal with the issues of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and be it further

Resolved, That National PTA work with the Department of Education to encourage states to incorporate standards regarding age-appropriate, medically accurate and culturally sensitive information on LGBTQ issues into existing health and other appropriate curricula.

This resolution calls for federal policies that specifically protect LGBTQ youth and local practices that create and maintain safe, affirming and inclusive learning environments for all students.

"Every child deserves to go to school excited to learn in a safe and nurturing environment, without the fear of bullying, violence or discrimination. However, the vast majority of LGBTQ students are bullied, physically assaulted and feel unsafe in school because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or identity," said Laura Bay, president of National PTA. "National PTA delegates have taken a stand to

push for policies and protections for LGBTQ youth to make sure they have positive school experiences.”

What does this mean to your PTA? You are asked to advocate for legislation that explicitly recognizes LGBTQ as a protected group and addresses discrimination based upon sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The association will also seek to ensure educators have the training to support all students and that health education standards appropriately address the issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Review district and school policies that address bullying and support revisions and amendments to these policies that specifically discuss sexual orientation and gender identification/expression as they relate to harassment and discrimination.

At the Wisconsin PTA convention, held in Appleton this past April, delegates voted to approve this, and other resolutions, which will need your support:

Tanning Beds

Whereas, Indoor tanning exposes users to two (2) types of UV rays, UVA and UVB which cause damage to the skin that can lead to cancer; with a higher risk of melanoma among those who begin tanning at an earlier age; and

Whereas, more than one million (1,000,000) people use one of the more than 25,000 tanning salons in the United States; and

Whereas, in addition to cancer, UVA exposure can lead to vision and immune system problems, wrinkles and premature aging; and

Whereas, State and Federal legislation has been enacted to, at a minimum, recommend warnings regarding the use of indoor tanning facilities; therefore be it

Resolved That Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (Wisconsin PTA) and its constituent associations inform parents, educators and students of the dangers of indoor tanning; and be it further

Resolved Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations encourage the American Cancer Society’s “Slip! Slop! Slap! and Wrap!”* slogan be included in all Health curriculums; and be it further

Resolved Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations support all recommendations that minors should not use indoor tanning equipment; and be it further

Resolved Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations work with advertisers and marketers to ensure that no person or facility advertise the use of any UVA or UVB tanning device using wording such as “safe,” “safe tanning,” “no harmful rays,” no adverse effects,” or similar wording or concepts; and be it further

Resolved That Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations urge the FDA and State agencies to take additional action that will prohibit the use of any indoor tanning facilities product by minors under the age of 18 years.

As summer comes to an end, and the tans begin to fade, educating parents, teachers and students on the dangers of tanning beds (and booths) may save lives. Work with your PTA to make everyone aware of the dangers that lurk in the bright light!

*Slip! Slop! Slap! and Wrap! Slip on a shirt; Slop on sunscreen; Slap on wide brimmed hat; and Wrap on sunglasses

New State Legislative Chair

Hello, my name is Heidi Nicolazzo, and I am your new State Legislative Chair for the Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors. I am very excited to jump right into this position. Through the newsletters, I will be providing you with current information from the State Legislation that includes info about Common Core, Healthy Eating, and Safety to name a few. I have included some websites to help familiarize yourself with some of the issues we are facing in Wisconsin today.

Heidi Nicolazzo, WI PTA State Leg. Chair

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction – dpi.wi.gov
 Wisconsin Public Education Network – wisconsinnetwork.org
 National PTA – PTA Takes Action Network – pta.org

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

REGISTER FOR THE NATIONAL PTA BACK TO SCHOOL KIT TODAY!

National PTA new requires you to register to get access to their back to school kit. Sign up once and you will have access to great topics like running effective meetings, how to conduct an audit, membership management, budgeting, and much, much more. Sign up

today at <http://www.ptakit.org/>

We're on the web!

www.wisconsinpta.org



Visit the National PTA website at PTA.org



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everychild.one voice

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.