

Wisconsin Parent Teacher

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Special points of interest:

- **School of Excellence Registration is open**
- **Photos from Convention**

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President's Letter



Thank you!

It's has been such an honor to have been your president these last two years. Words cannot express how grateful I am to so many of you during this time.

I'm also grateful for my family. My two grown daughters with families of their own: Jenna lives just a few short blocks from me and Rachel lives outside of Phoenix. Both daughters along with Jenna's oldest daughter Elora were able to join me during the final banquet at convention. Seeing both daughters together is rare and for both to be there together meant so much. I've enjoyed my time as president but am looking forward to spending more time with my daughters and grandkids both near and far.

When I was elected two years ago I said I wanted to bring back some things as we had done in the past, such as State Leadership trainings and State Legislative Conference. Though there were a few stumbling blocks along the way, we did it, together. We had two unexpected bonuses in this term, one was regaining our own office administrator. This has opened the doors for better communication for our members and has been a huge benefit in my role as president. Another was with three weeks' notice, we applied for a \$15,000 grant thru national PTA to promote College and Career Readiness. We put together a team with Cyndi Barbian as the lead, and now headed up by Angie Mattes. Of

Michael Anton, Wisconsin PTA President

course they needed myself as state president to be on board. If you have not heard by now we got the grant and it is full steam ahead with going around the state speaking to PTA and non PTA groups alike on its importance.

As I said it's been a pleasure being your president the last two years. It was a struggle in the beginning but with many efforts on my part and my supporters we are leaving Angie Mattes with a much stronger Wisconsin PTA as she starts her term. I've known Angie for some 18 years now and I'm completely confident in her leadership abilities.

As we transition into Angie's presidency may we remain focused on our goals and why we are all here, for the children and the schools.

Thank you for all you do in making PTA in Wisconsin great. It's been great doing this TOGETHER.

Thanks for your service, Mike!

Send Us Your New Officer Info for 2017-2018

We have loaded the new form onto our website to collect contact information for your officers for the 2017-2018 school year. Remember, even if you have the same officers as last year, we still need you to complete the form.

Here is the link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScI9vT67HAfDdDPQqIvwvNWz3sHKUEsFsqnQz8ZpDHe0hETw/viewform?usp=sf_link

PTA: Advocates Above All Else

By Angie Mattes, President Elect

Earlier this week I was paging through my monthly issue of Better Homes and Gardens Magazine. I happened to come across an advertisement for an insurance company. My eyes were instantly drawn to the smiling woman wearing a nametag. Underneath her name it read, "PTA Bake Sale President". My first thought honestly, was "No! No! No!", and I found my thoughts suddenly vocalized, repeating those words out loud.

While I know that it is important to have volunteers that help with school events, such as a bake sale, the fact is when you become part of PTA, it means you are part of so much more. 120 years ago two female pioneers stood up for the rights and the well-being of all children. Two determined women in a time when women couldn't even legally vote, gathered together with 2,000 men, women & legislators to say no to child labor. Over the years, the name "PTA" has been synonymous to other important victories such as the creation of the Juvenile Justice System, the hot and healthy lunch program, arts in education and the creation of kindergarten classes. I thought about our current project, the College and Career Readiness Initiative. The State board has several trained individuals who have taken part in Wave

7 of CCRI in Washington, D.C.. We have been working together to form partnerships in the community, reaching out to decision makers about CCRI, ESSA, and the Common Core State Standards. Through PTA, we become advocates for all children. We are power in numbers advocating for all children across this great nation, fighting for public schools, funding for the public school system, and advocating for the well-being of all children. After further thought, the smiling woman in the picture should have worn a nametag that stated her name, followed by "PTA Child Advocate". Think about it.

For more information about College and Career Readiness, visit our CCRI Page: <http://wisconsinpta.org/essa/>



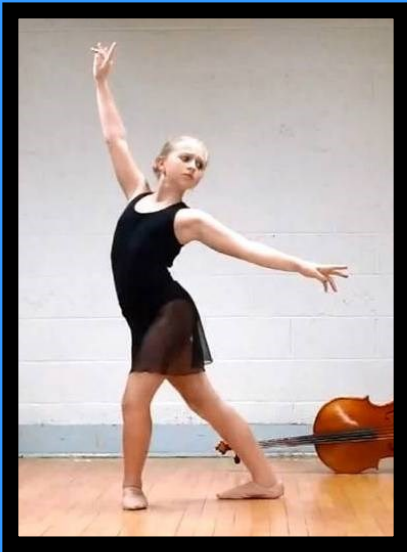
WI DPI Releases their Application for ESSA-They Want Your Input

DPI has published a first draft (Version 1.0) of our state plan application under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). It is available at www.dpi.wi.gov/esea, along with a survey instrument to gather public input on the draft. The survey will be open until the end of June, and in May we will be announcing listening sessions to be

held in June. Click [HERE](#) for locations and to register to attend.



CONGRATULATIONS to Wisconsin's
National PTA Reflections Award of Merit Winners



Grace Johnson
Dance Choreography: Middle
"My Life Is Changing"
North Star Middle School, Eau Claire
[Click HERE](#) for her video



Willow Buckner
Literature: High School
"I Fell In Love"
Parker High School, Janesville

[CLICK HERE](#)
to read her entry



Zaira Montero
Visual Arts: Middle
"Selfless"
Marshall Middle School,
Janesville



Ariana Reinemann
Visual Arts: Primary
"Oh No Eggs"
County Line Elementary,
Germantown

**Looking for
Help with
Training?
New Micro
E-Courses
Available**

***Learning how to
be a great PTA
leader and
understand the
policies and
procedures of PTA
will make you a
stronger leader.***

***Visit the National
PTA E-Learning
courses to train in
your own home.***

<http://>

www.pta.org/

[members/](http://www.pta.org/members/)

[content.cfm?](http://www.pta.org/content.cfm?)

[ItemNumber=3090](http://www.pta.org/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3090)

[ItemNumber=3090](http://www.pta.org/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3090&navItemNumber=4632)

[=4632](http://www.pta.org/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3090&navItemNumber=4632)

National PTA and AT&T have teamed up to help close the “Homework Gap” and Increase Digital Access



Technology and learning go hand-in-hand. Unfortunately not everyone has access to the internet at home, which makes it hard for kids to do homework and learn at their own pace, and for families to stay informed and connect with teachers.

National PTA and AT&T have teamed up to help close the “[homework gap](#)” and ensure SNAP eligible families in select States have the resources they need for kids to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

[Access from AT&T](#) gets families in low income communities connected to

affordable internet access at home for as low as \$10 per month.

Interested in learning more?

[Watch](#) this informational webinar.

More Resources for Families

[Digital You](#): created in collaboration with Common Sense Media, this site helps you with privacy, safety and security as you connect online.

[EveryoneOn](#): Find low-cost Internet and affordable computers in your area.



The 2017-2018 National School of Excellence Program is Now Open

PTAs across the country are beginning their journey to strengthen family-school partnerships at their schools and make a substantial, positive impact on student success.

By enrolling in this program, PTAs and school administrators are making a year-long commitment in identifying and implementing an action plan for school improvement based on [PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#).

In August 2018, National PTA will celebrate these PTA-school partnerships by awarding successful enrollees the [National PTA School of Excellence](#) distinction for two academic years.

Enroll now to be considered among the 2018-2020 [National PTA Schools of Excellence](#) recipients.

To learn more visit PTA.org/Excellence, email Excellence@PTA.org or call (800) 307-4782.

**National
PTA®**



**SCHOOL OF
EXCELLENCE**

everychild.one voice.®

Enroll Now

Sponsors/Vendors for the Wisconsin PTA Convention



<https://www.aim-companies.com>



<https://www.ecu.com>



weac.org

Boland Recreation, Inc.
 Mark Boland
 2347 Oak Park Road
 Marshalltown, IN 50158
 (800) 798-7589
www.bolandrecreation.com

Edvest, Wisconsin's College Savings Plan
 Meghan Boyle
 316 North Milwaukee Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53202
 (414) 316-2100 ext. 132
<https://www.edvest.com>

School Spirit Vending
 Greg Clark
 1980 Jan Avenue
 Waukesha, WI 53188
 (262) 894-8932

International Student Exchange
 Calla Kuehl, Regional Manager
 119 Cooper Street
 Babylon, NY 11702
 (920) 238-0624
lakeshores@iseusa.org

Holiday Treasures Gift Shop/Fun EVENTS
 Paula Kappes
 185 West Rawson Avenue
 Oak Creek, WI 53154
 (847) 918-9157
www.holidaytreasuresgiftshop.com

HELP FOR TREASURERS

Looking for information on filing your taxes? Most units can file the 990N electronic postcard. Visit the IRS Website for rules regarding non-profit organizations:

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits>

**National
PTA's Back to
School Kits
will be coming
out soon!**

**Watch the
website or
Facebook for
information on
how to register
for the
National PTA
Back to School
Kit. You will
find valuable
information on
how to run
your PTA along
with great
training
information for
your incoming
officers.**

Convention 2017 Was a Great Success

By Cyndi Barbian, Convention Chair

On a chilly April weekend 287 PTA members, delegates, guests, award winners, vendors and exhibitors found a warm reception for the 108th Annual Wisconsin PTA Convention in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin!

Delegates from across Wisconsin came to hear speakers, attend workshops, pass a resolution and elect the future officers of Wisconsin PTA. While doing so they made many new friends, exchanged ideas and success stories and learned the value of College and Career Readiness.

Wisconsin PTA would like to thank our special guests from National PTA: Justin Raber who currently serves on the National PTA Board of Directors; Deb Fritz, the Field Service Representative for Wisconsin; and Melisa Yeoman, our CCRI liaison. These wonderful people provided workshops covering a wide range of topics, all with a solid PTA theme of making units stronger, more committed advocates for all children.

One of the most common reasons units give for becoming a PTA is the networking and information sharing that is available, something other parent groups lack. Having three representatives of National PTA taught all of us that we face the same problems, concerns, goals and accomplishments with parents and teachers across this great nation!

Convention 2017 returned to our usual format including two days of learning and sharing. This was kicked off on Friday with introductions, workshops and membership awards which led up to the Vendor Fair on Friday evening. Please check out the website for vendor/exhibitor contact information! During the Fair we also had the very first Paddle Raffle Auction which had people scrambling to get their entries for gift

cards, snack baskets, weekend getaways and much more!

Saturday morning was a time to begin garnering insight from our first keynote speaker, Miss Wisconsin 2016, Courtney Pelot. Courtney's platform of Opening Books Opening Minds was further shared in her workshop providing great ideas for programs at all grade levels. Courtney also shared the value of the Miss America scholarship program, the largest in the United States for women.

After remarkable inspiration from Miss Pelot, Wisconsin PTA got down to business, beginning with the election of the 2017-19 officers of Wisconsin PTA. The delegates elected Angie Mattes as President; Heidi Nicolazzo as President-Elect; Andi Krizan and Vice President; Dawn Petrovick as Secretary; and Robin Anderson as Treasurer. They will begin serving on July 1st.

General Session continued with the passage of Resolution 2017-1 Decoding Dyslexia, providing PTAs in Wisconsin with another topic we can address. This, and all resolutions, which are the voice of Wisconsin PTA, can be found on the Wisconsin PTA website.

The session adjourned, allowing time for another set of workshops. This year, we tried something different, allowing delegates to make their workshop choices at and during convention. One special track of workshops offered, centered on the College and Career Readiness initiative, and that did require pre-registration and presented those who opted-in with workshops of: Grassroots Advocacy; Meeting with Decision Makers; A Parent's Role in ESSA Implementation; and Improving Your PTA Presence Using Social Media. These special workshops were made available through the National PTA

CCRI grant we received in January and the extra time and talents of the CCRI Team Wisconsin: Angie Mattes, Cyndi Barbian, Ellen Chicka, Andi Krizan, Roxanne Rhinehart, Brenda Ward and Michael Anton who wrote for and received the grant. Again, go to the Wisconsin PTA website for information about hosting a CCRI workshop, or track for your unit, council, school district or community – we'd be happy to go on a road trip!

An annual highlight of convention followed the morning of workshops – the Reflections Awards ceremony! Student honorees and their families attended this celebration where the award winners received certificates and trophies for their hard work. All of the guests and delegates in attendance also had the opportunity to hear, meet and take pictures and get autographs from former Green Bay Packer, LeRoy Butler. LeRoy spoke to the children about bullying and standing true to their goals, his interaction with the audience was stunning and he helped to create a very special event no one will soon forget.

Following the Reflections honors it was back to work for the delegates, completing the remaining workshop sessions and returning to the final general session which adjourned us to the 109th Annual Wisconsin PTA Convention planned for April, 2018 in Janesville.

The closing event for this convention was the Awards and Installation Banquet. Vince Vitrano, news anchor for the Milwaukee NBC affiliate, WTMJ-TV, shared the story of his family being educators in Wauwatosa and the value that was always put on reading as he grew up, to return to his hometown as our final keynote speaker. We shared

the joy of award winners for programs, newsletters and very special people. We welcomed new Honorary Life Recipients and then it was time to draw not only convention, but the presidency of Michael Anton to a close.

Mike took the time to introduce us to his daughters and one of his granddaughters, Elora. These girls have truly been a part of Mike's commitment to all children and it was a pleasure to meet them after hearing so much about them over the years. Michael then passed the gavel to Angie Mattes, our incoming president, who introduced us to her husband, children and their spouses as she prepares to take the reins of Wisconsin PTA in July.

The convention committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make this convention a team success! And, with the full Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors we would like to thank those of you who were able to include this convention in your busy schedules. We would also like to encourage ALL PTAs to budget for and send at least one person to the next convention in Janesville – hopefully, we'll see all of you then!

**WI PTA
Convention
Location
for 2018?
Janesville!**

**Hope to
see you
there!**

Resolution Passed at the Wisconsin PTA Convention

The following resolution was passed at the convention this year. Only the “Resolves” are included here. The entire resolution can be found in the Wisconsin PTA Resolutions Book on the Wisconsin PTA website. This resolution allows Wisconsin PTA and all its affiliated PTA units to speak on this issue and educate the membership about this issue.

2017 – I Decoding Dyslexia

RESOLVED That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) acknowledges that dyslexia has significant educational implications that need to be more widely addressed by the public and school districts; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That the WCPT accepts the following definition of dyslexia which was previously adopted by the Board of Directors of the International Dyslexia Association and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD): “Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge;” AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That the WCPT supports teacher/staff training necessary to improve the understanding of dyslexia and its warning signs, to include training in appropriate evidence based structured literacy instruction for students with dyslexia and to promote knowledge of appropriate accommodations for dyslexic students; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That the WCPT supports early screening for signs and symptoms of dyslexia in early childhood through the third grade with parental notifications; the use of evidence based structured literacy instruction delivered with fidelity as defined by the International Dyslexia Association; and the use of appropriate accommodations in order to provide students with dyslexia equitable access to the general education curriculum; AND BE IT FURTHER

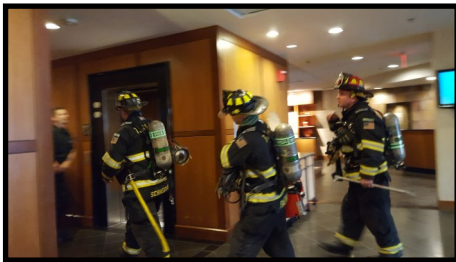
RESOLVED That the WCPT forwards this resolution to the National PTA for consideration by the delegates at the earliest possible National PTA Convention.

What Did You Miss By Not Attending the 2017 Convention?

- Six-year old Elora's exuberant "way to go grandpa" when National PTA Representative Justin Raber presented President Michael Anton with the Presidential service medallion
- Miss Wisconsin, Courtney Pelot's reaction to hearing her good friend Vince had been selected by the Packers
- Receiving a complimentary, yes free, "#WIPTA Proud" tee-shirt
- Dynamic presentations on advocacy by not only national representatives but our own state CCRI team as well
- The Allegro Eminence Dance Team's delightful pompom performance of the PTA song
- Leroy Butler's touching story on bullying. He stayed after the presentation until every attendee had the opportunity to participate in the photo op and autograph session. You may have been the lucky winner of the autographed football he so generously donated
- A fast and furious paddle raffle featuring a number of spectacular items, Visa gift cards, gift certificates, one free pizza per month for one year, and the list goes on...
- Cooking demonstrations (tasting was included)
- The opportunity to network with colleagues
- In addition to all the fun and entertainment, you missed some dynamic, timely presentations

After seeing all you missed, you might want to mark your calendar now for April in Janesville.

WI PTA Convention Fun



It's not a convention until the Fire Department arrives!



We got a sweet surprise from the Allegro Eminence Dance Center in Waukesha. Great job!!! You brought some of us to tears. <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinPTA/videos/10158480142155004/>

Honorary Life Recipients get recognition for their contributions to Wisconsin PTA



Wisconsin PTA Award Winners 2017

Congratulations to the award winners from our Convention!



Ronald Dunlap - Administrator of the Year: **Michael Heun** Wilson/WSTEM

Outstanding Educator Award: **Cheryl Wegner** Wilson/WSTEM

Katzer Smith Volunteer Service Award: **Tayla LaMacchia** Wilson/WSTEM

Kim Schwantes - Watching Children Blossom Award:
Charles Romano Tremper

Honorary Life Membership: **Jolene Schneider**
Whittier Elementary

Joan Dykstra - Friend of Children: **Representative John Nygren**



Best wishes for a successful college career to our two **Brookmire Hastings Scholarship Recipients**, Jake Krueger, Nathan Hale High School, and Amelia Kasper, Horlick High School. They are pictured here with incoming WI PTA President Angie Mattes.

Congrats to our LEADer Award Recipients

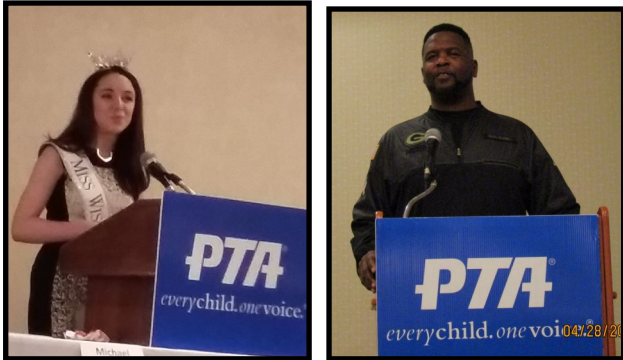
Leaders I-Nancy Carreno, Kelley Serrano

Leaders II-Heidi Nicolazzo, Shannon Mishun,
Dawn Petrovick

Leaders III-Michael Anton



Highlights from Convention



Courtney Pelot, Miss Wisconsin, and LeRoy Butler, former Green Bay Packer



Justin Raber, National PTA Rep, Deb Fritz, National PTA Service Rep, and Melisa Yeoman, National PTA CCRIP Rep



The newly elected incoming board, Angie Mattes, Heidi Nicolazzo, Andi Krizan, Dawn Petrovick, and Robin Anderson with NPTA Board member Justin Raber (in back)



President Elect Angie Mattes and family

Reflections Awards Ceremony

The event was emceed by Shannon Mishun, and awards were given out by Mike Anton, Justin Raber, Deb Fritz and LeRoy Butler. Congratulations to all of the recipients!



President Elect for 2017-2019 Heidi Nicolazzo, Incoming President Angie Mattes, Outgoing President Mike Anton

We're on the web!

www.wisconsinpta.org



Like us on
Facebook



everychild.onevoice.

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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.