

94th Annual West Virginia PTA Convention



“Call to Convention”

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
WORKSHOPS & SCHEDULES

March 24-25, 2017
Lakeview Golf Resort ~ Morgantown

Invitation to Convention March 24-25, 2017

Dear PTA Presidents and Officers, PTA Members, Teachers, and Principals,

The West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., hereby calls its members to send delegates and representatives to the 94th Annual West Virginia PTA Convention in Morgantown, WV, March 24-25, 2017.

On behalf of the West Virginia PTA Board of Managers, I invite and encourage your PTAs to attend this year! Convention is a great opportunity to become more engaged in PTA, attend relevant workshops, receive leadership development, attend the business meetings of the association, and be motivated by outstanding keynote speakers and presenters. The state convention is great for leaders at all levels. Any and all PTA members including our youth are welcome to join us!



Janelle Sperry
WV PTA President
2015-2017

Whether this will be your first convention or you have attended in the past, convention is rewarding and inspiring! This year, we have listened to your requests and are providing professional speakers on the latest topics surrounding education and the needs of our children. For some fun after a long day of workshops and meetings, we will be hosting a fun 80's Theme Dinner on Friday evening followed by Game Night so make sure to pack 80's clothes or costumes! You will find a great schedule of events in this Call to Convention that will conclude with the Awards Banquet featuring Toni Poling, 2017 West Virginia Teacher of the Year, delivering the keynote address and the Scholarship Auction featuring donations from PTAs across the state!

Professional speakers will present information in a panel discussion on understanding the ins and outs of the special education process in the school system, as well as provide additional information and resources for our special needs families again this year. It is our mission to include all families in the PTA and we are eager to continue improving our convention. We are also honored to have Christine McComas, the mother of Grace McComas, a teenager who committed suicide after being cyberbullied, as a guest speaker to discuss Grace's Law. We are proud to present this landmark legislation into the West Virginia legislature this session making it a criminal offense to cyberbully a minor.

The theme of this year's convention, "Get Connected with PTA," will remind our delegates how important it is that we "stay connected" with our children, our teachers, our principals, and our schools. As parents, we are the best advocates that will speak up for what's best for our children, so we need to continually stay educated and involved in our children's lives moving into the future.

In this Call to Convention, you will find essential items for attending convention which include hotel accommodations, registration form, the tentative schedule of events, and information about our workshops and presenters. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the 94th Annual West Virginia PTA Convention!

Yours in PTA,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janelle Sperry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janelle Sperry
West Virginia PTA 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.



THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Meet the WV PTA Board

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017

8:00 am - 8:30 am First Timers' Orientation
8:30 am - 10:00 am **General Session I**
9:00 am - 5:00 pm Vendor Hall Open
10:15 am - 11:00 am Workshops - Session 1
11:15 am - 12:00 pm Workshops - Session 2
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm Luncheon
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Dedicated Vendor Time!
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm **General Session II**
with Panel Discussion
“Latest in WV Education”
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Meet the Candidates
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 80’s Themed Vendor
Dinner/Game Night

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

7:30 am - 9:30 am Polls Open - Election
8:45 am - 9:30 am Workshops - Session 3
9:00 am - 11:00 am Special Needs Panel Discussion
9:45 am - 10:30 am Workshops - Session 4
10:45 am - 11:30 am Workshops - Session 5
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Student Awards Luncheon
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm Speaker: Cyberbullying
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm **General Session III**
with Panel Discussion
“Innovations in Learning”
6:00 pm - 6:30 pm Doors Open - Awards Banquet
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Awards Banquet
Scholarship Auction

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

*There is a separate schedule for
youth attendees!*

80’s Themed Vendor Reception & Game Night!

Dress in your favorite 80’s
clothing or costume and enjoy
a vendor reception followed
by game night!

~

Awards Banquet and Scholarship Auction

The official end of our
Convention where students,
volunteers, educators, and
PTAs are recognized for their
hard work followed by our
scholarship auction!

YOUTH SCHEDULE

West Virginia PTA welcomes our youth to attend and participate in their own Youth Workshops and activities! Encourage your youth to participate in this year's convention!



Youth Workshops will include cyberbullying, learning to paint, music, hands-on healthy food making workshop, scavenger hunt, and more!

Bring Your Own Device!

Our Youth will have their own “youth lounge”. On Friday afternoon they will have time to relax and play video games and old-school board games together!

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017

8:00 am – 8:30 am	First Timer's Orientation
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Workshop – STEM Activity
10:15 am – 10:45 am	Workshop - Cyberbullying “Project Connect”
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	Workshop - Learning to Paint!
12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	Luncheon
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Dedicated Vendor Time
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Youth Game Time
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Meet the Candidates
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	80's Themed Vendor Dinner Reception & Game Night

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

9:00 am - 10:00 am	“Workshop with Tony M Music!”
10:00 am - 11:30 am	“Hands-On Healthy Foods” Cooking Workshop by Pam Shank
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Student Awards Luncheon
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	<u>Speaker</u> : Cyberbullying “Project Connect” / Grace's Law
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Youth Lounge (Movie Time!)
6:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Doors Open for Awards Banquet
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Awards Banquet followed by the Scholarship Auction

**WVPTA is not responsible for any loss or damage to electronic devices brought to convention by our youth attendees.*

Registration Fees & Meal Descriptions

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION PACKAGE!!!!

POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017

\$ 90.00 PTA MEMBER PACKAGE INCLUDES FOUR (4) MEALS:
Registration Fee, Friday Luncheon, Breaks, Friday Evening
80's Themed Vendor Reception and Game Night, Student
Awards Luncheon, and Awards Banquet.

\$ 45.00 SATURDAY ONLY PTA MEMBER PACKAGE WITH (2) MEALS:
Registration Fee for Saturday workshops and meetings,
Student Awards Luncheon and Awards Banquet

\$50.00 STUDENT MEMBER PACKAGE OR \$25.00 FOR SATURDAY ONLY
Registration Fee, Friday Luncheon, Breaks, Friday Evening
80's Themed Vendor Reception and Game Night, Student
Awards Luncheon, and Awards Banquet.



OPTION 2: REGISTRATION ONLY (with no meals)

Early Bird Registration:

- \$ 60.00 Registration (PTA member)
- \$ 80.00 Registration (Non-PTA member)
- \$ 25.00 Registration (Students)

On-Site Registration or Registration form/payment postmarked after March 3, 2017:

- \$ 80.00 Registration (PTA member)
- \$100.00 Registration (Non-PTA member)
- \$ 35.00 Registration (Students)

NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS



OPTION 3: MEALS ONLY (with no registration fee)

Friday Luncheon	\$15.00
80's Themed Vendor Reception and Game Night (Friday)	\$30.00
Student Awards Recognition Luncheon (Saturday)	\$15.00
Adult - Awards Banquet (Saturday)	\$30.00
Child – Vendor Reception and Awards Banquet, per event	\$15.00

MEAL DESCRIPTIONS: *Note: Children and adults may choose an alternative of chicken tenders, french fries and salad on Friday and/or Saturday evening, if desired. Please indicate on registration form.*

Friday Luncheon – Deli Sandwiches (ham, turkey or roast beef) with American or Swiss Cheese served with potato chips, tossed garden salad with fresh veggies and assorted dressings, chicken noodle soup, vegetable soup, dessert and drink.

Friday Evening Dinner Reception – Baked ham and beef stroganoff over noodles, potatoes, seasoned vegetables, cucumber salad, seasonal cubed fruit, dessert, and drink.

Saturday Reflections Luncheon – Rigatoni with meatballs, tossed salad, breadsticks, dessert, and drink.

Saturday Awards Banquet – Sliced sirloin of beef and stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned vegetables, salad, dessert, and drink.

Hotel Information and Directions

The 2017 West Virginia PTA Convention will be held at the Lakeview Golf Resort and Spa in Morgantown, WV. A group rate of \$89 (plus applicable taxes) is available to convention attendees. In order to receive the group rate, **please book your overnight lodging directly with the hotel no later than February 24, 2017**. Remember to identify “WV PTA Convention” to receive the discounted rate! Price includes double occupancy and increases \$10.00 per person with a maximum of four (4) people per room. For example, four people in a room would cost \$109.00. The Lakeview Resort has complimentary parking and wireless Internet throughout the building.

Refrigerator/microwave are available in rooms on a first come, first serve basis for a \$10 charge. Hot breakfast for up to two (2) people is included in the room rate. (A free hospitality area will be available with pre-packaged items as well). Checks payable to Lakeview Golf Resort and Spa will be accepted from your local PTA. To avoid sales tax, please bring your completed tax exempt form at check-in.

Lakeview Golf Resort and Spa
1 Lakeview Drive, Morgantown, WV 26508
(304) 594-1111
www.lakeviewresort.com
Group Code: “WV PTA Convention”



[Directions from the Eastern Region:](#)

Take 81 North and turn onto I-70W Exit, Exit 4B, toward Hancock. Merge onto I-68W, Exit 1A on the left toward Cumberland. Take Exit 10 toward Cheat Lake/Uniontown PA. Take Exit 1 toward County Highway-857 Cheat Lake/Fairchance Rd. Turn left onto County Hwy-88/1 Bowers Lane. Turn right onto Fairchance Rd – County Hwy-857. Turn left onto Lakeview Manor Drive which turns into Lakeview Drive! (Look for huge sign for Lakeview Resort)

[Directions from the Western Region:](#)

Merge onto US-50 East toward Clarksburg. Merge onto I-79N toward Fairmont. Merge onto I-68 East via exit 148 toward Cumberland. Take exit 7 toward WV- 705/Airport/Pierpont Rd. Turn right onto Cheat Road/County Hwy-857. Continue to follow County Hwy- 857. Turn right onto Lakeview Manor Drive which turns into Lakeview Drive! (Look for huge sign for Lakeview Resort)

[Directions from the Southern Region:](#)

Merge onto I-64 toward I-77/I-79/Beckley. Merge onto I-77N via exit 59 on the left toward I-79 Parkersburg. Take I-79N via exit 104 toward Clarksburg. Merge onto I-68 East via exit 148 toward Cumberland. Take exit 7 toward WV- 705/Airport/Pierpont Rd. Turn right onto Cheat Road/County Hwy-857. Continue to follow County Hwy-857. Turn right onto Lakeview Manor Drive which turns into Lakeview Drive! (Look for huge sign for Lakeview Resort)

[Directions from the Northern Region:](#)

Merge onto I-70 East toward New Stanton. Merge onto I-79 South via /Exit 21 toward I-79 South/Morgantown. Merge onto I-68 East via exit 148 toward Cumberland. Take exit 7 toward WV- 705/Airport/Pierpont Rd. Turn right onto Cheat Road/County Hwy-857. Continue to follow County Hwy-857. Turn right onto Lakeview Manor Drive which turns into Lakeview Drive!

Scholarship Basket Donations from Each Unit!

The Annual West Virginia PTA Scholarship Auction is being held Saturday, March 25, immediately following the awards banquet and is open to the public!

Proceeds from the auction benefit the West Virginia PTA Scholarship Fund. Recipients of the West Virginia PTA Scholarship will be recognized during the Awards Banquet on Saturday. All local units, County Councils and individual PTA members are encouraged to donate items to the auction. Please bring your items to the convention. You may leave them at the registration desk upon arrival.

Please remember to label your donation with a tag or card listing your name and/or school and amount of the donated item. For further information, please contact the West Virginia PTA Scholarship Chair, Linda Abercrombie at scholarship@westvirginiapta.org.

Basket theme ideas include:

Gardening Baskets	Cooking
Chocolate Lovers	Italian Themed
Book Lovers	Toys
Game Night	Kitchen Utensil
Movie Night	Food – Cake Pops/Fudge!
Sports	Cookie Baking
Beach	School Supplies
Relaxation	WVU Theme
Dog/Cat	BBQ Lovers
Camping	School Supplies



Registration, PTA Shop, Vendor and Hospitality Hours

Thursday, March 23

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Registration and PTA Shop

Friday, March 24

8:00 am - 8:30 am Registration and PTA Shop

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Vendor Expo/Hospitality

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Registration and PTA Shop

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Registration and PTA Shop

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration and PTA Shop

Saturday, March 25

8:00 am - 10:00 am Registration and PTA Shop

8:00 am - 12:00 pm Vendor Expo/Hospitality

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Registration and PTA Shop



This year the Hospitality Suite, provided by the West Virginia PTA, will be set up in the Vendor Hall and will be available during all open hours of the exhibit area! It will include snacks, fruit and drinks throughout the convention for our delegates at the hours listed.

T-Shirt and Door Decorating Contests

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Join your fellow PTA members during General Session III on Saturday by designing and wearing a custom made t-shirt for your PTA showing your spirit!

A prize will be awarded to the individual or group with the best shirt design!

This will be a great opportunity to have fun, network, and learn about your fellow PTA members! All you need to do is come up with a t-shirt design for your delegates to wear at Saturday's General Session!



DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

We've brought back the famous "Door Decorating Contest"! Join your fellow PTA members by decorating your hotel room door around this year's theme "Get Connected with PTA"!

A prize will be awarded to the room with the most creative door decorating!

Remember to use tape that will not destroy your door and can be easily removed. Any damage to your door will be your responsibility. There are plenty of alternatives to use that will not cause damage and can be easily removed.

Let's show everyone at Lakeview Golf Resort that we are filling the hotel with PTA members! Judging will take place Saturday morning and winners will be announced at General Session III. Have fun!



You are invited to the

West Virginia PTA Student Awards Recognition Luncheon

Honoring

**West Virginia PTA Reflections
and Student Healthy Recipe Winners**

**Where: Lakeview Resort
Reflections Ballroom**

When: Saturday, March 25

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

***Luncheon cost is included in
Early bird registration package**



Keynote Speakers



Michael J. Martirano, EdD., WV Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Michael Martirano began serving as West Virginia's 30th state superintendent of schools in September 2014. Martirano has been an educator for 30 years and has amassed a wide range of educational and administrative experience through his work as a science teacher, principal and visiting professor at John Hopkins University. Most recently, he served as superintendent of St. Mary's County Public Schools in Leonardtown, Maryland.

As a risk-taker and innovator; he consistently focuses his energy on improving academic success and building positive relationships. He was selected the 2009 Superintendent of the Year in Maryland and a 2010 Innovator of the Year by the Maryland Daily Record.

Martirano holds a Doctorate of Education degree in school management and instructional leadership from Nova, Southeastern University, two Masters of Education degrees and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland.



Jim Accomando, National PTA President-Elect

James L. Accomando was elected and installed on the National PTA® Board of Directors at the June 2013 National PTA Convention. Currently president of the CT PTSA, a member of the National PTA Standards of Affiliation Committee and the Connecticut Coalition for Public Schools, Accomando was instrumental in the Snow Flakes for Sandy Hook Elementary School Healing Initiative.

Prior to his election, Accomando served on the CT PTSA Board & Executive Committee and was a board member and executive at both Holland Hill Elementary School and Tomlinson Middle School. Community is especially important to Accomando, who coached youth hockey, soccer, baseball, basketball and swimming and has been involved with Americares, Junior Achievement and was a YMCA Guide.

Once an Eagle Scout, he remains an executive board member and VP of finance for the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America and is a proud recipient of the Triple Crown High Adventure Award from the Boy Scouts of America.



Toni Poling – 2017 West Virginia Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Toni Poling was born in Clarksburg, WV. A 1999 graduate of Doddridge County High School, and the first in her family to attend college, she attended WVU's 5-Year Teacher Education Program, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Master of Arts degree in Secondary Education.

After graduating Cum Laude from WVU, Toni taught for one-year each at both Doddridge County High School and Ritchie County High School before returning to Fairmont Senior High in 2006 where she currently teaches AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition, and serves in a number of leadership positions. In 2013, she achieved her National Board Certification, and in 2016 earned her certification in Public School Administration.

Poling was named Fairmont Senior High School's Teacher of the Year and Marion County Teacher of the Year, and is currently serving as the 2017 West Virginia State Teacher of the Year. She currently resides in

Clarksburg, WV with her husband, Eric, and their son, Isaiah.



Keith Schumacher – National Coordinator, Watch DOGS

Keith Schumacher is a National Coordinator for WATCH D.O.G.S.® (Dads Of Great Students), a father engagement program of the National Center for Fathering. Keith has been teaching and caring for children for over 30 years. This was not done as a teacher, but as a firefighter, paramedic and a police officer. Over the years he has facilitated many fire safety presentations, station group tours and even a firehouse story time.

He became involved in the WATCH D.O.G.S. program when he brought it to the school where his wife, Carolyn teaches first grade and his daughters attended at the time. He served as Top Dog Coordinator for several years and continues to be a Charter Member of the PTA. He is currently serving as Male Involvement Advisor on the Georgia PTA State Board of Directors. He is also currently the Top Dog Coordinator at the middle and high schools where his daughters Gracie and Anna Marie attend. He lives in Acworth, GA with

his wife of 27 years and their daughters. They are proud to have assisted over 20 couples in completing domestic and international adoptions.

**2016-2017
WEST VIRGINIA PTA**



ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

**County Council Award
Local Unit Award
Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award
Outstanding Principal of the Year Award
Outstanding Service Personnel of the Year Award
Outstanding Business Partner of the Year
STAR Volunteer Award
Local Unit Great Program Idea Award
Local Unit Great Membership Campaign Idea
Unit Standards Achievement Award
Award Student's Good Job Award
Scrapbook Award**

**DEADLINE FOR AWARDS SUBMISSION:
February 1, 2017**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Visit www.westvirginiapta.org or email
info@westvirginiapta.org

PTA Convention Workshops

Workshops - Session 1

Select one of the following sessions from
10:15 am – 11:00 am on Friday morning

GETTING ORGANIZED AND GETTING FUNDED: MAKING LASTING CHANGE IN OUR SCHOOLS

Presenter: Stephen Smith, WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition Director

This workshop has two purposes. First, it will provide a community organizing training, designed for families that want to make lasting change in their schools or at the state level. Second, the workshop will introduce participants to Families Leading Change, a new statewide effort co-founded by PTA, to provide support and funding to families who want to help transform their schools.

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT'S 101 – IDEAS TO LEAD YOUR PTA

Presenter: Janelle Sperry, President and Kathy Parker, President-Elect

This round table discussion with local unit presidents will offer opportunities for healthy discussions to brainstorm and talk about the best ways to lead their PTA's while encouraging involvement from school staff. Most importantly, this discussion will offer local unit presidents and vice presidents ideas to unite their local boards and communities, a sense of direction as a president, a solid group support system and an endless network of resources that are ready to use.

Workshops – Session 2

Select one of the following sessions from
11:15 am – 12:00 pm on Friday morning

BUILDING TODAY'S PTA: RECRUITING TODAY'S FAMILIES

Presenter: Jim Accomando, National PTA President-Elect

Learn how building a relevant and modern PTA, attracts new and diverse members, engages volunteers, and meets community needs. Discuss simple yet powerful membership recruitment ideas that have been proven to work when trying to recruit today's families. West Virginia PTA is thrilled that the next National PTA President will be presenting this workshop!

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S 101 – ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Presenter: Dani Hancock, WV PTA Secretary & Chris Wuest, WV PTA Treasurer

This Secretary and Treasurer's Workshop will provide guidance to local unit secretaries on playing an active role in preparing minutes from meetings, additional duties of the secretary, while also covering how to maintain a fiscally responsible PTA. This workshop will cover the basics from preparing treasurer's reports, audits, and tax filing (990). This is a MUST for new secretaries and treasurers!

More workshops continued on Saturday!

Workshops – Session 3

Select one of the following sessions from
8:45 am – 9:30 am on Saturday morning

WATCH D.O.G.S. AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MALE ENGAGEMENT

Presenter: Keith Schumacher, National Coordinator, WATCH D.O.G.S.

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) is a program of the National Center for Fathering focusing on the prevention of violence in schools by using the positive influence of fathers and father-figures to be a positive role-model for students. WATCH D.O.G.S. are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer at least one full day during the school year. Learn all about this wonderful program from the National Coordinator!

BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE PTA FROM A PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

Presenter: Jill Ziegler, Kingwood Elementary Principal and Kerri Thomas, Kingwood PTA President

Mutual understanding, respect, and open communication are key ingredients for building successful partnerships between your principal and volunteers. In order to build effective relationships, school administrators and PTA leaders need to work together. Join this workshop to learn how to build a partnership with your principal!

Workshops – Session 4

Select one of the following sessions from
9:45 am – 10:30 am on Saturday morning

RAISING GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS FOR YOUR PTA

Presenter: Jim Accomando, National PTA President-Elect

What does it take to secure a grant or sponsorship for your PTA? Participants will learn the process for each, and gain practical skills to increase their PTA's revenue, regardless of past experience in fundraising or grant-writing.

IDEA SHARING – MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGNS, PROGRAMS, AND MORE!

Presenter: Linda Abercrombie & Rose Rossana, West Virginia PTA Board of Managers

Meet with PTA members from around the state and hear about their successful membership campaigns and get fresh, new ideas for your own PTA! This is an "Idea Sharing" workshop so come with your ideas to share with others and learn what has been working with other PTAs from across the state. Our most requested workshop!

Workshops – Session 5

Select one of the following sessions from
10:45 am – 11:30 am on Saturday morning

HOW TO BUILD A STEM INNOVATION CENTER AT YOUR SCHOOL!

Presenter: Craig Arnold, WV PTA and Dr. Jared Gump, Blennerhassett Elementary PTA

Learn first-hand how to create a STEM Innovation Center at your school! This workshop will discuss how to obtain the funds, what to include, how it will benefit your school, and everything you need to know from a school that just completed one themselves!

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Presenter: Lee Ann Kendrick, Regional Advocacy Specialist, National PTA

WV PTA is proud to participate in the College and Career Readiness Initiative aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the College and Career Readiness Standards, Aligned Assessments and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Join our presenter from National PTA to learn more about this new initiative in West Virginia!

Check out the Panel Discussions!

“The Latest in West Virginia Education” Friday, March 24, 2017 – General Session 2

We will be hosting a panel discussion regarding the latest news in education for our state including ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), standards and assessments, the new grading system for schools, College and Career Readiness, Smart 529, and our new partnership with “Families Leading Change”.

- What is ESSA and what does that mean for my child and my school?
- Why do we need standards and assessments?
- What does it mean that my school was graded a “C” by the State Board of Education and what types of support will they receive to improve their grade?
- Since Common Core was repealed in WV, what is College and Career Readiness?
- What is Smart 529 and why should I consider this for my child’s future?
- What is “Families Leading Change” and what mini-grants are available?

At the conclusion of each discussion, there will be a question and answer session so convention guests may gain additional information!

“What Every Special Needs Parent Should Know” Saturday, March 25, 2017 - 9:00 am

West Virginia PTA is proud to announce that we are hosting an additional workshop on Saturday morning that will be a panel discussion specifically designed for our Special Needs families on Saturday, March 25. This panel discussion is FREE to any parent in West Virginia and will include professional speakers that will provide information on how to be a strong voice for your child. It will provide parents the places to go to when in need, plus the tools to be an effective voice for their child at school, in the community, the medical community and beyond. This session will also give parents the “ins and outs” about the Special Education process, what to expect, what tests are completed, and what do all those terms mean to your child, you and your family. There will be a question and answer period as well. This will be a great time to bond and network with other parents! This panel discussion is also open to any PTA registered delegate so anyone is welcome to attend!

“Innovations in Learning” Saturday, March 25, 2017 - General Session 3

We have invited special guests to host a panel discussion during our General Session regarding the newest ideas in learning including the areas of STEM, Garden-Based Learning, Lego Robotics and #TryThisWV!

- How can we help our schools increase access to **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)** experiences for all students and inspire the next generation of STEM professionals.
- **Garden-based learning** allows children to develop life skills in areas such as nutrition, leadership, and decision making. Hear how this amazing program works first hand from a local school that has implemented it into their classroom!
- **LEGO Robotics** is a body of teaching based on **LEGO Robotics** kits. It is a popular set of materials that enables students without formal training in engineering and computer programming to design, build, and program small-scale, robots. This is a wonderful STEM program and our speaker will tell you everything you need to know about how to start a program at your school!
- **#TryThisWV** - Join thousands of West Virginians and together, we can knock our state off the top of the worst health lists! Explore hundreds of healthy-community projects at www.trythiswv.com, all in West Virginia!



You're Invited to
**A TOTALLY AWESOME
80'S PARTY!**



After a long day of workshops, speakers, and meetings, it's time to enjoy some laughs with fellow PTA members across the state!



**80'S THEMED
VENDOR RECEPTION & GAME NIGHT!**

Dress in your favorite 80's attire or dress as a character from the 1980's! We will be giving prizes to the best costumes!

**Friday, March 24
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

Tickets are included with your registration fee!
Dinner is included and our vendors will be our special guests,
followed by **GAME NIGHT!**



West Virginia
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®



Slate of Officers

The 2015-2017 Nominating Committee consisting of Karen Sherman, Chair; Craig Arnold, Beth Anderson, Jeana Parr and Rose Rossana, would like to present the following slate of officers for the 2017-2019 West Virginia PTA Executive Board:

President	Kathy Parker, Braxton County
President-Elect	<i>Vacant</i>
1 st Vice President (Bylaws)	Dani Hancock, Berkeley County
2 nd Vice President (Membership)	Missy Jones, Braxton County
Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer	<i>Vacant</i>
At-Large Member	<i>Vacant</i>



The West Virginia PTA Nominating Committee is seeking interested PTA members looking to serve as an officer or at-large member to the Board of Managers and Executive Committee for the 2017-2019 term. The West Virginia PTA President and Nominating Committee Chairperson must receive all applications no later than Wednesday, February 22, 2017. Applications may be found on the WV PTA website www.westvirginiapta.org.

Please submit completed applications to both names listed below by the deadline:

Janelle Sperry, President president@westvirginiapta.org
Karen Sherman, Nominating Committee Chair atlargemember@westvirginiapta.org

At the 2016 Convention in Morgantown, bylaw amendments were approved which now allows any PTA member of a local unit in good standing, to be eligible to hold office in the West Virginia PTA, with the exception of the position of president-elect. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age, adhere to election policies and submit an application with his/her qualifications to the nominating committee 30 days prior to the annual convention. The nominating committee has submitted the above slate of officers, however, any eligible applicant may run from the floor for any of the positions listed above, with the exception of President-Elect. *See Article XIV, Section 3, Qualifications For Nominations.*

All eligible applicants may be interviewed by members of the nominating and executive committees and are subject to approval. Two years of experience in a local or county unit in good standing is required. References are required upon request. PTA members receiving approval from the nominating committee and the executive committee, whose written consent has been secured, shall be eligible for nomination either by the committee or from the floor.

The at-large member to the Board of Managers and Executive Committee was approved through a bylaws amendment during the 2014 West Virginia PTA Convention. The goal of this position is to include an individual representative of the membership to the Board of Managers and Executive Committee. This position will also be elected during the 2017 West Virginia PTA Convention in Morgantown on March 25, 2017. If interested, please submit applications no later than Wednesday, February 22, 2017 in accordance with the WV PTA Bylaws.

The Nominating Committee will keep all information received confidential. The Nominating Committee, at its discretion, may request additional information and/or request an interview with applicants, if deemed necessary. Blank applications may be found on the PTA website (www.westvirginiapta.org) or email info@westvirginiapta.org.

Elections Information

Nominations and candidate speeches will be presented at General Session 1 on Friday, March 24, 2017, and there will be a “Meet the Candidates” opportunity as you are arriving for the Vendor Reception that same evening.

The Polls will be open on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. The polls will close promptly at 9:30 am so please plan enough time to register and receive your voting delegate card prior to this time. There will be no exceptions. Only those delegates that were approved by their Local Unit Presidents to vote on behalf of their unit are permitted to receive voting delegate cards at registration. Please see “Voting Credential Information” after the candidate biographies for clarification of this process. According to West Virginia PTA Bylaws, Article VIII – Officers: Election and Vacancies, the current president-elect shall succeed automatically to the office of president at the end of his/her term as president- elect. Therefore, Kathy Parker will not be on the ballot since she is the current president-elect for the 2015-2017 term. Furthermore, only voting delegates will be allowed in the voting area and campaigning within this area is strictly forbidden. The election will be done by ballot. Results of the election will be announced on Saturday, General Session 3.

Candidate Biographies

KATHY PARKER, PRESIDENT



Kathy Parker and her husband Paul live on a farm north of Heaters in Braxton County. They have two sons, Stephen and Christopher. Kathy holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting and worked in the stock brokerage industry for five years before starting her own accounting business, which she has maintained for over 30 years.

Kathy first got involved in PTA when her first son started Pre-School. She has been a volunteer/chair/officer in the Burnsville Elementary School PTA, the parent representative of the Burnsville Local School Improvement Council, and her business is a Partner-in-Education with Burnsville Elementary School.

She helped start both the Braxton County Middle School PTA and Braxton County High School PTSA, both of which she is currently serving as treasurer. She is also a member of the BCMS LSIC. Additionally, Kathy was a member of the Braxton County Board of Education for over 10 years.

Kathy serves as the current West Virginia PTA president-elect. Since 2005, she served as the Parent and Family Engagement Chair; treasurer; vice president; secretary; treasurer; and membership chair. As president-elect she serves as Federal Legislative Chair, attending National Legislative Conferences and National PTA Conventions. She has attended numerous trainings at all levels of PTA, and in the last year has been on the WV PTA committee that won the \$15,000 2017 College and Career Readiness Initiative grant from National PTA. She received the West Virginia PTA Life Membership Award and Star Volunteer Award for the Central Region. PTA has been a very large part of her life for almost 30 years. She is committed to help West Virginia PTA increase membership, training and participation.

Candidate Biographies

DANI HANCOCK, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (Bylaws)



I have two children, Zachary and Gabi, who has been a PTSA officer, the current West Virginia PTA Youth Member and my biggest supporter. I have been a PTA member for 18 years and have served as a member of a board for 11 years. I have been Secretary, President, Membership Chair at Berkeley Heights, Vice President and President at Orchard View Intermediate; Secretary and Treasurer at Martinsburg South Middle School and was the co-founder of South's first ever PTSA. On the Berkeley County Council PTA, I serve as the Clothing Room Coordinator to help families that are in need of free clothing from donations from PTA members.

On the West Virginia PTA Board of Managers I have served as the Communications Chair and currently serve as the Secretary. I've received the volunteer award, WV PTA Honorary Lifetime Membership and the Eastern Regional Star Volunteer Award, which I was honored to receive in front of my son who was a PTSA officer at the time. I volunteer with the PTA not for the awards, but for the smiles on children's faces when the PTA does something for them. My wish is that children know there is someone out there who cares and wants them to have a great childhood. On a personal note, I am a big tomboy, sports fan and a rocker. I am a proud grandmother and work as an IT Specialist for the IRS.

MELISSA (MISSY) JONES, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (Membership)



My husband, Larry, and I have been married 28 years, and we live in the little community of Chapel, which is in Braxton County. We have three sons: Scotty (28), Marc (26), and Lucas (24). I am an Autism Mentor/Special Education Aide at Braxton County Middle School. I have worked for Braxton County Board of Ed. for 21 yrs. Larry is a truck driver and the shop foreman for Flint's Construction in Gassaway. I first got involved in PTA when Scotty entered Braxton County Middle School, in 1999, where I have served many positions and am currently serving as President. I helped start Braxton County High PTSA and am currently serving as President.

I am currently serving as 1st Vice-President; By-laws Chair, for West Virginia PTA. I have served as secretary and Central Regional Director, 2011-2015. I have served on the Scholarship Committee; 2011-2015, Nominations Chair; 2013 and 2015, Elections Chair; 2013, Awards Committee, 2011-2013, and as West Virginia's NCS (National Council of State) Rep; 2012 and 2014, Extension Committee; 2011-2015, and several other committees.

I have received the West Virginia Life Membership, the West Virginia PTA Star Award for the Central Region, and was awarded West Virginia PTA Service Personnel of the Year 2013. I have enjoyed serving my local PTAs and West Virginia PTA and hope to spend many more years serving.

Voting Credential Information

All PTA members are eligible to be credentialed to vote in the business portions of the Annual West Virginia PTA Convention. The West Virginia PTA Bylaws state:

Article XIX, Section 2. Voting Body.

- a. The meetings of the West Virginia PTA convention shall be open to all members, upon payment of a registration fee determined by the West Virginia PTA Executive Committee, but the privilege of making motions, debating, and voting shall be limited to members of the board of managers, presidents of county councils or alternates chosen by their councils and accredited delegates or alternates from each local PTA unit. A voting member shall have but one vote although entitled to vote in any of several capacities. The courtesy of the floor may be extended to registered visitors and guest speakers at the discretion of the chair.
- b. Each local unit in good standing as shown by March 1 current year by the books of the state treasurer, shall be entitled to be represented at the West Virginia PTA convention by its president or alternate and by one voting delegate or alternate for every twenty-five (25) members, or fraction thereof.
- c. Each council president, or their alternate chosen by the council is a voting member of the West Virginia PTA convention.

Local Unit Voting Delegate Allotment

Number of Members	Number of Voting Delegates
1-25	2
26-50	3
51-75	4
76-100	5
101-125	6
126-150	7
151-175	8
176-200	9
201-225	10
226-250	11
251-275	12
276-300	13
301-325	14
326-350	15

SPECIAL NOTE:

We will not be mailing out “voting credential cards” in this Call to Convention. In the past, these cards needed to be filled out and signed by the Local Unit/County Council President and the delegate and presented at the registration table.

We have added a section to the registration form which indicates if you are registering as a voting delegate. Your unit president **MUST** sign the registration form in the appropriate place to confirm your eligibility to vote on behalf of your unit. Eliminating this extra step will save the West Virginia PTA money on printing and postage, which can now be allocated in more efficient ways.

See chart above to determine how many voting delegates to which your unit is entitled. Your PTA may and is encouraged to send additional attendees to Convention above the number of your entitled voting delegates. Even though they will not be eligible to vote, the convention is a valuable experience for all PTA members and they will still receive training and workshop experiences. **If your local unit or county council submits registration forms with voting delegates that exceed the total number allowed, we will contact the President of your unit to make the appropriate corrections.** If you have any questions, please contact the office by emailing office@westvirginiapta.org.

Upon presentation of your membership card at the registration desk at Convention, each voting delegate shall receive their voting delegate card, which is the card that signifies their voting status during this convention. Delegates have the opportunity to vote on decisions that affect West Virginia PTA and local PTAs, including their leadership and organizational structure. It is very important to ensure that every local unit is represented at convention. The items presented to the convention delegates can be found in this Call to Convention.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment

West Virginia PTA Members and Registered Delegates to the 2017 State Convention:

The following document is to inform you of an amendment to the STATE Bylaws that will be brought forward for your consideration during the state convention in March. Please note the following:

- The bylaws being amended are the West Virginia PTA bylaws, not the unit or council uniform bylaws. This document governs how your state Board of Managers operates.
- The proposed amendments provided to you in this document were brought forward to the state Board of Managers by the Bylaws Committee. Board members had the opportunity to debate the proposed amendments, and then voted to send the amendments as presented to the convention for adoption.
- Words to be stricken will be shown with a strike-through mark: ~~example~~
- Words to be added will be shown with an underline: example

AMENDMENT 1:

#Article VIII, Officers: Election and Vacancies, Section 5

Currently #Article VIII – Officers: Election and Vacancies; Section 5 reads as follows:

“The term of each officer shall be for two (2) years or until their successor is elected. No officer may be eligible to serve consecutive terms in the same office. A person who has served in an office for more than one half of a full term shall be deemed to have served a full term in such office.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend by striking out the following in Section 5 and insert the following words (underlined):

“The term of each officer shall be for two (2) years or until their successor is elected. ~~No officer may be eligible to serve consecutive terms in the same office.~~ If no successor is elected, no officer may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office. A person who has served in an office for more than one half of a full term shall be deemed to have served a full term in such office.”

Rationale: The West Virginia PTA Bylaws Committee is proposing this Amendment for clarification purposes. If an office remains vacant and a successor is never elected to a position, the officer should still not serve more than two (2) terms. At the completion of two full terms in office, a successor would need to be elected.

Convention Reminders

Did you remember...

- ✓ Hotel Reservation
(before February 24th for discounted hotel rate)
- ✓ T-Shirt Order Form (received by WVPTA by March 3)
- ✓ Registration for each PTA delegate
(before March 3 for early discount rates)
- ✓ Checks payable to the West Virginia PTA
- ✓ Bring your PTA membership card to convention
- ✓ Pack casual clothing for workshops
- ✓ Pack 80's Themed clothes or costume for Vendor Reception and Business Casual clothing for convention workshops
- ✓ Bring completed tax-exempt form when registering at Lakeview
- ✓ Door decorating items
- ✓ T-shirt contest entries
- ✓ Themed basket donation for Scholarship Auction



WHAT DO I WEAR AT THE CONVENTION?

This is your convention. We want you to be comfortable. The dress for convention is casual for all workshops and general sessions. You may wear business casual or dressy clothing for the awards banquet but formal clothing is not needed. No jeans or shorts at the awards banquet, please.

WHY SHOULD YOUR PTA SEND DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION?

This is the place where your unit has the opportunity to affect the business of the state PTA, energize your leaders, obtain valuable PTA training, attend workshops from professional speakers on the latest topics in education, network with other PTA members from across the state and idea share!

WHAT HAPPENS AT CONVENTION?

You will attend business sessions and vote on PTA matters. You will hear exciting speakers, attend informative workshops, and meet with fellow PTA members from across West Virginia. You will also meet and spend time talking with the West Virginia PTA Board of Managers and National PTA Representatives. Convention is also a time to reward all of your hard work and celebrate local unit awards, congratulate Reflections and Student Healthy Recipe winners and Scholarship winners during various events.

WHO SHOULD PAY FOR DELEGATES TO ATTEND?

Convention expenses should have been included in your budget. Convention is an investment in the future leadership of individual PTAs. If you do not have a line item for convention, you may amend your budget. (Check your bylaws for details).

PTA SHOP

Convention is a great time to buy a gift for your outgoing officers. What a nice remembrance of the year to give a pin or gift to outgoing/incoming officers, chairpersons, principals and/or school staff! Show everyone you are proud to be involved in PTA. We are now accepting credit cards at convention!

2017 West Virginia PTA Convention –T-Shirt Order Form



ALL PRE-ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WVPTA BY MARCH 3, 2017 AND T-SHIRTS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE!

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING T-SHIRT ORDER FORM AND SEND IN WITH YOUR CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT:

Name: _____ **PTA:** _____

Men’s Navy T-shirt (with rounded neck) **\$15.00 each**
 (add \$2.00 for 2XL and \$3.00 for 3XL)

Small _____ Med _____ Large _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____ **Total**

Ladies Navy T-shirt (with v-neck) **\$15.00 each**
 (add \$2.00 for 2XL and \$3.00 for 3XL)

Small _____ Med _____ Large _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____ **Total**

A few extra shirts will be available at the PTA Shop in various sizes, but only in limited sizes and quantities. We encourage you to pre-order! A link to order these t-shirts online will soon be available for your convenience!

2017 West Virginia PTA Convention Registration Form

A separate form is required for each registrant. This form may be duplicated. **Advanced Registration must be received by March 3, 2017**, to receive discounted registration fees. The availability of meal tickets cannot be guaranteed to late or walk-in registrants. Multiple registrations may be paid together with one check, but please use separate forms for each person. If you have any special dietary restrictions or require special accommodations to fully participate in this year's convention, please indicate, in detail, on the back of this form. **IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE AN EMAIL CONFIRMATION THAT YOUR FORM WAS RECEIVED, PLEASE EMAIL PRESIDENT@WESTVIRGINIAPTA.ORG.**

Contact Information

Name (as it should appear on badge): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Local PTA/Council representing (only one): _____ Region: _____

I will be a voting delegate at this year's convention representing my PTA _____ Yes _____ No

_____ *(Unit President's Signature confirming voting delegate)*

Please let us know if any of the following apply to you:

_____ This will be my first state convention _____ I am a West Virginia PTA Life Member _____ I am a National PTA Life Member

Deadline for advanced registration discount is March 3, 2017

PTA Early Bird Member Package (The Biggest Savings!)

- \$90.00 (Includes Registration, Friday Luncheon, Vendor Reception & 80's Themed Game Night, Student Awards Luncheon, and Awards Banquet.)
- \$45.00 Saturday Only Package (Student Awards Luncheon and Awards Banquet)

Student Member Package

- \$50.00 (Includes Registration, Friday Luncheon, Vendor Reception & 80's Themed Game Night, Student Awards Luncheon, and Awards Banquet.)
- \$25.00 for Saturday Only

Individual Event Purchases *(if not purchasing package above)*

- \$60.00 Registration Only (PTA Member, no meals)
- \$80.00 Registration Only (Non PTA Member, no meals)
- \$25.00 Student Registration Only (no meals)

Additional Guest Meal Tickets:

- | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday Luncheon: | \$15.00 each | Number requested: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor Reception: | \$30.00 each | Number requested: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Award Luncheon: | \$15.00 each | Number requested: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards Banquet: | \$30.00 each | Number requested: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards Banquet: (Child) | \$15.00 each | Number requested: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor Reception: (Child) | \$15.00 each | Number requested: _____ |

Adult and Child meals for the vendor reception and awards banquet can be substituted with chicken tenders, french fries and salad with no price changes. Please make sure to indicate if you are making this request and if it applies to both Friday and Saturday evening: _____

**Mail form and payment to:
West Virginia PTA
Attn: Convention
PO Box 3557
Parkersburg, WV 26103**

**OR VISIT
www.westvirginiapta.org
to register online and
make payment!**



TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

**Don't forget to send in your
t-shirt order form along
with your registration form!**