

*PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.*



## **President's Message**

**September 16, 2024**

A big welcome to old and new officers. Most of you have had your first days of school, whether you are new to the school as a kindergarten parent, learning to engage at a new middle or intermediate school or an old pro at a high school. Some kids still wish it was summer and they could stay in bed longer. As a state PTA we are here to help you advocate for not only your child but every child. We are here to support parents, teachers, school staff and students to get the best education possible.

We have resources to help with grants, working with your representatives, communicating with teachers or school boards, and advocating on the local, state, and national level. PTA is the nation's Number 1 advocacy organization to protect every child's education, family engagement, and safety for everyone in education, we are actively advocating for Congress to protect our children from gun violence, to strengthen family-school partnership and invest in meaningful engagement, help create a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for all students, and to promote a safe and positive online experience for children and youth. National PTA's advocacy resources and positions can be found [HERE](#).

As a state we are gearing up for the biennial budget discussion to begin in the spring. Watch for more information. In addition, as school districts are looking at referenda to support their school funding, one local council (Wauwatosa) is gathering support for the referenda on their local ballot in the November election. I am working on organizing documents that Wauwatosa Council is using to support the referenda, look for those resources soon.

We have 2 more in-person training events scheduled:

**Use this link to RSVP:**

<https://forms.office.com/r/bFGVxQw0ti>

Sept 21<sup>st</sup> – L.L. Philips Library in Eau Claire 10am

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> – Hedberg Library in Janesville 5:30pm – 7:30pm

These training events will have all the basics to start the year off on the correct foot. We will be covering Givebacks basics, IRS requirements, good standing, bylaws and answering all your questions. Please send me an email to [info@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:info@wisconsinpta.org) with questions or specific items you wish for us to answer.

**Have you joined your local unit yet?** Officers should be the first to join! Membership, programming, and budget are usually the topics of conversation as you move into the beginning of the school year. Remember you must be a member of the unit to vote on unit business.

The WI PTA board of directors is always here to help, answer questions, and to provide guidance. We would love to attend your meeting either in person or virtually. Please send information on when your meetings are happening to [info@wisconsin.pta.org](mailto:info@wisconsin.pta.org)

With gratitude and appreciation, have a super September.

***Andi***

"Education is for improving the lives of others & for leaving your community & world better than you found it."  
-Marian Wright Edelman

## Open Office Hours

Let us know if this would be of interest to you [here](#). Virtually meet with state leaders to get tips, keep your unit in good standing, and ask questions. If you have a question, you would like answered, email [info@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:info@wisconsinpta.org) and we can address it at Open Office Hours. Look for this to start in October.

## Wisconsin PTA Annual Convention – Save the Date

\*Save the date for the 2024-2025 Wisconsin State PTA convention on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in New Holstein. If you wish to be involved in the planning to receive free registration, please reach out. The committee is working to make this the best one yet. Our Theme this year is: **Connecting and Advocating for All Children**. The Wisconsin PTA convention is where local units can learn, network, and find resources for making their local PTA a success. During the convention we hold the annual meeting where the state level business is conducted --just like your meetings! **YOU** are our members, and we need **your presence and input** to conduct the business of the association.



At convention we may:

- Vote to update our Bylaws.
- Vote to approve our Legislative Priorities
- Vote on adopting and/or rescinding Resolutions

We have begun contacting vendors and sponsors. If you have any vendors or sponsors you would like us to reach out to, please [email info@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:info@wisconsinpta.org)

## Teacher's Corner

PTA stands for Parent-TEACHER-Association, so this section may be of interest to our teacher members. Did you know that the National PTA has a podcast? It is called "*Notes From the Backpack*" which features content for parents, teachers, and community members. Check out some titles that may be of interest:

[#77. Advocating for a Well-Rounded Curriculum](#)

[#50. Our Culture is More Than a Holiday](#)

[#48. Supporting Students of Color](#)

[#37. How to Help LGBTQ+ Youth Thrive](#)

For more information, please visit the [Opioid Prevention website](#) or the [Peer To Peer Grant Site](#).

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## **New Fiscal Year – Unit Tasks - Good Standing Requirements**

**Reminder all documents for Good Standing are to be submitted via Givebacks.**

**There is no need to mail any documents to Wisconsin PTA.**

**A local unit needs to provide the following information to WI PTA to receive their annual letter of good standing.**

- All [officers](#) need to be updated in Givebacks by September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- [Remit membership dues](#), at least 15 members by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Dues can be remitted anytime, but for good standing purposes a unit must have 15 members remitted by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A financial review of all bank accounts must be completed and uploaded by November 1<sup>st</sup>. The document for this can be found [HERE](#). There must be 3 people to complete the review, and they must sign the document; documents without these signatures will be returned. The reviewers must not be the treasurer, a member of the treasurer's family or a signor on the accounts. If the review is completed by a CPA, please include proof by using their professional title and state license number.
- Proof of [IRS tax filing](#) must be uploaded by November 15<sup>th</sup>. The same due date as the IRS filing. This can be a screenshot of the IRS confirmation web page after submission, but you need to wait to take the screenshot until the [Filing Status is "Approved" or "Rejected"](#). Units whose gross receipts are less than \$50,000 can file a [990N on the IRS website](#) which takes 5-10 minutes to complete. Doing this shortly after the Financial Review is best so that it is not forgotten. Please contact [Rita Wiesneski](#) if you need help.
- Bylaws need to be reviewed and updated every three (3) years. If bylaws are due, elect a bylaws committee to review for changes and post the new bylaws or amendments 30 days before a membership vote of approval. After membership approval, this should be uploaded with 3 signatures preferably thirty (30) days before the due date. This allows for corrections to be made in a timely manner. The current bylaws should have the renewal due date on the front page or the signature page of the state reviewer. Bylaws can be reviewed and changed at any time in those 3 years, if needed.

## Memberships

Having been to several PTA's membership Giveback stores we have noticed that many have not changed the PTA logo to be specific to their school. You can create your own PTA Logo [HERE](#) that automatically conforms to all PTA brand standards.

As your new board moves into place it's time to start the push for membership for the year!

- Create your [membership](#) options for the 2024-2025 school year in your store.
- Add an alumni membership option to capture those who will be leaving your school but still want to support the PTA!
- Add a community membership option for future families and seniors to join.
- Start to engage your parents via social media to join now.
- Utilize Membership Resources at [PTA.org](#).
- Create a [membership plan](#) /calendar for the year. Below are state membership numbers for last year, compared to the previous year and the year before Covid.

Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/2024: 5059

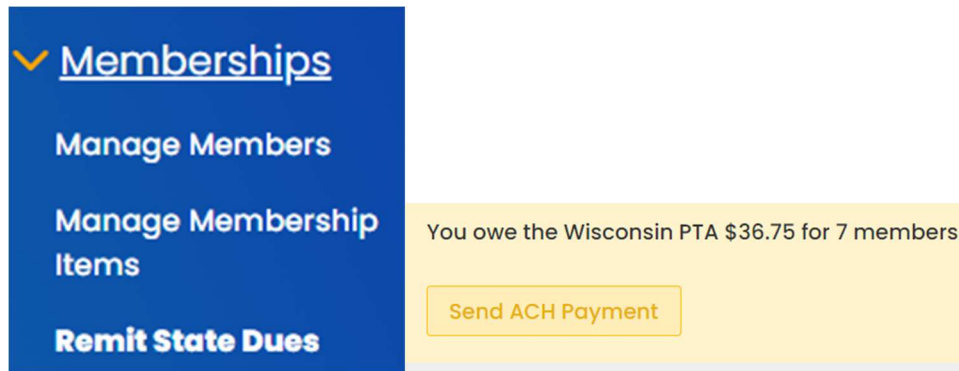
Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/2023: 4926

Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/2020: 8114

As of September 11, 2024, WI PTA has submitted 107 members to National PTA.

We have 117 members that are in payment status.

We have 1567 memberships needing to be paid. We need treasurers or presidents to hit the "Send ACH Payment" buttons on the remit state dues tab in Givebacks. Any unit who remits their dues by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will be included in our monthly prize drawing that happens annually in September, October, and November.



We would love for us to get back to those pre-covid totals. This won't happen overnight, but if every unit could increase their membership by 10 members more than last year, we can achieve this year's goal of 5500 members. We have roughly 100 units, the increase of 10 members per unit we could exceed our goal!

The National PTA is excited to bring back [Membership Mania](#) for the 2024-25 school year. [Sign up today](#) to join us this school year to strengthen membership together and make every child's potential a reality!

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# SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

**Enrollment for the School of Excellence program is open now until October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

It is time to register your school for the School of Excellence Program that aims to:

- Provide a framework for PTAs to identify and implement best practices in family engagement to strengthen family-school partnerships.
- Build inclusive and welcoming school communities where all families contribute to enriching the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.
- Help PTA attract new, action-oriented PTA members who want to focus on the issues that affect our children the most.
- Provide step-by-step guidance and networking opportunities for PTAs to gain support and feedback, identify and reach goals and earn recognition.

Learn more [here](#) and register today!

## **Grant Opportunities**

### ***New!* Fall 2024 Program Funding – National PTA**

**Aug. 29 – Oct. 1**

National PTA along with its sponsors and partners are offering **over a million dollars** to support PTAs/PTSAs **in good standing**, as defined by their state PTA, and are interested in implementing a fun and engaging National PTA program focused on arts, digital safety, and well-being and/or healthy lifestyles.

While funding is not needed to implement National [PTA programs](#), it can help support hosting events or making programs more accessible to all (e.g., helping your PTA cover food, translators, etc.). The [application](#) process is easy (no prior grant-writing experience is needed), and the funding can help you reach your PTA's goals in your school community.

### ***New!* Fall 2024 Program Funding – WI PTA**

Wisconsin PTA is bringing back our local unit grants with sponsorship from Educators Credit Union. Use this link to learn more and access the application [HERE](#).

## Reflections



It's time again to get your PTA registered for this year's Reflections program with the theme "Accepting Imperfection". Register early so that you can cross it off your to do list. Look to fill your Reflections chair position at your school for the year and reach out to your English and Art Teachers to share with them this year's theme and ask that they incorporate it into an assignment this fall. Help us spread the word of this fantastic program! At back-to-school events you can have an information table with this eye catching [poster board](#). This is a great way to get lots of students involved while also sharing the requirements for the other categories such as dance, music composition, and photography that students can work on outside of school. Here are the [requirements for each category](#) . Click [HERE](#) for the National PTA August Reflections newsletter. To learn more about the NPTA Reflections program visit [Here](#) and [register today](#).

For inspiration:

Find a video of last year's overall winners and a list of all winners:

[Awards & Events - Reflections Arts Program | National PTA](#)

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## **Meet the Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors**

President – Andi Krizan-Burns [akrizan-burns@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:akrizan-burns@wisconsinpta.org)

President Elect – Open

Vice President – Angelica Parra [aparra@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:aparra@wisconsinpta.org)

Treasurer – Rita Wiesneski [rwiesneski@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:rwiesneski@wisconsinpta.org)

Secretary – Cyndi Barbian [cbarbian@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:cbarbian@wisconsinpta.org)

Immediate Past President - Gena Kraemer [gkraemer@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:gkraemer@wisconsinpta.org)

Reflections – Ed Burns [eburns@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:eburns@wisconsinpta.org)

DEIA – Erica Christensen [echristensen@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:echristensen@wisconsinpta.org)

Grants/Mental Health – Heather Birk [hbirk@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:hbirk@wisconsinpta.org)

Brookmire-Hastings Scholarships – Stacy Marszalkowski [smarszalkowski@wisconsinpta.org](mailto:smarszalkowski@wisconsinpta.org)

**We NEED volunteers to help the WI PTA service local units by being Region Advisors!**

**We NEED a volunteer to Chair our Website/Social Media updates!**

**We NEED a volunteer to Chair our Membership Drive!**

**We NEED a volunteer to Chair our Legislative Advocacy efforts!**

**We NEED volunteers to assist with Convention planning, vendors, promotion, food, etc!**

We can find a spot for you! Bring your knowledge and skills to the WI PTA Board!

## **Givebacks**

If you are new to your board or new to using Givebacks, our membership platform, here is a [user guide](#). Visit [Givebacks Interactive Workshops](#) for training and to schedule a 1:1 meeting.



## **Social Media**

Follow these Facebook pages to stay informed and get valuable information to pass on to your families!

[Wisconsin PTA](#) – info for all Wisconsin parents, PTA leaders and education advocates

[Wisconsin PTA Local Leaders](#) – a closed group for Wisconsin leaders to network and share info and ask questions.

[National Parent Teacher Association](#)

[PTA Local Leaders](#) – a closed group National PTA local leader page where you can interact with leaders across the country and get ideas and feedback.

You can also follow, like, and subscribe!

