**The Benefits of PTA**

# Having an affiliation with West Virginia PTA and National PTA your local unit has access to many programs, benefits and resources:

* **As a PTA**, **a local unit receives many benefits of being affiliated with West Virginia PTA and National PTA, including: reduced liability and bonding insurance, valuable resources such as the Official PTA kit, the Great Idea Bank, membership support and much more! By paying membership dues of $3.75 per member, a PTA receives all PTA resources for free, and reduced priced insurance premiums of $165. If your local PTA has 75 members, they receive all PTA benefits, awards, and more for less than $300. After paying membership dues and insurance, PTA will save over $250 a year!** *A PTO has higher insurance rates because they are an independent organization. PTO does not have the network of local and state organizations’. To obtain resources from PTO Today, a local must pay yearly dues of $199 and they are required to purchase PTO Today Insurance, which ranges from $589 to $775. Through AIM, PTO insurance is at least $100 more than PTA’s group discount plan.*
* **As a PTA**, **a local unit is not required to pay the determination fee for obtaining their 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. The fee can range from $400 to $800 depending on the organizations gross receipts. Your local unit also receives the West Virginia PTAs IRS Group Exemption Letter.** *PTO does not offer this benefit because there is no affiliate organization. A new PTO must register for a federal employer’s identification number before applying for 501(c)(3) status.*
* **As a PTA**, **a local unit receives free support and leadership training for its officers and members. West Virginia PTA offers various forms of training to its units**. *PTO does not offer free support or trainings. Because there is no affiliate organization, a PTO does not receive any support for its leadership or members. All PTO trainings are held in various parts of the country and have high registration costs.*
* **As a PTA**, **a local unit receives, free of charge, all PTA programs and resources, such as: Reflections, *Our Children* Magazine, Three for Me, Just Between Friends, Healthy Lifestyles, National PTA leadership resources, PTA’s award winning website:** [**www.pta.org,**](http://www.pta.org/) **various award programs, and much more!** *PTO does not offer any resources or programs for free to local units. PTO Today is a for-­‐profit organization.*
* **As a PTA, a local unit can offer many benefits to its members: Low membership costs, which include valuable benefits such as: discounts to Hertz rental car discounts, MetLife Insurance, *Parenting* Magazine, and official PTA events, such as state and national conventions. Members also receive for free all National PTA electronic newsletters and access to the Members’ Only section of PTA.org.** *Often, PTO dues are more expensive because of the increased cost of operating a PTO to obtain the costly resources that have been adapted from the free resources that PTA offers all of its units.*
* **PTA is comprised of more than 5 million members in 24,000 local units.** All local unit PTAs and their members receive valuable information, support and benefits. Although all parent group’s work to better their schools and communities, PTA goes further. PTA has a structure to support all levels of the organization through grants, support and training at no cost to local units. PTA goes even further to advocate for children, families, teachers, schools and the community. We as PTA fight for full funding of education, federal and state programs, quality teachers and capabilities for schools to thrive. Through PTA, we work together at the local, state and federal levels. With your support, PTA can do so much!

# If you have any questions about becoming a PTA, please call the West Virginia PTA at (304) 420-­‐9577.

**Remember that through PTA, we can make every child’s**

**potential a reality.**