

WISCONSIN PARENT TEACHER

December 2018/January 2019

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President's Message

Hello Everyone,

The holidays are upon us, filled with holiday parties, visits with Santa Claus, and a never-ending supply of tasty Christmas cookies at our fingertips. I hope you are enjoying the magic of the season with family and friends, while remembering to find a little quiet time to relax and enjoy the moment.

Mark your calendars for our February 20th, State Legislative Conference. The State Legislative Conference is an opportunity for you to advocate for students and families with your legislators. Do not worry, we will give you all the insight and tips you need to communicate with them. It is not as scary as you think! Make sure you check out the information enclosed in this newsletter, from State Legislative Chair, Brenda Ward.

Here is an update on MemberHub, 67% of our units are actively using MemberHub for more than just membership upload. They are using their school stores, using it to send emails to their school families, updating events, finding volunteers etc.

Best part, it does not cost them anything to be fully automated and functional. When your members purchase a membership online, a user fee of 0.85 is charged to the individual's account, not the local unit. Then they receive their membership card via email immediately. This means no more hunting your parents down to give them their membership cards. We want all of our units to see that MemberHub is a useful tool for all of us! Let us help you to set up your merchant agreements and school stores. If you have questions, do not be afraid to call us, we are here to serve you. Give us a call at 608-244-1455.

Please like Wisconsin PTA on Facebook. You will find that we post important information almost daily that will help you stay current with deadlines, current events, grant opportunities and other useful information.

I want to wish you all a safe and healthy New Year. Thank you for everything you do for your schools and the children of Wisconsin.

Remember to continue to let your voice be heard and continue to advocate for what is right and what is best for our children and communities. That's what membership is about, it says that you believe in the mission and you believe in the work that is being accomplished for all children.

Take Care,

Angie



Angie Mattes
Wisconsin PTA
President



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PTA TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO SCHOOL WEEK!
 February 10-17, 2019

Host an event at your school!

Learn more at: www.pta.org/home/events/PTA-Take-Your-Family-to-School-Week



The Wisconsin Winner of National PTA's, "Take Your Family To School Week" grant, goes to: Shullsberg PTA in Region D!!

They are the proud recipient of \$1,000.

Way to go, Shullsberg PTA!

You did it!
Congratulations



More than 170,000 members strong and growing. Educators is for people wanting to learn how to get the most from life. If you live and work in Wisconsin, we're here for you.



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WI PTA Convention-A First Timer's Viewpoint

Confession – Two years ago, I attended my first Wisconsin PTA Annual Convention. I had been involved in my the PTA at my son's school for five years, having chaired various committees and, but had never thought of the PTA as being much more than fundraising and sponsoring family-friendly events for the kids at school. When I took on a co-President role in my local unit the 2016/2017 school year, I decided to dig a little deeper and find out more about the PTA organization as a whole, and was excited to discover the Wisconsin PTA hosts an annual convention.

I started to ask around about the annual convention and I was surprised to find our unit had not sent a representative in years, nor had our council or other units in our council. Reason – no one knew there was a convention. I do not blame the Wisconsin PTA. I am sure they made announcements in one of the many mailers or emails I just never got around to reading. Here's an Important tip, always read your newsletters from Wisconsin PTA!

Since I was willing to attend my local unit was willing to cover my registration fees as a one-time purchase under our special projects budget since we did not have a specific line item for convention or leadership conferences in our budget at that time, and I submitted my

registration paperwork.

Not knowing what to expect, I arrived at the location the day of the event, showed my membership card (yes, your membership card actually has purpose), collected my Convention materials and Delegate information and found a place to sit for the First Timers Orientation and Parliamentary Procedure Overview. I remember thinking to myself – "Wow, this is legit. I am a voting delegate, part of an organization, which is much larger than the unit at my son's elementary school is, and I was eager to learn more. After the basics we moved on to the first General Session where the Wisconsin PTA conducts an open meeting with voting delegates to discuss official matters of the organization such as officer election and passing resolutions.

As I met my tablemates and others around me, I discovered many attendees were first timers like me, but many who knew each other from previous years. Turns out this Convention thing has been going on for a while now (2019 marks the 110th year). As we started to talk, it was clear everyone was interested in meeting others and sharing stories about what they were doing in their local PTA unit or council, regionally and at the state or national level. After the first General Session we moved on to the first rotation of breakout sessions covering topics such as male engagement, meeting

with decision makers, Every Student Succeeds (ESSA), and managing social media presence, all led by members from the state and national PTA. Each breakout offered me an opportunity to further network, learn and engage with other members in a fun, interesting manner.

We reconvened as a group for the membership luncheon where I was surprised to find awards presented to units who had met certain membership goals. Goals my unit had met, but we had not qualified for because my unit had not turned in our membership applications.

As the weekend went on, I knew I wanted to learn more. One of the evenings brought an opportunity to visit a variety of exhibitors who were sharing information on things like fundraisers, school carnivals, insurance, STEM/STEAM school assembly programs, and much more in a no-pressure manner. The Reflections luncheon honored Wisconsin's students who participated in the Reflection program, and an awards dinner banquet recognized outstanding individuals and supporters of the PTA's mission. Each event offered an opportunity to connect with other members on a local, state and national level.

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Join us April 12 – 14, 2019!



1200 S. Moorland Road
Brookfield, WI 53005
262-782-2900

Celebrating 110 Years ♥ Our stories, our children, our future.

NEW

Local Unit Bylaws Form Updated

The local unit standardized bylaws form has been updated. Any unit that updates their bylaws should now use **Version 10/2018**. This version has been conformed to National and Wisconsin PTA bylaws and provisions have been added for electronic meetings and debit card usage and the Meetings and Duties of Officer Articles have been amended.

Unless your bylaws are currently due for review and submission for approval to Wisconsin PTA, you do not have to update your bylaws until they are due. An addendum with the changes is available to attach to your current bylaws. Both the new bylaws form and the addendum are available on the Wisconsin PTA website on the bylaws page. (<http://wisconsinpta.org/bylaws-standing-rules-standards-of-affiliation-resolutions/>).

Along with the new bylaws form comes a new submission process. There is a [Submit Bylaws](#) link on the bylaws page that will send you to a submission form where you can upload your bylaws.



WI PTA Region Advisors Needed

Region D: Areas consist of the Southwest area of the state. Buffalo to Grant to Adams Counties.

Region G: Areas consist of the Northeast portion of the state. Vilas to Wood to Marquette to Marinette Counties.

Region H: Areas consist of the Northwest portion of the state. Douglas to Eau Claire to Iron Counties.

WI PTA offers mileage reimbursement, hotel stay during the Board of directors meetings (if two hours away) and limited meal reimbursement. The Board of Directors meets four times a year, July, October, January & April. Please contact Angie Mattes at amattes@wisconsinpta.org if interested.



Congratulations
Franklin Elementary
PTA, in West Allis!

Winner of a 2018 –
2019 STEM + Families
Game Night,
sponsored by ThinkFun.

Franklin Elementary
PTA is one of 50 PTA's
to win this game night
package.

We can't wait to see
photos of your event!

Congrats!

Join the WI PTA Board of Directors

Are you interested in taking your PTA knowledge to the next level by becoming part of the Wisconsin PTA board of directors? If you are, it is time for you to consider the role you would like to play in the future work of Wisconsin PTA.

In order to facilitate officer and chair nominations for the next term, we ask that you submit a letter of interest **on or before January 15, 2019**.

The interest letters will be used by the nominating committee first for Officer nominations and then for Chairperson nominations.

Letters of interest for appointed positions will be forwarded to the current President-Elect for consideration.

Letters of Interest must contain:

- Date
- Name
- PTA Unit/Council and Region
- Address
- Phone number
- Email Address
- Current Wisconsin PTA position (if any)
 - ⇒ Number of terms in current position
- Past Wisconsin PTA positions
- List all positions of interest
- Answer the following:
 - ⇒ What are you passionate about/which position are you most interested in?
 - ⇒ Qualifications for your indicated positions of interest?
 - ⇒ Future (beyond next term) goals and ambitions with WI PTA?

Qualifications:

- Officers must have served a minimum of one (1) year on the state board or will have served one (1) full term on the board of a local PTA/council by the time they take office.
- President-elect candidates shall have served as president at the local level
- Vice president, secretary and treasurer candidates shall have served in any elected position at the local level.

The following positions are available:

ELECTED OFFICERS (may only serve two (2) consecutive terms)

- **President Elect:** Succeeds current president, performs duties of president in president's absence, acts as an aid to the president, on Executive Committee, member of Legislative, Joan Dykstra Friend of Education & Site Selection Committees, Director of Leadership Commission and Region Advisors
- **Vice President:** On Executive Committee, Director of Education and Health & Welfare Commissions, Chair of Policy & Procedure, Resolutions and Site Selection Committees
- **Secretary:** On Executive Committee. Keep an accurate account of all meetings; be prepared to read the records of any previous meetings; file all records; assist with Parliamentary Procedure.
- **Treasurer:** On Executive Committee. Maintain a full account of the funds of the WI PTA; cause to be kept a full and accurate account of the receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the WI PTA; Render a written statement to the board of directors at each meeting; present an annual report of the financial condition of the organization; prepare or cause to be prepared an annual report for audit.

ELECTED CHAIRPERSONS

- **Bylaws:** Processes local unit bylaws, suggests & prepares amendments to the WI PTA bylaws when needed, holds workshop at Leadership Conference, is a member of the Policy and Procedures and an advisory member of the Reflections and Membership Committees.

Letters of Interest are due on or before
January 15, 2019

Please place your completed form in a sealed envelope marked "letter of interest" and send to:

Wisconsin PTA
4797 Hayes Road, Suite 102
Madison, WI 53704

Letters will be opened by the chair of the officer nominating committee
DO NOT EMAIL.



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Join the WI PTA Board of Directors (continued from page 5)

ELECTED CHAIRPERSONS (cont.)

- **Legislative Chairs:** Is a member of the Executive Committee, keeps the membership current on, either state or national, legislative activities, attends legislative hearings, meetings and conferences, issues calls to action, is an advisory member of the Resolutions Committee, conducts a Legislative Conference and workshops at Convention and Leadership Conference, federal chair attends National Legislative Conference, submits monthly newsletter articles.
- **Membership:** Helps local chairs with OMDR and recruiting techniques, oversees the tabulation, recording and reporting of membership totals, is responsible for planning, processing and distributing all membership awards, plans a membership event at Convention, conducts a workshop at Leadership Conference.
- **Reflections:** Runs the Reflections program at the state level, processes the winning entries and keeps reflections records, notifies winners, plans and is master of ceremony at the Reflections celebration, conducts a workshop at Leadership Conference.
- **Education:** Promotes and administers the WI PTA Teacher of the Year Program, keeps current on educational issues and reports to the board, suggests and writes resolutions on educational issues when needed.

APPOINTED CHAIRS AND POSITIONS

- **Awards:** Responsible for updating and processing award applications; Set due dates; promote Awards program; appropriately notify recipients; work with convention committee to plan award presentations.
- **Bulletin Editor:** Creates newsletter from submitted articles, solicits articles as needed, finds articles to fill space if needed.
- **Convention:** Plans and runs convention.
- **Diversity:** Shall serve on Membership and there report the efforts of the diversity committee; maintain database of leaders of the diverse groups in the community and coordinate efforts to collaborate with them; maintain list of translation options for WI PTA.
- **Extension:** Work collaboratively with the president, BOD and the National PTA extension liaison to develop an annual extension plan for the state based on membership and demographic information to identify schools and communities in which efforts will be targeted to establish new PTA units.
- **Health and Welfare:** Keeps current on health and welfare issues and reports to the board, oversees health grants to local units, suggests and writes resolutions on health and welfare issues when needed.
- **Marketing:** Promotes PTA, writes for grants, seeks sponsorship & member benefits.
- **Region Advisor:** Keep in contact with local PTAs in region, works with units to stay in good standing; answers questions; visits local units; organizes new PTAs in Region; presents PTA work to non-PTA groups; Arrange and presides at region events.
- **Resource Development:** Identify sources of revenue (grants, sponsors), ensure compliance with National PTA fundraising goals and objectives, create ongoing relationships with Wisconsin PTA supporters.
- **Special Project Coordinator:** works under the guidance of the president on projects of the president's choice.
- **Technology:** Maintains website, advises board on technology needs; oversees technology used during meetings and at convention; communicate needs to chairs.
- **Youth Representative:** Shall work in collaboration with National, State and Local PTAs to provide education resources, leadership training and opportunities to increase youth participation and visibility in PTA.



Thank you for your consideration to further serve the Wisconsin PTA.
Michael R. Anton, Nominating Committee Chair



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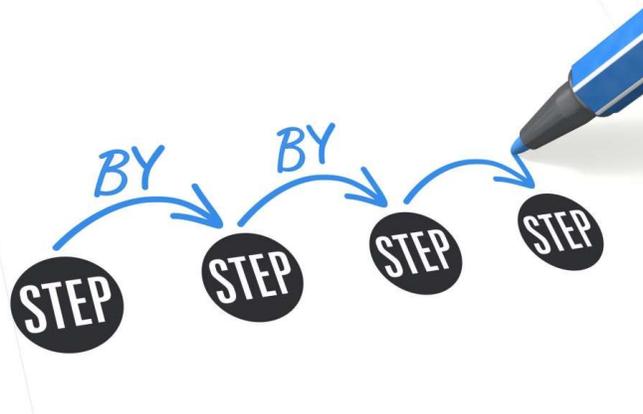
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Bylaws Review/Revise Process

Bylaws are your unit's legal organizing document, outline the structure of your PTA and protect the rights of your members. They should be a document that you refer to often and need to be kept up to date. Therefore, they need to be reviewed and revised every three years; more often if the needs of your unit change. Because of their legal importance, proper procedure must be followed when revising them.

- Start at least 60 days before they are due or you want the change to take effect.
- Select a bylaws committee of 3 or 5 members
- Review your current bylaws to see if you need to make changes
- Changes to your bylaws are called amendments, if you need to amend your bylaws:
- Write up the proposed amendments, include the current wording and the proposed wording.
- Present the amendments at a meeting and post them for 30 days, giving notice of the time and place of the vote
- The amendments must pass by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting and the amendments can be amended before the vote
- Once all changes are approved, download the current WI PTA bylaws form from the WI PTA website
- Fill in the blanks with your unit's information
- Get the signature page signed and include the date that the membership approved the bylaws, not the date the committee signs them
- Submit the bylaws to WI PTA for approval using the instructions included with the bylaws form
- Your old bylaws stay in effect until the new ones are approved by WI PTA



WI PTA Convention-A First Timer's Viewpoint (from page 3)



I am hoping by now you are thinking to yourself "we need to send a representative or two to this year's convention". If you are not, you should be. The money my unit spent that year to send me to the Wisconsin PTA Convention was returned to us tenfold in terms of access to information, strengthening our membership and opening our eyes to what the PTA has to offer our students and families beyond the scope of our local unit. I believe this so much I successfully lobbied my local unit to add a Leadership/Convention line item to our annual budget, and encourage all I encourage you do the same.

Not only did I walk away with a long list of new ideas to share with my unit, I was empowered by what I saw in the Wisconsin PTA's

leadership to want to do more both locally and at the state level. As a result, in addition to being President of the County Line Elementary PTA in Germantown, I am now a member of the Wisconsin PTA board of directors, serving as the 2017-2019 Region C Advisor covering Wauwatosa and PTA units/councils in Calumet, Dodge, Fond Du Lac, Ozaukee, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington and Winnebago counties. I also currently serve on the Wisconsin PTA committees for Awards, Legislation and, you guessed it, Convention.

Before I close, thank you for all you do. We are all volunteers, and being an engaged member of the PTA can be a tireless, often thankless position. Your time and dedication

to Wisconsin's students does not go unnoticed. The PTA cannot continue to offer the guidance and unparalleled support to parents and students at the local, regional, state and national level that it does without you. Please join us at Convention in April to share your experiences and ideas.

This year's Wisconsin PTA Annual Convention will be held April 12-14 in Brookfield, kicking off with a meet and greet Friday evening and culminating with the Reflections luncheon Sunday. We have a number of great breakout sessions, inspirational speakers and networking opportunities planned. Make the 2019 Annual Convention your unit/council's must attend event – it is worth it! Visit the Convention page at wisconsinpta.org/convention/ for more information.

Look me up at Convention in April. I would really like to meet you and share ideas!

Sheila Nally
Wisconsin PTA
Region C Advisor



NATIONAL PTA
REFLECTIONS®

**Wisconsin PTA Reflections
entries are due:**

January 8, 2019

Questions? Contact:

Andi Krizan, akrizan@wisconsinpta.org





2019 Wisconsin PTA Legislative Conference

Join us on

February 20, 2019

10:00 am until 3:00 pm

In the DPI Building - 125 S. Webster Street, Madison

- **Learn engagement strategies**
 - **Take a walk to the Capitol**
 - **Meet with your legislator**
- **Discuss issues affecting WI Public Schools**
 - **Share your ideas for the future**

A light lunch will be served. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

\$15/Member

\$10/Student Member

**Bring a friend and receive a reduced rate of
\$25 for both of you!***

**Bring a friend rate does not apply to Student Members.*

Register today at www.wisconsinpta.org

everychild.onevoice



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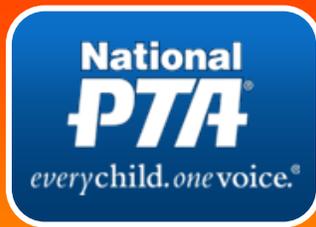
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National PTA



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