



Kathy Parker
WV PTA President
2017-2019

It's hard to believe we are already into the month of November and I'm proud to say your membership campaigns across the state have been extremely successful! We know each of you have been working hard at promoting the importance of PTA in your schools and it's showing by the impressive number of memberships, so congratulations to each of you for a job well done! Remember that membership campaigns are not only held in the fall, so continue to encourage joining your PTA at every event this year. It's always the right time to join, and it's never too late!

This is an exciting time for your West Virginia PTA because we are currently working towards planning our state convention, as well as promoting our wonderful programs for the year. The National PTA Reflections program is PTA's signature art enrichment program and is a great way to include the arts in the lives of our children, both within and outside of the classroom. To encourage participation, talk to your art teachers and principals and get them on board with the program.

Additionally, consider hosting after-school workshops to allow your students the time to work on their projects. By providing the art supplies and volunteers to help after school, you will see an increase in participation and hopefully allow your parents to see the excitement in their children's faces as they create their artwork and learn for themselves how valuable the arts can be.

We are also excited that entries are now being accepted for the Student Healthy Recipe Contest. Every child has a special talent and by allowing them the opportunity to create original healthy recipes, we are encouraging them to use their imagination and hopefully by doing so, opening their eyes to the joy of cooking. This is a wonderful family engagement program because you can help your children with preparing their entries and enjoy the extra family time together.

Convention planning is under way and we hope that each of your PTAs have budgeted for at least your officers to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to receive valuable leadership training, attend workshops and presentations of guest speakers, attend the annual student awards luncheon, visit with new vendors, and attend the awards banquet and scholarship auction. I can't stress enough the importance of idea-sharing with other PTAs across the state and networking with other schools, because you bring home valuable information to members in your local PTA, and become even more motivated!

As well as our PTA workshops and events at convention, our diversity team is working hard on organizing additional seminars for our special needs children and families. We want to provide the most beneficial information to these parents and will be introducing workshop topics and activities once the schedule is confirmed. We're trying something new this year: a Saturday/Sunday convention. We know that some people miss the Friday activities because they can't take off work, so we hope this will help those members' schedules. Remember to **SAVE THE DATE** for the 95th annual West Virginia PTA Convention on April 21-22, 2018 at the Bridgeport Conference Center in Bridgeport.

Yours in PTA,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Parker".

Kathy Parker
President

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

Apply to win a 2018 Take Your Family to School Week Grant

In celebration of PTA Founder's Day, this year, National PTA is excited to support local PTA's in hosting family engagement events throughout Take Your Family to School Week (TYFTSW). This grant, sponsored by Chrysler and Google Chromebook will provide **\$1,000 to 55 local PTA's throughout the country who commit to hosting an event** that focus on one of the following PTA programmatic themes:

- **Health and Safety:** Host healthy, safe events for all students and the entire family. Build on the work you have already done during **Healthy Lifestyles Month!** (Grades K-12)
 - *New Health and Safety Event Guide Coming Soon!*
- **Literacy:** Immerse the whole family in a new book by reading together. (Grades K-5)
 - *New Literacy Event Guide Coming Soon!*
- **Digital Learning:** Invite families to experience how students are using technology in the classroom. (Grades K-12)
 - *New Digital Learning Event Guide Coming Soon!*

Applications must be complete and submitted online by midnight, November 17, 2017. Click on the link below to apply or visit the National PTA website for details and requirements!

<https://webportalapp.com/webform/tyftsw>

Congratulations to our Mini-Grant Winners!

Congratulations to our Mini-Grant Winners! Each of these local PTAs applied for grants at the Families Leading Change Summit in September and won money for their schools ranging from \$500 to \$2000! We are so proud of your initiative and willingness to make your schools and communities better for your students! We are excited to hear more from your grant teams in the coming months!

Bruins Helping Bruins (Brooke County)
Musselman Middle School PTSA
Johnson Elementary PTA
Lakeview Elementary PTA
Blennerhassett Elementary PTA
Braxton County High School PTSA



Membership Matters!



Rose Rossana
WV PTA Vice President
Membership

Our local PTA units are off to a super start with our Membership Matters campaign. Keep those memberships coming and don't forget about the monthly incentives your local unit can win. Here are the winners we have so far this year!

September Winner

Allen T. Allison Elementary PTA

Winner of a PTA pad portfolio, bank bag and receipt book.

October Winner

Worthington PTA

Winner of a \$25 WV PTA store gift certificate.

We have some stellar units in the running for the travelling trophy for Largest PTA in the State. So far Johnson Elementary School PTA is in the lead. Here are the leaders by Region through September.

- Central Region: 0 Reported Memberships
- Eastern Region: 75 Members for Tuscarora Elementary PTA
- North Central Region: 226 Members for Johnson Elementary School PTA
- Northern Region: 149 Members for Steenrod Elementary PTA
- Southwestern Region: 68 Members for Davis Creek Elementary PTA
- Southern Region: 60 Members for Fall River PTA
- Western Region: 120 Members for Emerson Elementary PTA



If you have any questions regarding membership or need more cards, contact your Regional Director or Rose Rossana at membership@westvirginiapta.org. Keep up the great work on membership and thank you for your support of West Virginia's children. Share your successes so we can post it on Facebook!

Remember to send in your membership contact lists with your membership dues!

To begin achieving our goal of better communication with our members across the state, we are asking our units to send their membership lists with email addresses to our state membership chair (preferably electronically). To make this as simple as possible, we have created a spreadsheet for each unit to enter the information and you can simply email the completed sheet to us! This will make your record-keeping more efficient for you as well! Plus, it will assist the state PTA in providing all members in our state with pertinent information that they need. Only then will our members see the true value of their PTA membership!

Please click the enclosed link for the membership spreadsheet for your unit! Once completed each month, email the spreadsheet to membership@westvirginiapta.org.

<http://westvirginiapta.org/membership-lists.shtml>

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP CONTESTS FOR OUR PTA'S

Congratulations!
September Winner
Allen T. Allison PTA



Congratulations!
October Winner
Worthington PTA

SEPTEMBER – *One (1) Winner*
***Official PTA Pad/Portfolio, Receipt
Book and Bank Bag***

Back to School Award – all units submitting 25 or more memberships to the state office postmarked by September 15 will be eligible to win!

OCTOBER- *One (1) Winner*
\$25.00 WV PTA Store Gift Certificate

Early Bird Award – all units submitting 25 or more members postmarked between September 15 and October 1 will be eligible to win!

NOVEMBER- *One (1) Winner*
PTA Tablecloth with school's name!

Membership Magic – all units submitting 75% of the previous year's memberships by November 15 will be eligible to win!

DECEMBER – *One FREE*
***Convention Registration to all
qualifying local units!!!***

ALL UNITS increasing their membership by 50 or more members from last year's total, will win one (1) FREE convention registration to the 2018 West Virginia PTA Convention! (Memberships must be postmarked by December 31, 2017)

JANUARY - *One (1) Winner*
***Embroidered PTA Bag with
your school's PTA!***

What is your PTA story? Submit your own, personal story about how you got involved in the PTA and why you think it's important for all parents! Deadline: January 20. The overall winner's story will also be featured in the West Virginia PTA Bulletin and West Virginia PTA Facebook page.

FEBRUARY - *One Winner*
***\$25.00 WV PTA Store Gift
Certificate***

It's February and a great time to launch a "Be a Sweetheart and Buy a PTA Membership" Campaign! All units that submit memberships postmarked in the month of February will be eligible to win!

MARCH- *Grand Prize!*
To Be Determined!



Things to Remember for Treasurers!

Audits are due!

By: Chris Wuest, West Virginia PTA Treasurer

Copies of the audit completed for your PTA for the 2016-2017 fiscal year should be emailed to your Regional Director at your earliest convenience. Remember, this is one of the Standards of Affiliation items the state PTA needs from your unit! They are due within 120 days of the end of your fiscal year, for most units is November 1.

990 Tax Filings

It's also time to complete the 990 for your unit for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. We also are offering to complete the filing on your behalf! Visit the website for more details. The 990N tax filing is due five months and fifteen days after the end of your fiscal year, so for most of our units that is November 15. If you have questions, email Chris Wuest, WV PTA Treasurer, treasurer@westvirginiapta.org with the name of your local unit. She will walk you through the process. We are here to help!

West Virginia PTA is now accepting scholarship applications.

Deadline: December 31, 2017

By: Linda Abercrombie, Scholarship Chair

West Virginia PTA Scholarships are now being accepted for graduating seniors! Did you know the West Virginia PTA gives out \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors each year?



Through the support of our auction at the West Virginia PTA Convention in the spring, we are able to fund several scholarships to deserving students and the recipients will be recognized at the annual awards banquet. Scholarship applications can be downloaded from our website and can be mailed to Linda Abercrombie, our scholarship chairperson. Applications are due December 31, 2017!

See the application for further details by visiting westvirginiapta.org under the scholarship tab.



Missy Jones
2017-2019
President-Elect



Hello from Gassaway, WV. Some of you may be wondering “What has been happening on the Legislative front?” I started my duties with serving on the Teacher of the Year Review Committee. On July 25th the Review Committee narrowed the applications from 33 to 6 finalize. On Sept. 18th President Kathy Parker and I attended The Teacher of the Year Dinner. Congratulations Katlin Thorsell, from Jefferson County, for being named WV’s 2018 Teacher of the Year.

For my term as the Legislative Coordinator, I have decided to concentrate on Health with a focus on Mental Health. On September 22nd and 23rd I attend the Family Lead Change Summit where I made many new contacts that will help me with new opportunities and resources. I am currently working with a team to create a Youth Issues day that will be held in Braxton County in late April or early May.

I have also been working on National PTA’s campaign called #StopCutsToClassrooms. The Legislative Chair across the country has been busy calling or emailing their state representatives about Statewide Family Engagement Centers and ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).

West Virginia PTA Membership Campaign for Diverse Families

By: Ginnie Molnar, Diversity Chair

It’s an exciting time for West Virginia PTA! We have been embarking on a campaign to include parents of Special Needs children as members for the last two years. This year, we are continuing to expand our campaign by including all families of diversity including grandparents, step-parents, foster parents, ethnic families, etc. Every child one voice means every family!



By adopting a proposal to pay state and national dues for two memberships per school for diverse families, we are hoping the local unit will waive their dues so we can begin a journey of being more inclusive. Locals may decide how to choose the members. Please support the inclusion of diverse families in your PTA. If you would like more information or help in this process, you may contact Ginnie Molnar, Diversity Chair at diversity@westvirginiapta.org.

It's Time to Start Promoting the Reflections Program!

"Within Reach"

All children deserve opportunities to explore the arts, so we are proud to promote the Reflections Programs.



The National PTA Reflections program is PTA's cornerstone arts program. It was developed in 1969 by Colorado's PTA President Mary Lou Anderson to encourage students to explore their talents and express themselves. Since then, the Reflections Program has inspired millions of students to reflect on a specific theme and create original artwork.

Each year, students in Grades Pre-K through 12 are recognized for bringing the theme to life through dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. In 2012, the Special Artist Division emerged as an optional division for students whose physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges meet ADA guidelines.

The arts—and the National PTA Reflections program, in particular—can be a valuable tool for building stronger partnerships in your school community



**Deadline to submit
winning school entries to
the West Virginia PTA
statewide contest is
Thursday, February 1, 2018.**

If you are interested in more information about the Reflections program, visit the West Virginia PTA website and you will find links to student entry forms, local leader guides, local PTA registration forms, reference guides, judges rubric, and special artist program flyers.

The WV PTA Reflections Chairperson is Barb Fox at reflections@westvirginiapta.org.
Visit the website for more details: www.westvirginiapta.org/reflections

West Virginia PTA Student Healthy Recipe Challenge



Entries will be accepted
November 1 - January 15, 2018!

Age Divisions:

Primary (K-2)
Intermediate (3-5)
Middle School (6-8)
High School (9-12)

Recipe Categories:

Hearty Breakfast
Nutritious Lunch
Wholesome Dinner
Snacks/Appetizers
Healthy Desserts
Allergy Free Recipes
Best Cooking Video!

West Virginia PTA is looking for original, healthy recipes created by our students! This contest is open to all WV students in grades kindergarten-12 in seven fun categories. Students can enter one recipe in each category and winners will be recognized at the 2018 West Virginia PTA Convention.

Remember, all entries go directly to the state level, there are no school competitions. Visit the West Virginia PTA website for more details or email takeaction@westvirginiapta.org.

The Kids Cook Monday

The Kids Cook Monday program encourages families to set aside the first night of every week for cooking and eating together as a family. It provides examples of family friendly recipes and video demonstrations along with a free starter family dinner toolkit- making it easy for families to cook and eat together every Monday.



Please visit the West Virginia PTA website and look for this link and see how easy the program is and enjoy dinner at home with your family every Monday night! This is great family engagement activity!



West Virginia
PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.[®]



FREE MONTHLY PTA TRAININGS!

Beginning in September, join West Virginia PTA for monthly webinars on topics important to your PTA!

Trainings will take place at designated times each month and will be available to all interested PTA members or officers! Dates and times will soon be made available!

All trainings will be available on the West Virginia PTA website after the live training. More details coming soon!

2017-2018 TRAINING TOPICS

SEPTEMBER

Membership incentives and awards for your units!

OCTOBER

Having a Successful Reflections Program!

NOVEMBER

WV PTA Student Healthy Recipe Contest

DECEMBER

Help with Standards of Affiliation: Bylaws, 990's, Audits, Insurance

JANUARY

Idea Sharing with units all over West Virginia!

FEBRUARY

State PTA Convention!!!!

Johnson Elementary PTA Kindness Matters Project

Submitted by: Belynda Kirby, Johnson Elementary PTA President

At the start of the school year, we determined as a board that we wanted to focus on ways that we could make a difference in our student's lives. We wanted to encourage kindness and awareness of how our actions affect others. From this idea, The Be Kind campaign and committee was formed. After approaching administrators and teachers, we formulated a list of ideas on how we could inspire students to be kind to each other and how to be kind in the community. We have had very successful anti-bullying programs in the past that have worked to raise awareness and have had programs and speakers to support our projects. We decided to take it even further with expanding our focus to kindness.



Our fifth grade teachers approached the PTA with the idea to have the entire fifth grade get sets of the book *Wonder*. It's a book about a student that is different due to physical abnormalities and how he learns to interact with students as they learn to interact with him. The theme of this book is simple basic kindness. In a time where bullying is so prevalent, we agreed that this book was a great read for students to see how actions can affect others. The book mentions kind actions and paying it forward. The fifth grade was able to purchase copies of the books and have begun reading the book in class. In addition, they have started kindness activities such as painting rocks with kind sayings and planting them in the community. PTA was able to sponsor this activity with the donation of paint to complete the project. The students are learning to find kind activities that they can participate in such as a kindness wreath and decorating the hallways with kind messages to each other.



Our Be Kind committee has begun working to focus on the entire health and well-being of our students. We have gifted each classroom with healthy snacks for children to discreetly be given a snack if they did not come to school with a snack. In addition, a parent volunteer gifted our guidance counselor with clothing and school supplies for her to hand out to students that may be in need. We want the campaign to focus on helping the kids feel united and not have to worry about extra outside stress of them not having necessities.

Other projects planned will include painting the bathrooms with encouraging and kind sayings to inspire and build them up, plans to purchase a buddy bench for our playground, and incorporate our spirit week with opportunities for the students to bring in items to donate to the school and community homeless shelters.

Our kindness projects will continue throughout the year and we look to expand as students begin to formulate their own ways to pay it forward and show kindness. We are extremely excited about seeing this program. We will continue to fundraise and collect donations to pay for any additional expenses to fund future kindness projects.



***"Congratulations Johnson Elementary PTA for winning a
"Families Leading Change" Grant to continue your amazing kindness project!"***

BUSINESS Membership

West Virginia PTA is excited to promote their “Business Membership” Program!



West Virginia PTA is launching a special program, “Business for PTA”, to encourage business support of PTA and the children of our community. As a business neighbor, we would like to invite you to become a business partner of West Virginia PTA!

Business for PTA is a special class membership which promotes a different kind of involvement than traditional PTA memberships. The goal of this program is to create better schools and therefore a better education for the students in the community. Many school districts with dwindling budgets are using all the resources at their disposal just to try to make ends meet, and they need help. We feel that PTA and business can provide substantial help, by jointly taking their concerns to school boards, legislators and other policy makers who can influence education reform.

We would like for you to join us and over 5000 PTA members in West Virginia to improve the quality of education. Your business partnership will help in two ways. First, you can help strengthen our child advocacy efforts to reform education values and standards. Second, your partnership will help the West Virginia PTA promote the welfare of our children through special programs and projects not available with our schools' limited budget.



Business memberships will receive invitations to PTA sponsored events, plus recognition at these events, and your company name and logo will be advertised in our newsletter. We will share with the community your support of this coalition, and together we can show how solutions can be forged with business and education partnerships.

Benefits to being a partner:

- Marketing advantages – WVPTA website, Facebook and Convention
- Receive invitation to PTA sponsored events
- Event Advertising
- Certificate awarded for display

Business for PTA partnerships is tax deductible. The partnership will be in the name of the business or one individual that you designate as your representative and the cost is \$150.00.

Visit the link today to sign up! <http://www.westvirginiapta.org/business-membership.shtml>



How can you get involved? Join PTA's Take Action Network

If you don't know how to advocate for your child, here are some easy things you can do. National PTA has lots of resources as well!

- ✓ Join the PTA Takes Action Network to receive action alerts to contact your members of Congress on public policy issues important to PTA and you!
- ✓ Sign up to receive Takes Action E-Newsletters:
 - PTA Takes Action (monthly)
 - Leadership Briefing (monthly)
 - Local Leader News (monthly)
 - PTA Parent (bi-monthly)
 - Member Benefits Provider (bi-monthly)



- ✓ Go to: www.pta.org; under Advocacy – PTA Takes Action Network
- ✓ For advocacy in West Virginia, email takeaction@westvirginiapta.org to receive news on the latest in education!

Why should you host an ESSA Education Event in your school or community?

West Virginia PTA is working on educating all parents in our state on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), College and Career Readiness (CCRI), and how you can expand upon your advocacy efforts in your community. There is NO COST and we'll even bring the refreshments!

Parents likely have questions about ESSA and what that means for their child and school. For the first time, ESSA acknowledges the critical role that parents and other community members play in student success by requiring that they are involved in the implementation process. As a PTA leader, you can educate and empower families to be informed and get involved in the implementation of the new law. If you'd like to learn more about the standards and assessments or schedule a workshop at your school, please email takeaction@westvirginiapta.org.

West Virginia PTA Board of Managers Directory

Executive Committee

President	Kathy Parker	Email: president@westvirginiapta.org
President-Elect	Missy Jones	Email: presidentelect@westvirginiapta.org
1 st Vice President	Dani Hancock	Email: bylaws@westvirginiapta.org
2 nd Vice President	Rose Rossana	Email: membership@westvirginiapta.org
Secretary	Karen Sherman	Email: secretary@westvirginiapta.org
Treasurer	Chris Wuest	Email: treasurer@westvirginiapta.org
At Large Member	Craig Arnold	Email: atlargemember@westvirginiapta.org

Regional Directors

Central	Jennifer Dobbins	Email: centraldirector@westvirginiapta.org
Eastern	Angela Zimmerman	Email: easterndirector@westvirginiapta.org
North Central	Cecelia Daugherty	Email: northcentraldirector@westvirginiapta.org
Northern	Amy Folk	Email: northerndirector@westvirginiapta.org
Southern/Southwestern	Danyail Maynard	Email: southerndirector@westvirginiapta.org
Western	Ponnie Sampson	Email: westerndirector@westvirginiapta.org

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Marketing	Janelle Sperry	Email: marketing@westvirginiapta.org
Diversity	Ginnie Molnar	Email: diversity@westvirginiapta.org
Office Coordinator	Ponnie Sampson	Email: office@westvirginiapta.org
Scholarship	Linda Abercrombie	Email: scholarship@westvirginiapta.org
Resource Development	Beth Anderson	Email: resourcedevelopment@westvirginiapta.org
Reflections	Barb Fox	Email: reflections@westvirginiapta.org
Youth Member	Elizabeth Sperry	Email: youthmember@westvirginiapta.org

College and Career Readiness Team

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Partnerships	Kathy Parker	Email: president@westvirginiapta.org
Education/Trainings	Rose Rossana	Email: membership@westvirginiapta.org
Communications	Karen Sherman	Email: communications@westvirginiapta.org

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