

# West Virginia PTA Newsletter

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## President's Message



**Janelle Sperry**  
WV PTA President  
2015-2017

In July, your West Virginia PTA Board of Managers met to plan out the next school year and we are very excited about what we have in store for you! Our goal is to continue ensuring that each local unit receives the valuable resources that are needed to make the most out of your PTA this year. We also realize the importance of the latest technology and need for great communication in making your positions run as efficiently as possible. Therefore, we are kicking off our new school year with the theme "Get Connected with PTA!"

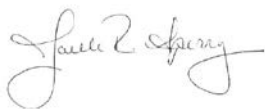
In this edition of our bulletin, we have included the essential items to beginning your new year. Be sure to update your unit's new officer information on the website and order your 2016-2017 National PTA Back-to-School Kit to ensure your PTA stays up-to-date with the latest information for your unit. Visit our website, [www.westvirginiapta.org](http://www.westvirginiapta.org), and complete the local unit officer form online for your convenience. By updating West Virginia PTA with your officer information each year, your PTA receives valuable information on programs, resources, scholarships, deadlines, contests, exclusive PTA benefits, convention information, and much more!

Remember to save the date for the Regional Training in your area. Aside from officer training, you will receive information about the wonderful programs available for students including Reflections and the Student Healthy Recipe Challenge, discover the many resources available, network with other PTA officers in your region, and receive your membership cards and local unit binders! Your Regional Training is the key to starting off your year with great success so you do not want to miss it!

Since membership is so important to our association, West Virginia PTA is proud to announce our 2016-2017 Membership Campaign that will reward PTAs in every region for their membership successes! Every PTA has the opportunity to be recognized and we are excited to announce we are also offering monthly prizes as well as recognition at the state convention! We know how hard you work getting PTA members each year, and we want to thank you and reward your efforts! Check out the great rewards your unit can win in this edition of our bulletin, as well as the state website.

In furthering our mission and our theme this year, there are many different ways to become connected with PTA and we would like to begin with our members. Over the years, the biggest question I have been asked more than any other is the difference between PTA and other parent organizations. I have realized that we need to do a better job showing the value of our association to every member so they can understand why our membership dues are so important. All of our members across West Virginia need to see how successfully each of you are volunteering in your schools, the recognitions you're receiving, and hearing about the wonderful programs you've initiated. We are proud of our local units and it's time to begin sharing this news with our 5000 plus members so they can learn the true value of their PTA membership. I am excited and looking forward to working with all of you this year. Thank you for all you do for our children.

Yours in PTA,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janelle Sperry".

Janelle Sperry  
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.*

## West Virginia PTA Membership Campaign for Diverse Families

By: Ginnie Molnar, Diversity Chair

The West Virginia PTA is embarking on a campaign to include families of diversity, including children with special needs, into the PTA.



***Peggy Molnar introducing Enrique Escallon, National PTA, at the 2016 State Convention!***

The Board of Managers adopted a proposal to pay state and national dues for two memberships per school for diverse families. We are hoping that each local unit will waive their dues portion so we can begin a journey of being more inclusive to these families!

Each local unit may decide how to choose the two memberships. Once they have been selected, please include their names and contact information with your monthly membership dues form for that month, so that we can send them valuable resources. This is an exciting time for West Virginia PTA! Please support the inclusion of a diverse family in your local unit and promote this offer. Diversity can mean a wide range of descriptions including special needs and disabilities, race, ethnicity, language, religion, and even grandparents and foster parents!

The West Virginia PTA developed a diversity committee as a focus during the 2015-2017 term. Furthermore, the committee is developing informational workshops for diverse families at the State Convention in Morgantown at the Lakeview Golf Resort on March 24-25, 2017. The conference will be for both parents and children. Parents will receive valuable training and information and children would have an opportunity to be engaged in activities including music, painting, cooking, and STEM!

Our goal is to provide parents the many resources they need to become educated on what is available to their children. We will continue to provide resources on our state website ([www.westvirginiapta.org](http://www.westvirginiapta.org)) including our diversity toolkit, to hopefully give our families everything they need to ensure their children's success in school.

The committee is very excited about the upcoming year. If you would like to be a part of this new adventure, please contact Ginnie Molnar at [diversity@westvirginiapta.org](mailto:diversity@westvirginiapta.org).

## National PTA Official Back-to-School Kit

The National PTA Official Back to School Kit is digital! The easy-to-use quick reference guides will help PTA leaders implement all the important strategies and functions of their PTA. This kit contains resources and leadership tools and is designed to assist your executive team in meeting critical benchmarks and goals to ensure each student's success this year.

Please visit: <http://www.ptakit.org> and each guide below can be downloaded and printed for your review! Items included in this resource are:

- PTA President
- Finance
- Membership
- Programs
- Fundraising
- Advocacy
- Communications



National PTA is also a great resource for more general information like running your PTA, fundraising ideas through the fundraising marketplace, training and learning through e-learning, information on how to diversity your PTA, and many programs and grant opportunities. You can follow National PTA on Facebook, Twitter and by checking out the website at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

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## Introducing the NEW West Virginia PTA Resource Library!



One of the most popular requests at our state convention each year is a workshop for "Idea Sharing". You want to know what other PTA's around the state are doing so you can get fresh, new ideas and bring them back to your local units!

We have created a RESOURCE LIBRARY on the West Virginia PTA website just for your ideas! Email [library@westvirginiapta.org](mailto:library@westvirginiapta.org) and include your event flyers and notes about your favorite activities including membership campaigns, fundraising ideas, bulletin board ideas, family engagement nights, back to school picnics, etc.

We will include them in our resource library on the website so you can "idea share" all throughout the year! Now we just need your submissions! They can be sent as PDF's or as a Microsoft Word document. We will take care of the rest!

## Join West Virginia PTA around the state as we travel to your regions to present Regional Trainings!



- WESTERN:** Thursday, August 4 at 6 pm  
Fairplains Elementary School  
615 Broadway Ave, Parkersburg, WV 26101
- CENTRAL & NORTHCENTRAL:** Sunday, August 14 at 6pm  
Best Western Plus, Bridgeport  
100 Lodgeville Rd, Bridgeport, WV 26330
- SOUTHERN & SOUTHWESTERN:** Monday, August 15 at 6 pm  
Lakeside Elementary  
2550 US-60, Hurricane, WV 25526
- EASTERN:** Thursday, August 25 at 6 pm  
Mountain Ridge Middle School  
2771 Gerrardstown Road, Gerrardstown, WV 25420
- NORTHERN:** To be determined!



*West Virginia PTA wishes to thank Med Express for printing our 2016-2017 Membership Cards for our members again this year! We appreciate your continuous support of our PTA members throughout West Virginia!*



# 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 and 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!

## 2016-2017 TRAINING TOPICS

### SEPTEMBER

Membership Incentives and Awards for your unit!

### OCTOBER

Having a Successful Reflections Program!

### NOVEMBER

All about the WV PTA Student Healthy Recipe Challenge!

### DECEMBER

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

### JANUARY

Idea Sharing with units all over West Virginia!

### FEBRUARY

State PTA Convention!!!!

# 2016-2017 Membership Challenge and Incentive Program



Check out the  
**NEW MONTHLY  
MEMBERSHIP CONTESTS ON THE  
FOLLOWING PAGE!**



Your PTA can win great prizes each month including gift certificates to the WV PTA Store, PTA Pad/Portfolio, an Embroidered Bag, Official PTA Tablecloth with your schools name, a \$415.00 Watch DOGS Startup Kit, and even **FREE Convention Registrations!!**

At the 2017 West Virginia PTA Convention, your PTA can also be honored for your membership increase!

Here's two ways of winning!

One PTA in **each** region will be recognized for having the highest membership increase based on percentage!



The **largest** PTA in West Virginia will be recognized with the West Virginia PTA Traveling Trophy!

## **NEW! MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES**

Each month, a different membership incentive will be offered to all units! One winner will be randomly selected from all eligible units each month and will receive the prize indicated below as well as be recognized on the West Virginia PTA Facebook page, State PTA Website and an email “shout out” to all members! These are some of the upcoming prizes!

### **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 2017 West Virginia PTA Convention in Morgantown! (Memberships postmarked by December 31, 2016)

### **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!** ***\$415.00 WATCH DOGS START-UP KIT WITH FREE TRAINING***

It's March Madness and Focus on Fathers Time! We want to reward our units that recognize the importance of male involvement! All units that submitted the WV PTA Awards Package by February 1 and have 30% of membership comprised of fathers/male guardians, will be eligible to win!

Remember to budget for the 2017 State PTA Convention! This is a legitimate PTA expense where you receive valuable leadership training, network with other PTA's from across West Virginia, support your Reflections and Student Healthy Recipe Challenge winners, and receive your own Local Unit PTA awards! More details about this year's convention coming soon!

## “2017 WV PTA CONVENTION”

**Where:** Lakeview Golf Resort & Spa  
Morgantown, WV

**When:** March 24-25, 2017

**Theme:** “Getting Connected with PTA”



Make plans now to attend the 94th Annual Convention of the West Virginia PTA

Be sure this event is included in your PTA's budget for this year. Convention is training and that is a legitimate use of PTA funds. Attending convention allows you to receive great training, meet new leaders, and work to build your membership!

## Have you updated your Local Unit Officer Information online?

### **Why is it important to complete this form?**

*Having your officer's current information helps us keep you informed of vital information you need about resources, programs, awards, incentives, and much more!*

### **Do I need to fill it out if our officers stayed the same?**

*Each year we need to ensure we have the most accurate information for all PTA's, even if your information didn't change. We want to make sure you receive everything you need to run your unit successfully!*

### **What if we have a mid-year change?**

*Just notify us with our on-line form! Simply go to the link and update the information. It's that easy!*



West Virginia PTA maintains all of the essential filings for your PTA! Through our Standards of Affiliation, all local units have a central location to ensure you are meeting federal guidelines as a 501(c)(3) entity.

Each local unit or county council PTA must be in good standing with West Virginia PTA to continue to operate as a PTA and as a tax-exempt organization. In order to remain in good standing, West Virginia PTA requires six easy steps to ensure your PTA is compliant:

- Submit the annual Local Unit Officer Form (now online!);
- Submit membership dues monthly, with a payment of a minimum of ten members by October 1 of each year;
- Submit an annual review/audit of the PTA’s financial records;
- Submit a copy of the annual 990 form or e-postcard;
- Submit proof of your bonding and liability insurance (if your PTA uses AIM, your information is provided automatically by AIM); and
- Submit bylaws for approval every three years.

Being in good standing is easy! It is our goal at West Virginia PTA to ensure that your PTA is running effectively and within the requirements of the government. Please use the chart below to track your Standards of Affiliation. You may direct all questions to [info@westvirginiapta.org](mailto:info@westvirginiapta.org).



**This is effective July 11, 2015**

**Local Unit and County Council Standards of Affiliation**

To be eligible for donations and grants, tax exempt status, and to remain a PTA, all local units and county councils need to be in "good standing" with the West Virginia PTA. The following items must be sent to West Virginia PTA by email [office@westvirginiapta.org](mailto:office@westvirginiapta.org) or mail to P.O. Box 3557, Parkersburg, WV 26103-3557 or fax to (304)420-9577.

Name of PTA \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Format Sent	Due to WVPTA Office	Date Sent	Notes
Local Unit Officer Form	Electronically, mail or fax	July 1st		Must have new form every year even if there are no changes
Membership Dues (for local units only)	Mail, with Dues Reporting Form	Monthly (only if reporting new members)		Payment of a minimum 10 members must be received by October 1 <sup>st</sup>
Review/Audit of Finance Records	Electronically, mail or fax	120 days after end of fiscal year		Refer to Money Matters Guide
Copy of IRS 990 form	Electronically, mail or fax	30 days after submission to the IRS		Extensions filed with the IRS must be filed with WVPTA
Proof of general liability and bonding insurance	Electronically, mail or fax	Annually		Each local unit is required to submit proof of insurance by October 1 <sup>st</sup>
Bylaws	Electronically with signature page mailed, or entire packet mailed	Every three years		Bylaws should be reviewed and submitted for approval

*A benefit of being a PTA is a central location for all of your important paperwork. As part of our service to you, all information will be kept in each unit/council's file.*

7/2015



everychild.one voice.®

The West Virginia PTA has a wide variety of programs available to our students this year!

[www.westvirginiapta.org](http://www.westvirginiapta.org)

## PTA Reflections Program

The National PTA Reflections program is PTA's cornerstone arts program. It inspires millions of students to reflect on a specific theme and create original artwork. Each year, students are recognized for bringing the theme to life through six different categories. In 2012, the Special Artist Division emerged as an optional division for students whose physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges meet ADA guidelines.

Visit [www.westvirginiapta.org](http://www.westvirginiapta.org) click on Programs, Reflections, and you'll find all the resources you need including forms, rules and regulations. If your school does not have a PTA, please email [reflections@westvirginiapta.org](mailto:reflections@westvirginiapta.org) for more details.



## Student Healthy Recipe Challenge

Entries will be accepted until January 15, 2017!

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 2017 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 [office@westvirginiapta.org](mailto:office@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 see how easy the program is and enjoy dinner at home with your family every Monday night! This is a great family engagement activity!





**West Virginia**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild. one voice.®*



Have you heard about the new resources from West Virginia PTA?

Our website has been **REDESIGNED** with more resources including:

- Programs, Forms, Toolkits
- Health & Safety
- Family Engagement Ideas
- Student Recipe Challenge
- Reflections
- Diversity (Special Needs)
- Resource Library (for Idea Sharing)
- National PTA Resources
- and much more!

Web addresses you'll need to stay up-to-date with news from the West Virginia PTA!

- Website: [www.westvirginiapta.org](http://www.westvirginiapta.org)
- Pinterest: [www.pinterest.com/westvirginiapta](http://www.pinterest.com/westvirginiapta)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/westvirginiapta](http://www.facebook.com/westvirginiapta)
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/westvirginiapta](http://www.twitter.com/westvirginiapta)



**Executive Committee**

President	Janelle Sperry	Email: <a href="mailto:president@westvirginiapta.org">president@westvirginiapta.org</a>
President-Elect	Kathy Parker	Email: <a href="mailto:presidentelect@westvirginiapta.org">presidentelect@westvirginiapta.org</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Missy Jones	Email: <a href="mailto:bylaws@westvirginiapta.org">bylaws@westvirginiapta.org</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Ponnie Sampson	Email: <a href="mailto:membership@westvirginiapta.org">membership@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Secretary	Dani Hancock	Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@westvirginiapta.org">secretary@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Treasurer	Chris Wuest	Email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@westvirginiapta.org">treasurer@westvirginiapta.org</a>
At Large Member	Karen Sherman	Email: <a href="mailto:atlargemember@westvirginiapta.org">atlargemember@westvirginiapta.org</a>

**Regional Directors**

Central	Missy Jones (acting)	Email: <a href="mailto:bylaws@westvirginiapta.org">bylaws@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Eastern	Bryan Anderson	Email: <a href="mailto:easterndirector@westvirginiapta.org">easterndirector@westvirginiapta.org</a>
North Central	Rose Rossana	Email: <a href="mailto:northcentraldirector@westvirginiapta.org">northcentraldirector@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Northern	Diane Klinger	Email: <a href="mailto:northerndirector@westvirginiapta.org">northerndirector@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Southern/Southwestern	Danyail Maynard	Email: <a href="mailto:southerndirector@westvirginiapta.org">southerndirector@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Western	Vacant	

**Committee Chairpersons**

Marketing	Beth Anderson	Email: <a href="mailto:marketing@westvirginiapta.org">marketing@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Diversity	Ginnie Molnar	Email: <a href="mailto:diversity@westvirginiapta.org">diversity@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Health & Safety	Jean Parr	Email: <a href="mailto:healthandsafety@westvirginiapta.org">healthandsafety@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Office Coordinator	Vacant	Email: <a href="mailto:office@westvirginiapta.org">office@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Parent/Family Engagement	Craig Arnold	Email: <a href="mailto:parentandfamily@westvirginiapta.org">parentandfamily@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Parliamentarian	Judy Snider	Email: <a href="mailto:parliamentarian@westvirginiapta.org">parliamentarian@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Scholarship	Linda Abercrombie	Email: <a href="mailto:scholarship@westvirginiapta.org">scholarship@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Resource Development	Amy Arnold	Email: <a href="mailto:resourcedevelopment@westvirginiapta.org">resourcedevelopment@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Reflections	Billie Jo Bagnell	Email: <a href="mailto:reflections@westvirginiapta.org">reflections@westvirginiapta.org</a>
Youth Member	Gabi Hancock	Email: <a href="mailto:youthmember@westvirginiapta.org">youthmember@westvirginiapta.org</a>

**Office**

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West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3557  
Parkersburg, WV 26103-3557

Nonprofit Organization  
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