

Let's Connect

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE WEST VIRGINIA PTA

BUILDING YOUR PTA TEAM...

Building a successful PTA team is about more than finding a group of people with the right mix of skills. Fostering teamwork can help you lay the groundwork for a productive team that can communicate, cooperate and be creative in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. This may sound complicated but it can be done. In PTA, we are a group of volunteers with hopefully the same goal in mind; creating a great year for the children of the school. But managing a team is not that simple. Leaders have to play a far more hands-on role to make sure the group works well together and remains focused on the right priorities. There are six main drivers for creating a strong culture of teamwork – the things that, if done well, have an impact. (1) You need to begin with goals. What is it that you want to accomplish for the children of your school? (2) Set the limit of three priorities for your PTA. (3) Create your calendar to track your goals with an associated small team for each. These teams require a chair person for the event to keep the team and tasks on track. This helps keep everyone on the same road and maintains focus. (4) As a leader, you have to keep reminding your team of the priorities, even if it can feel repetitive. People often have to hear something a few times before they truly remember it. Find the best way for you and your team to communicate. It could be email or text. (5) As a leader, you need to create the culture of the team. All teams need values, even if they aren't discussed explicitly. There are certain behaviors that are encouraged and discouraged — like rules of the road — for how everyone is going to (try to) get along and spend their time. (5) Finally, stick to the plan. Stay specific and don't overdue it! Burn out can happen fast. Be patient and don't give up!

Rose Rossana, President - WV PTA

MINI-GRANT WINNERS

Marlowe Elementary PTA -
\$250 winner for their Twilight
Tuesday Reading Event.

Middle Creek PTA - \$250
winner for their Family Game
Night Event.

Congratulations to our
winning PTA's on their
wonderful Family
Engagement submissions!





In the spirit of giving, make a donation to your local PTA this month and families in need will be given the "Gift of Membership"! What a wonderful way to support every child!



ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS...

- Gun Violence – National PTA testified on Capitol Hill regarding Gun violence in the USA. PTA supports Background Checks prior to the purchase of the gun.
- SNAP Benefits – ½ Million children could lose their food stamps and free/reduced lunch.
- Border Wall – current Department of Defense proposals will cut monies from schools located on bases to fund the border wall.
- National PTA promotes that border families should remain together. It is necessary for children to remain with their parents.
- Share your comments on WV Board of Education policies. Visit <http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/>.

Ginnie Molnar, WV PTA Diversity & Legislative Chair

BYLAWS UPDATE... We've Gone Digital!

I am happy to be the new Bylaws Chair for this term! We have been working hard to prepare a new digital bylaws template for you, our local units, who may be brand new, at the time for your 3 year renewal or are making changes to your bylaws. This new template has already been pre-approved to make our Bylaws Committee review and final approval back to you more quickly. Drop down boxes allow you to make your choices of the way your PTA/PTSA is set up along with some fill in the blanks. Overall, there are fewer lines that need to be filled in compared to the old set up but still cover all the required information needed to setup your bylaws. We hope you will find the new template easy to complete and submit.

We have been sending the template file to all units that are due to be renewed. Our goal is to have all of our units current with their bylaws. To be in good standing with West Virginia PTA, each unit's bylaws are required to be renewed every 3 years as per our Standards of Affiliation. If a unit applies for a grant or other recognition with National PTA, they will contact us to confirm that the unit is in good standing before making their decisions. We can help you so you don't miss out on any opportunities for your unit!

Chris Wuest, Bylaws Chair - WV PTA

westvirginiapta.org

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Save the date for the... 2020 WV PTA CONVENTION

When is it?

Saturday, April 18, 2020 at the Lakeview Resort in Morgantown, WV.

What's it all about?

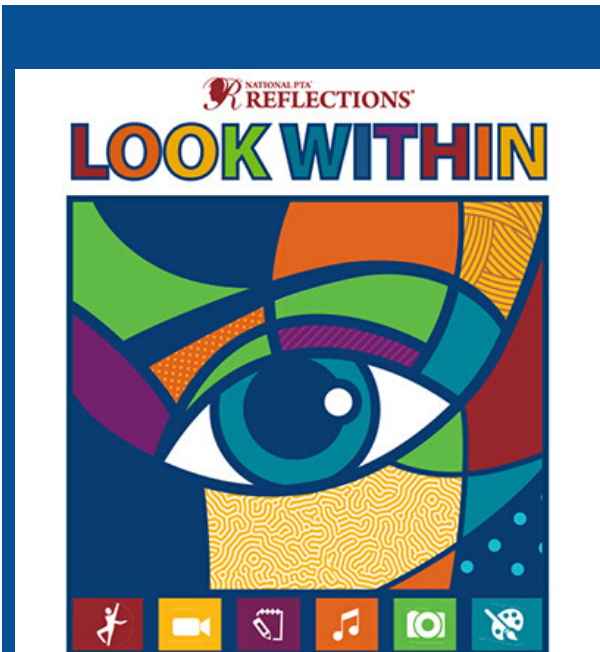
Exciting workshops on key topics valuable to your PTA and our vendor hall will be back highlighting resources and new fundraising opportunities for your PTA. Plus our awards luncheon sets time aside to honor our PTA's for their hard work.

Why attend?

It's a great time to bond with your PTA team and network with other PTA leaders across the state.



Let's Connect Our PTA's



REFLECTIONS...

- All children deserve opportunities to explore and be involved in the arts. The National PTA Reflections program provides just that.
- Deadline for projects due to the WV PTA is February 1st, 2020.
- Visit <http://www.westvirginiapta.org/reflections.shtml> for details and information on how your PTA can participate!