



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

As I reflect on my time as your West Virginia PTA President, I am filled with gratitude for so many things. I've worked with simply the best volunteers, met hundreds of dedicated parents who all want the best for their children, and have seen our association become stronger in such a short amount of time. We have developed valuable relationships across the state and I believe our association can be very proud of the work we've done the last two years in moving our mission forward.

Traveling over the state and seeing the many differences in our communities and our schools has given me a new perspective on the importance of having members from all over West Virginia participate on the state board. We need to have representation from all regions so that we can better understand how to help our local units and become a better support system.

I strongly encourage you to consider applying for a position on the 2017-2019 Board of Managers as I have done! I am pleased to announce that I will be serving as the next Marketing Chair and will also serve as the Lead for the College and Career Readiness Initiative through the remainder of the grant we received.

Two years goes by so quickly, but I'm pleased with the many accomplishments of the West Virginia PTA during my term in office. We received a \$15,000 grant from National PTA to promote a College and Career Readiness Initiative, a \$4,000 grant from Bayer to promote STEM, and will earn a silver medal at the National PTA Convention for having an increase in PTA membership. I am also honored to serve as a panelist during the National Convention in Las Vegas representing West Virginia PTA to discuss our work on College and Career Readiness.

Beyond our grant work, we have focused our efforts on bringing the West Virginia PTA into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by utilizing the latest in technology for our local units. We have begun utilizing PTBoard for database management to store documents for each unit including bylaws, insurance, audits, 990s, minutes, etc. This will be extremely useful to our PTAs across the state as well as the West Virginia PTA so all documentation is in a central location and maintained for each unit from year to year. We have also redesigned our website to provide every resource our volunteers should need, created a resource library, and also a new tax filing service to assist with 990 tax filings.

Additionally, we have established an IRS revocation team, held monthly webinars for additional officer training, and designed a new membership campaign to award units for their hard work. As always, we have supported the National PTA Reflections Program and WV PTA Student Healthy Recipe Challenge for our students. To create new revenue sources for our association, we developed a new business membership program, virtual exhibit hall, and established partnerships with GROM Social and College Select. Ensuring the longevity of our association has always been one of my important goals to achieve.

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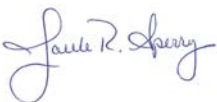
I have served on committees with the West Virginia Department of Education and have continued to advocate for our children by participating in the National PTA Legislative Conference. Most recently, I was proud to participate in a United States Senate Briefing on Capitol Hill to discuss the importance of the federal E-rate program. The E-rate program works to ensure all public libraries and K-12 public and private schools gain access to broadband connectivity and internal Wi-Fi.

From the beginning of my term, it was my desire to focus more attention on the needs of children with special needs and disabilities. PTA is the largest parent advocacy association in the country and we need to put the weight of our membership in support of all families, whether it's in legislation, education, or additional resources. PTA is for every child, and we need to make sure that every child's needs in West Virginia are being addressed.

Looking ahead to the future of West Virginia PTA, our association will continue to advocate for all children, provide support to our local units, have resources available for our parents, and continue to work toward welcoming all families into the PTA. We have begun to create new partnerships with parent groups in West Virginia and are proud to be one of the original members of the new "Families Leading Change" Coalition in our state. By working together with other parent, family and education associations, we will continue to move our mission forward and advocate for every child.

As many of you know, my favorite quote, in 1897, from National PTA Co-Founder, Alice McLellan Birney is "What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must be what PTA wants for all children." This inspiring statement has driven me to ensure that our children have the best possible experiences during their childhood and in their educations. I have been honored to be your State PTA President. I will continue to support all PTA parents in West Virginia who dedicate countless hours of service to our students. Keep up the great work and thank you for all you do for our children.

Yours in PTA,



Janelle R. Sperry  
West Virginia PTA President



**West Virginia PTA Board of Managers 2015-2017**

*"I'd like to thank our West Virginia PTA Board of Managers for working with me the last two years. These men and women are volunteers and give countless hours to our state PTA. Each one has a specific job, and all positions are equally important to our success. We are a team and I have valued their input, their ideas, and their hard work.*

*At our recent state convention, I was presented with a past president's pin as well as a beautiful book with photos, stories, and personal inscriptions from the people that were so important during my term. I am deeply grateful for the thoughtfulness in this precious gift and will always treasure it and the fond memories it brings me."*

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

WV PTA was proud to present "Grace's Law" into the WV legislature this session. This is an existing law in Maryland that was introduced to us by Christine McComas, Grace's mother, making cyberbullying a crime. Although the existing law in Maryland has not been challenged, there are some provisions that are almost identical to Megan's Law that were recently struck down as unconstitutional in another state. Our House Judiciary chairman, wanting to make sure we get this right, has asked for sponsoring Delegate Upson to create an interim Study resolution so that those issues can be addressed and the bill reintroduced in the next legislative session in January. We are pleased with the strong support the bill has in the House and that we have an opportunity to ensure that once passed, the law will not be challenged. Thank you Delegate Jill Upson for your work in making "Grace's Law" become a reality in West Virginia.



*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 aswell!**

- ✓ 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](http://www.pta.org); under Advocacy – PTA Takes Action Network





**National PTA School of Excellence** is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. By enrolling in this program, your PTA and school administrators are making a year-long commitment in identifying and implementing an action plan for school improvement based on PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. Enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year is now open!

To accomplish this, you will:

- **Administer** National PTA's baseline, pre-survey to your school community and submit the results
- **Analyze** survey findings to create an action plan
- **Receive** customized tools, resources and training from National PTA to assist in your efforts
- **Administer** National PTA's post-survey to your school community
- **Submit** a final application including your post-survey results and a narrative

## 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!







## What does my PTA need to do over the summer?

***Each summer, PTAs transition into new leadership and new goals. Here are a few tips that you need to remember as you end the year and begin anew!***

- Submit to West Virginia PTA by July 1, 2017 the 2017-2018 Local Unit Officers, even if no changes have been made.
- Complete a financial review or audit of the 2016-2017 financial records. Once complete, send this report to West Virginia PTA. Remember to make necessary changes to signature cards at the bank!
- Because every PTA should have a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year, your annual 990 reporting is due by November 15th! If your PTA has gross revenue under \$50,000, you can complete the 990N, E-postcard. Once submitted, submit the verification to West Virginia PTA.
- Pay any outstanding dues to West Virginia PTA for any unpaid memberships since you last paid.
- Check your insurance status. If it is time to renew, renew your insurance and submit verification to West Virginia PTA.
- Assemble your officer team and have a meeting with the outgoing and incoming officers. Use this time to talk about goals, work on new ideas and plans for the new year!
- Gear up for West Virginia PTA trainings and look for upcoming dates in your area!

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## *New Partnership with PTBoard!*



We're excited to announce our new partnership with PTBoard! Each PTA will be set up with very useful services including the ability to send out professional marketing announcements to their members!

But that's just the beginning! PTBoard allows you to organize volunteers, set up calendar of events, schedule emails, and even document storage. Each unit will receive their own login so they can utilize the service to its fullest potential!

West Virginia PTA will be utilizing PTBoard for database management to store documents for each local unit including bylaws, insurance, audits, 990s, minutes, etc. This will be extremely useful to our PTAs across the state so all documentation is in a central location and maintained for each unit.

For now, each PTA needs to register with PTBoard so emails are being sent to each local unit to get the process started! We will be giving more detailed information at regional trainings at the beginning of the school year so continue to look for updates about this exciting new service we're offering!

*Emails were sent to each unit requesting new officer contact information for the 2017-2018 term, so please follow the instructions and send in this information by July 1, 2017!*

## *New Local Unit Officer Forms*



### **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!*

## **What is an Audit?**

Auditing involves examining financial records and transactions to ensure that receipts have been properly accounted for and expenditures have been properly authorized and recorded in minutes in conformity with PTA bylaws, standing rules and budget limitations.



PTA bylaws indicate when an audit is to be done, its procedure, and when it should be reported to the membership. Financial records should be audited at least once a year – West Virginia PTA requires that a PTA submit their audit or financial review annually. Books should also be audited if a financial officer resigns and before the new officer assumes his or her duties, and at any other time deemed necessary.

The process for selecting/electing individuals to serve on the internal audit committee or for retaining a professional firm (with nonprofit accounting experience) will also be found in the bylaws of the PTA.

## **The Purpose of an Audit**

The purpose of an audit is to provide reasonable assurance that an organization's financial statements are free of material misstatement and to ensure that receipts and expenditures, as authorized in the minutes, are in conformity with PTA bylaws, standing rules and budget limitations.

## **Financial Review**

For clarification purposes, a financial review represents an internal process performed by two or more members of the financial review committee. An audit represents an extensive external process performed by a certified public accounting (CPA) firm for a fee.

The first step in the financial review process should be the appointment of a committee. This committee should be made up of members who do not have signature authority over the bank account. Financial records should be put in order for the financial review shortly before the end of the term of office or the end of the fiscal year. The outgoing treasurer cannot pay bills after the books are closed for financial review. Upon assuming office, the incoming treasurer may deposit funds in the PTA bank account. It is recommended that during the financial review process, expenditures within an adopted budget be limited to those of an emergency nature. The financial review should be completed as quickly as possible.

*National PTA Reflections Winners*



YOU DID IT!  
*Congratulations*

**2017 National PTA  
Award of Merit Winner  
Dance Choreography  
Sophia Sacripanti  
~  
Jefferson Primary PTA**

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

We are thrilled to have TWO National PTA Reflections Winners this year from West Virginia! Sophia Sacripanti, Jefferson Primary PTA received the Award of Merit in Dance Choreography and Angela Rithner, Wellsburg Middle School PTA received the Award of Merit in Film Production. Both winners will receive a National PTA Reflections Bronze Medal and recognition in the traveling art exhibit and online gallery.

Congratulations to Sophia and Angela!!!! We are so proud of you!

*Congratulations!*

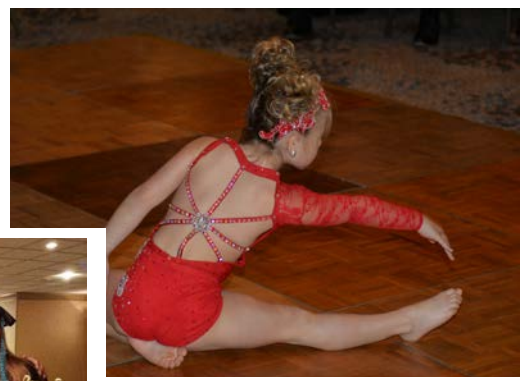
**2017 National PTA  
Award of Merit Winner  
Film Production  
Angela Rithner  
~  
Wellsburg Middle School PTA**





*Fun Times at Convention!*

Check out the WV PTA website for more photos from our 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Morgantown!



## **Introducing your 2017-2018 West Virginia PTA Executive Board**



### **KATHY PARKER, PRESIDENT (2017-2019)**

Kathy 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, and 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. Additionally, Kathy was a member of the Braxton County Board of Education for over 10 years. Since 2005, she served as the Parent and Family Engagement Chair; treasurer; vice president; secretary; treasurer; and membership chair. 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



### **MELISSA JONES, PRESIDENT-ELECT**

My husband, Larry, and I have been married 28 years and we live in 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.

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 have served as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President for West Virginia PTA as well as secretary and central regional director. 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 to come.



### **DANI HANCOCK, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

I have two children, Zachary and Gabi, who has been a PTSA officer and current West Virginia PTA Youth Member as well as 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 Elementary, 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. 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.





## **ROSE ROSSANA, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

My name is Rose Rossana and I am married to my high school sweetheart, Doug. We have two beautiful boys, Michael and Mitchell. We enjoy having our kids involved in activities they love which include basketball, baseball, and golf. Their biggest passion has become music as they both have been playing guitar for over two years and my oldest plays trumpet as well.

It is very important for all of us to enjoy time with our boys' grandparents as much as possible which includes a traditional Italian Sunday dinner with all of us. I am the Regional Director for the North Central Region and have been a member of PTA since 2009. For Johnson Elementary School, I served as the Secretary and President. The most exciting projects during my time as President were purchasing new playground equipment for our school and being awarded the School of Excellence from the National PTA. I have met some amazing people during my time in PTA. I am always amazed at the hard work and dedication that our parents put forth in making things special for our kids.



## **KAREN SHERMAN, SECRETARY**

Karen Sherman has been a PTA member for nine years and currently holds the position of President at Musselman Middle School PTSA. She currently serves on the WV State PTA Board of Managers as the at-large member on the Executive Committee, served on the Scholarship Committee, as well as the new College and Career Readiness Committee.

Karen has been married for 23 years and has two children both in middle school. As President of Musselman Middle School PTSA, Karen is currently working to help their school receive the National PTA School of Excellence Award. She recently received the Eastern Region STAR Volunteer Award. "I am lucky enough to be a part of a greater group of parents all wanting the best for not just their own children but every child. I hope to continue with the programs that have been initiated over the last 2 years and hope to take a bigger role in them over the next term."



## **CHRIS WUEST, TREASURER**

Chris Wuest holds the position of Treasurer and has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. She has been in the accounting profession for 37 years. She is available to all units to answer questions regarding recordkeeping, banking, audit, and helps keep our units in compliance with state PTA and IRS requirements. Chris has been involved in PTA since moving to Martinsburg in 2009 and her son Michael served at the WV PTA Youth Member.

Joining Orchard View Intermediate when her daughter began 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Chris assisted the president and learned about PTA from a seasoned member, receiving a Star Volunteer Award along with the WV Honorary Life Membership that year. She was president of the PTSA for 3 years while her daughter attended Martinsburg South Middle. She has also served as President of the Berkeley County Council PTA for three years.



## **CRAIG ARNOLD, AT-LARGE MEMBER**

Craig is an Executive Committee member of the Blennerhassett Elementary School PTA, Board of Managers member of the West Virginia PTA, serving as Parent and Family Engagement Chair and Project Lead for the STEM/Bayer Grant Initiative, Chairman of the Blennerhassett Elementary School Local School Improvement Committee (LSIC), and Committee Chair for Cub Scout Pack 117. As the Parent and Family Engagement Chairperson for the West Virginia PTA, Craig has been appointed as the STEM Coordinator for WV to expand STEM education to parents and further career exploration in these areas for our students.

Craig and his wife, Amy, reside in Parkersburg and are proud parents and grandparents of 6 (six) boys - 3 (three) through 10 (ten) years of age and a daughter, Ashley. He has more than 30 years of professional experience in consulting, managing, and execution of projects and currently is President of his own company, CAE, LLC.

# West Virginia PTA Board of Managers

## 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	Email: <a href="mailto:westerndirector@westvirginiapta.org">westerndirector@westvirginiapta.org</a>

## 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**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
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1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305  
Steven L. Paine, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools  
wvde.state.wv.us

NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WVDE COMMUNICATIONS  
304.558.2699

*June 14, 2017*

## **WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO HOST PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS ON STATE ESSA PLAN**

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** – The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) announced a series of regional stakeholder meetings to discuss the state’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan. The meetings will include a brief informational session and an open question and answer session. All stakeholder meetings are open to the public. Events will take place at the following dates and times:

**June 19, 5:30 p.m.**

Lewis County High School  
205 Minuteman Drive  
Weston, WV 26452

**June 28, 5:30 p.m.**

Riverside High School  
1 Warrior Way  
Belle, WV 25015

**July 10, 5:30 p.m.**

Spring Mills High School  
499 Campus Drive  
Martinsburg, WV 25404

ESSA was signed into law in December 2015, replacing the No Child Left Behind Act. The federal legislation represents a shift from broad federal oversight to greater flexibility of primary and secondary education at the state and local levels. ESSA requires all states to develop plans that address standards, assessments, accountability and support for struggling schools. West Virginia will submit its final plan in September 2017.

“It is imperative that our ESSA state plan is reflective of input from all stakeholder groups,” said West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steven Paine. “We value feedback from community members and encourage those with questions or input to attend.”

In addition to attending the stakeholder meetings, citizens can visit the Department’s ESSA website to sign up to stay informed on the development of the plan: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/essa/>.

For additional information, contact Kristin Anderson at the WVDE Office of Communications at 304-558-2699 or [Kristin.Anderson@k12.wv.us](mailto:Kristin.Anderson@k12.wv.us).

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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