



Janelle Sperry
WV PTA President
2015-2017

It's hard to believe that we just wrapped up the 2017 West Virginia PTA Convention! What a wonderful weekend of networking, becoming educated on the latest in West Virginia schools, panel discussions about STEM and innovations in learning, and recognizing our hard-working volunteers at the annual awards banquet! Our convention was packed full of workshops and presentations and I hope those that attended feel they learned the value of PTA and the importance of "Getting Connected!"

This year, we had 17 youth participants and they had a great time learning about STEM activities, healthy snack making, painting, and having a positive attitude! They loved the music workshop, had fun at our 80's dinner and game night, as well as assisted with our scholarship auction. We are thankful to not only our workshop presenters that worked with our kids this year, but also are appreciative to the parents that allowed their children to participate.

Our Student Awards Luncheon was wonderful as we showcased our state winners in the Reflections Program and Student Healthy Recipe Challenge! We all enjoyed the dance performance and live cooking demonstration, and reaffirmed the importance of having programs for our students to showcase their many talents.

As you know, West Virginia PTA received a \$15,000 Grant from National PTA to promote our College and Career Readiness Initiative. We had speakers on the importance of our children receiving a high-quality education, followed by a panel discussion on ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), standards and assessments, the school accountability system, Smart 529 College Savings Plan and our new partnership with the Families Leading Change coalition. We also began our new "Take Action" network asking for members to sign up and receive alerts whenever legislative issues arise. We need our PTA members to rally for support. So, we are off and running with our new initiative and have made it our goal to foster relationships with other parent/education groups in our state so we can all begin to work toward preparing our students for higher education, whether it be in college or vocational school.

As we begin to conclude this school year and legislative session, we know there are a lot of changes that our state is about to face. We have a new Governor, new State Superintendent of Schools, new State Board of Education members, and a budget crisis. We have a lot of serious issues facing our state, so now more than ever, we can't sit back and wait to hear how these changes will be affecting our children. We need to be at the forefront of these discussions making sure that as the largest parent advocacy group in the state of West Virginia, that our message is being heard. We will not settle for less than the absolute best for our children and we want to be involved in the education plans being set in our state. We have a lot of work to do, but will continue to keep our mission at the forefront of everything we do. Thank you again for your hard work and dedication to our children.

Yours in PTA,

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

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 Leaders Attended the National PTA Legislative Conference in Washington D.C.

National PTA advocates for all children to receive a well-rounded education so every child can reach their full potential. The National PTA Legislative Conference guided each state's advocates through the 2017 Public Policy Agenda and other education issues facing Congress.

President Janelle Sperry, President-Elect Kathy Parker, Regional Director Rose Rossana, and Vice President Missy Jones represented West Virginia PTA at this year's National Legislative Conference. They conducted Capitol Hill visits with Senator Manchin, Senator Capito, and Congressman Mooney's offices on the importance of funding family engagement centers and the reauthorization of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). National PTA President Laura Bay joined West Virginia PTA in meeting with Senator Manchin.

2017 Annual National PTA Convention & Expo Think Big, Think PTA

Join us for **Win With PTA—June 22 to June 25, 2017**—to connect with over 1,500 of the nation's most influential leaders in education, as well as other parents and educators in **Las Vegas, Nevada**.

Don't miss the opportunity to:

- Get Big Ideas to use at School and at Home
- Be Inspired by Big Thinkers
- Learn new ways to make your PTA Bigger, Bolder and Better

National PTA is the organization that solves the toughest problems and creates valuable tools for schools, families and students. Join the excitement and be a part of our biggest convention yet!

**National
PTA**
everychild.one voice.

NATIONAL PTA Celebrates 120 YEARS

WIN WITH PTA 2017 CONVENTION & EXPO
JUNE 22-25, 2017 | LAS VEGAS, NV

FEATURED SPEAKER
Paula Kerger
PRESIDENT & CEO, PBS

FEATURED SPEAKER
Rosalind Wiseman
EDUCATOR, PARENT EXPERT & SOCIAL ACTIVIST

FEATURED SPEAKER
Steve Pemberton
SENIOR EXECUTIVE AT WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE & AUTHOR

Grace's Law West Virginia's Anti-Cyberbullying Legislation

A very special Thank You to Christine McComas, founder of Grace's Law. Christine joined us at the convention this year and spoke about her personal story and the importance of strengthening cyberbullying laws in our state.

We are proud to have presented "Grace's Law" into the WV legislature this session on behalf of WV PTA.



Christine McComas, founder of Grace's Law

Advocacy – Take Action Alerts



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



Our 94th Annual West Virginia PTA
Convention was a huge success!
Thank you to everyone that attended and
congratulations to all award winners!

*Getting
Connected with*

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.



**Congratulations to our
Convention Contest
Winners!**

T-shirt Decorating Contest

Brooke County and Hooverson
Heights PTA

Door Decorating Contest

Amy Folk, representing Franklin
Primary PTSA and Wellsburg Middle

All Convention
Photos coming
soon to the
website!

We are proud to have received a \$4,000 Grant from Bayer and National PTA to further STEM experiences in underprivileged areas of our state! We kicked off our STEM Initiative at the 94th Annual WV PTA Convention with workshops, panel discussions and a hands-on demonstration during our vendor expo!



Thank you so much to Bayer for the opportunity to explore STEM initiatives in West Virginia. We are excited to begin this new adventure!

West Virginia PTA Reflections Winners

Visual Arts

Primary Division

- 3rd Place - Kaylee Phillips – Franklin Primary
2nd Place - Treyvon Frye – Tuscarora Elementary
1st Place - Hailey Fortino – Tuscarora Elementary

Intermediate Division

- 3rd Place - Abby Brill – Mill Creek Intermediate
2nd Place - Aryanna Varlas – Wellsburg Primary
1st Place - Molly Henthorne – Steenrod Elementary

Middle Division

- 3rd Place - Mikayla Schlotthober – Musselman Middle School
2nd Place - Mahalah Britton – Hundred Long Drain
1st Place - Kayla Aracich – Hundred Long Drain

High School Division

- 3rd Place - Alexia Murdock – Brooke County Community PTSA
2nd Place - Mia James – Brooke County Community PTSA
1st Place - Emily Sellman – Brooke County Community PTSA

Special Artist – Visual Arts

- 3rd Place - Marissa Eccles – Brooke County Community PTSA
2nd Place - Madison Bowman – Brooke County Community PTSA
1st Place - Julia Bright – Brooke County Community PTSA

Musical Composition

Primary Division

- 2nd Place - Dustin Sanner – Steenrod Elem.
1st Place - Lylah Dearing – Johnson Elementary

Intermediate Division

- 1st Place - Brendan Loy - Steenrod Elementary

Middle Division

- 1st Place - Angela Rithner – Wellsburg Middle

Film Production

Primary

- 1st Place - Colton Yensen – Colliers Primary

Intermediate

- 3rd Place - Will Fuller – Steenrod Elementary
2nd Place - Sarah Seivertson – Steenrod Elem.
1st Place - Samuel Mockbee – Wellsburg Middle

Middle

- 1st Place - Angela Rithner – Wellsburg Middle



Literature

Primary Division

- 3rd Place - Giuliana Marinaccio – Spring Mills
2nd Place - Graham Loy – Steenrod Elementary
1st Place - Ava Kithcart – Spring Mills Primary

Intermediate Division

- 3rd Place - Mary Elizabeth Penhos – Steenrod
2nd Place - Daryl Nguetsa – Mill Creek Int.
1st Place - Kaylee Davis – Steenrod Elementary

Middle Division

- 2nd Place - Kylie Olszewski – Braxton Co. Middle
1st Place - Morgan Roadman – Wellsburg Middle

Dance Choreography

Primary

2nd Place - Raelin Stoll – Colliers Primary
1st Place - Sophia Sacripanti – Jefferson Primary

Intermediate

3rd Place - Molly Henthorne – Steenrod Elementary
2nd Place - Ruari Stoll – Colliers Primary
1st Place - Savannah Adams – Steenrod Elementary

High School

1st Place - Taylor Pannett – Brooke County
Community PTSA

Photography

Primary

3rd Place - Sawyer Culicerto – Johnson Elementary
2nd Place - Kamden Sperringer – Jefferson Primary
1st Place - Jameson Trippett – Johnson Elementary

Intermediate

3rd Place - Mitchell Rossana – Johnson Elementary
2nd Place - Spencer Zoladz – Steenrod Elementary
1st Place - Molly Henthorne – Steenrod Elementary

Middle

1st Place - Andrew Bischoff – Musselman Middle School

**West Virginia PTA Student Healthy
Recipe Challenge Winners**

Hearty Breakfast

Arionna Hartley – Franklin Primary
“Fluffy Pancakes”

Wholesome Dinner

Grace Miller – Kanawha Elementary
“Grace’s Beef Pot Roast”

Healthy Desserts

Alex Heath – Musselman Middle School PTSA
“Orange Cream Delight”

Grace Miller – Kanawha Elementary
“Grace’s Pineapple Dump Cake”

Allergy Safe Recipe

Alex Heath – Musselman Middle School
“Gluten Free Pasta with a Lemon Garlic Sauce”

Thomas “Matthew” Miller – Kanawha City Elementary PTA
“Allergy Friendly Banana Bread” & “Sugar Free Sunbutter Fudge”



Outstanding Cooking Video Winner

Alex Heath, Musselman Middle School PTSA
“Orange Cream Delight”

Nourishing Snacks

Julia Dunaway – Steenrod Elementary
“Monster Energy Bites”

Aryanna Varlas – Wellsburg Primary
“Healthy Guacamole”

**Congratulations to the West Virginia
PTA 2017 Scholarship Recipients!**

Emma Blair
Payton Brown
Jayson Chappell
Morgan DeWitt
Jonathan Wimer



Emma Blair is the daughter of David and Karen Blair from Wheeling. She attends Wheeling Park High School where she is active in Soccer, Band, Orchestra, Speech Team, Key Club, National Honor Society and Student Council. Her volunteer service includes Wheeling Hospital, Girl Scouts, and Vineyard Church children's worship. She plans on studying Athletic Training at either West Virginia University or the University of Delaware.

Payton Brown is the daughter of Mary and Gregory Brown from Berkeley Springs. She attends Berkeley Springs High School where she is active in Volleyball, National Honor Society, Softball, Peer Assistant for Special Education Program, Art contributor for the yearbook and school web page. Volunteer services include Morgan Arts Council, Red Cross Blood Drive, and Mitten Tree. She plans on attending WVU and majoring in Art Education.

Jayson Chappell is the son of Earl and Michelle Chappell of New Cumberland. He attends Oak Glen High School and is active in Key Club, National Honor Society, HERO's Ambassador, and 4-H. His volunteer services include mentor for youth group, PTA video production, and Greeting Cards for Nursing Homes and military. He plans on attending Community College of Beaver County Aviation Science or Robert Morris University & major in Drone and Professional Pilot with a minor in Video Journalism.

Morgan DeWitt is the daughter of Tammy Dewitt and Ed Dewitt from Shinnston. She attends Lincoln High School where she is active in National Honor Society, Harrison County anti-bullying Programs, Key Club, Tennis and Soccer Team. Her volunteer activities include Christmas cards for nursing home residents, Relay for Life, and WVU Children's Hospital. She plans on attending Fairmont State University and major in Flight Aviation or Criminal Justice.

Jonathan Wimer is the son of John and Kimberly Wimer of Arthurdale. He attends Preston High School where he is active in Band, Basketball, West Virginia Academy, West Virginia School for Math and Science, Christian Student Fellowship, and 4-H. His volunteer activities include church nursery attendant, VBS and worship assistant, Robotics Mentor, improvement volunteer and Hoss Foundation. He plans on attending WVU with a dual major in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

Outstanding Business Partner Award:
Flint Construction

Flint Construction has been so supportive of our PTA, our school, and our county by stepping up and filling the holes that they see, including coaching the school's basketball team, giving employees time off to help with any school event, lending equipment for events, and supporting ANY fund-raiser and event in which they're called to help. We feel they exemplify an Outstanding Business Partner.



Student Good Job Award:
Nicholas Maynard, Lakeside Elementary

Nicholas Maynard is a fifth-grade student at Lakeside Elementary who received the "student of the month" award in December 2016 for exhibiting the good character quality of "tolerance." He takes part in the reading buddies program which allows the fifth-grade students to read to the kindergarten students. His mother is our PTA treasurer, so Nicholas attends every PTA meeting along with his 4 younger brothers and sisters, setting up lunch tables during PTA meetings, and helps the adult that is in charge of childcare during meetings keep the younger children entertained so that their parents can attend the PTA meetings. He is always willing to lend a helping hand, and is polite and respectful!

Local Unit Great Program Idea Award
Brooke County Community PTSA

Brooke County Community PTSA established the "Bruins Helping Bruins" Clothes Closet/Food Pantry three years ago to provide support for students in need of school supplies, personal hygiene items, clothing and food. It's funded through an annual spaghetti dinner and generous donations from the community, including churches, businesses, faculty, volunteers, and alumni. This supports the need of every child to look good, feel good, to have a full stomach and for providing the tools necessary to be successful in their classes. But more than that, it supports the need to feel loved and supported.

Outstanding Teacher of the Year
Erin Butler, Back Creek Valley Elementary

Erin Butler is a National Board Certified Teacher at Back Creek Valley Elementary that advocates for better education for all students through the school-wide Audubon program and Reading Clubs. She always welcomes parents in the classroom, but at the beginning of this school year she went above and beyond to help the family of one of her students whose mother was in a devastating accident. Mrs. Butler is a member of the PTA every year without fail, attending every after-school PTA meeting, participating in preparing the PTA/Title 1 Parent Involvement activities, and in our annual membership drive!

*2017 Award Recipients
Honored at Convention*

Outstanding Principal of the Year

Lisa Lewis

Lisa Lewis has been the principal at Lakeside Elementary for six years. She supports hands-on workshops for students and their families to attend. She is supportive of the staff at Lakeside; filling in for teachers, cooks and janitors when an emergency or illness occurs. Mrs. Lewis is very supportive of the PTA as an active member, never missing a meeting, and encouraging the staff at Lakeside to take part and support the PTA by becoming members, attending meetings, and being part of at least one committee. Lakeside Elementary is truly blessed to have Mrs. Lewis for a principal!

Outstanding Service Personnel of the Year

Claudia (Susie) Coffman

Claudia (Susie) Coffman has been working at Braxton County Middle School for three years, as an LPN/Teacher Aide. During those three years, Susie has given up most of her allotted lunch time every day to treat any student that is sick or gotten hurt, she checks on the comfort of students with on-going conditions in school, calls them at home if they've missed school, and talks to them about personal hygiene. She's extremely supportive of the PTA with her time and donations, and is normally the first staff member to join every year! Claudia (Susie) Coffman is truly deserving of this

Membership Awards

2016-2017 PTA Membership Challenge!!



Highest Membership increase by percentage, per region, awarded at the State Convention:

Braxton County Middle – Central
Musselman Middle – Eastern
Mountaineer PTSA – Northern
Explorer Academy – Southwest
Northview -North Central
Kanawha PTA – Western
Valley Elementary - Southern

Units with increase of 50 or more members:

Musselman Middle School PTSA
Williamstown Elementary
Mountaineer PTSA
Explorer Academy
Kanawha Elementary

PTA with the largest membership increase:

Musselman Middle School PTSA

Largest PTA in West Virginia!

Kanawha Elementary, Winner of the traveling trophy!

Karen Sherman, Eastern Region

Karen Sherman has been a PTA member for nine years and currently holds the position of President at Musselman Middle School PTSA. She has previously served as President of the Mill Creek Intermediate PTA and served on the Board at Bunker Hill Elementary. She currently serves on the WV State PTA Board of Managers, Executive Committee, and serves on the Scholarship Committee, Nominating Committee, as well as the new College and Career Readiness Committee. Karen is very dedicated to PTA and spends many hours organizing special events including those for veterans and first responders which are extra special to her. She has wonderful ideas and works hard with her board members to help make PTA welcoming and exciting for all new members!! She is a wonderful role model for all PTA members and is a true asset to our school!

Carol Young, Central Region

Carol Young has been a member of Braxton County Middle School PTA for the last 12 years serving as Vice President, head of the Nomination Committee, and head of the Chinese Auction Committee. Carol never hesitates to offer a helping hand with whatever project is going on. She covers students during the school day for our President, whenever somethings come up that needs to be handled in a timely manner. Outside of the PTA, Carol is organizing fundraisers for a teacher in our school who is going through cancer treatment. Whenever a teacher needs to leave early or a sub isn't available, Carol will cover classes for them. If something needs to be done in a hurry you can count on Carol to be one of the first to volunteer. Carol serves on the school LSIC Council and various school committees.

Jennifer Smith, Northern Region

Jennifer Smith has been involved in PTA for two years and serves on every committee at Hooverson Heights PTA, as well as secretary at Hooverson Heights, Brooke County Community PTSA, and Brooke County Council. She has chaired Book Fairs, Santa's Workshop, works in the library once a week, and takes care that every needy child in the school is dressed at the school's clothes closet, along with packing backpacks with food at Brooke High School on Fridays. Her dedication to the students in Brooke County is undeniable.

Danyail Maynard, South West Region

Danyail Maynard has been a PTA member for nine years, and a board member for eight. She is currently the local unit treasurer, regional director for the State PTA, lead committee member for the "trash for cash" program, the Book Fair committee, Santa's Workshop, and yearbook committee. Danyail is present for all PTA functions, keeps immaculate treasurer records, decorates bulletin boards, puts up posters advertising upcoming PTA events and fundraisers, pulls weeds and plants flowers in the flowers beds surrounding the school, spreads mulch on the playground, and plans and organizes activities such as family fun nights. Danyail cares deeply for the well-being of our students at Lakeside Elementary and we are very thankful to have her!

Amanda Bell, North Central Region

Amanda Bell joined Kingwood Elementary PTA two and a half years ago when her oldest child was in PreK, becoming PTA Treasurer in June, 2015. She is very organized and always has things prepared for all our PTA events. Amanda also serves as our Fundraising Co-Chairman spending countless hours overseeing the Photo Fundraiser and Calendar Party Fundraiser. She has also enlisted the help of her husband who puts in many volunteer hours himself. Amanda attends most PTA events along with her family. She is a fantastic person to work with and she is much appreciated by Kingwood Elementary PTA.

Special Thanks to Convention Sponsors!

94th Annual West Virginia PTA Convention Sponsors



*West Virginia PTA gratefully acknowledges
the generous support of our 2017 Convention Sponsors*



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West Virginia PTA Board of Managers

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