

PTA IN PENNSYLVANIA

Official Publication of the Pennsylvania PTA

September/October 2015 Volume 91, Number 1



**Pennsylvania PTA Welcomes
Laura Bay, National PTA President**

**Meet the 2015-2017
National PTA Officers**
page 8



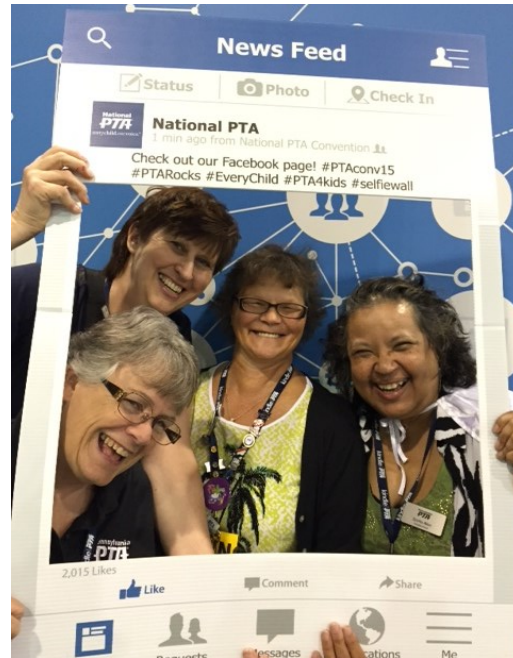
***Working All the Angles
Design, History, Arts & Geometry***
Back cover

**New to
PTA in Pennsylvania**
Even More Nuts & Bolts
Training Articles
for your PTA Leaders



How efficient
are your
PTA's financial
procedures?
Learn basic tips:

Proper Handling of Your PTA's Funds
page 27



**Pennsylvania PTA was represented at the
2015 National PTA Convention**
page 35



Issue Sponsor page 2

PTA Mission:

The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

School Breakfast = School Supplies



Schools increasing their breakfast participation by the highest percentage will **win gift cards** to purchase school supplies and equipment.

To register, go to: www.dairypot.com/schools/ptapromotion/

PA PTA School Breakfast Challenge Rules

1. School must have an active PTA.
2. School must be located in Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association's Pennsylvania territory.
3. School must submit application by November 30, 2015.
4. School must submit final data by December 30, 2015.
5. School must submit a photo of breakfast being served.
6. Winners will be chosen by the largest increase in breakfast participation based on October and November 2015 numbers.
7. Winners will be required to submit copies of receipts for items purchased with gift card.

Prizes

1ST PRIZE - \$1500
2ND PRIZE - \$1000
3RD PRIZE - \$500

*Prizes awarded
January 15, 2016!*



Inside This Issue

Changes to Pennsylvania Act 153 Pertaining to Volunteers	4	What is a Procedure Book? Before Revising Your PTA Bylaws	16 16
Running a successful membership campaign	5	President's Page: <i>Welcome to a New PTA Year</i>	17
Pennsylvania Kids Choose Their Favorite Books	6	High School – Is it a Group of Friends or a Clique?	18
Teachers... The "T" in PTA: <i>A Few Good Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher</i>	7	PTA in the Middle – <i>The Middle School Child</i>	19
National PTA 2015-2017 Officers	8	Vacancies on the State Board of Managers	19
National PTA Schools of Excellence	8	Reflections	20
Back to School Kit Online	8	The ABCs of Male Engagement	21
Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights	9	Awards	22
Cultural Awareness in Family Engagement	11	The Key to Running Effective PTA Meetings	23
Supporting Student Success	11	A President's Monthly Checklist	25
Healthy Food Choices in Schools: Free Online Courses	12	Proper Handling of Your PTA's Funds	27
New PTA Membership Card	12	Standards of Affiliation: Is Your PTA in Good Standing?	28
Breakfast After the Bell – "Breakfast Challenge"	13	Membership Dues Remittance Form	29
Pennsylvania PTA Convention 2016	14	Tips on Keeping Volunteers	30
Advocacy – How You Can Make a Difference For Our Kids!	15	What's Happening in Your Region	31
National PTA Applauds Administration's Commitment to Strengthening Family Engagement in Special Education	15	Board of Managers List	34
		Photos from SLT & National PTA Convention	35
		Working All the Angles – Design, History, Arts & Geometry!	Back Cover



Be A Better Leader

Learn something new!

Train your board!

Prepare new leaders!

*Learn best practices
to fire up your PTA!*

Courses include:

PTA Essentials	Local Unit President	Ethical Leadership
PTA Basics	Local Unit Secretary	Parliamentary Procedure
Effective Advocacy for Your Child	Local Unit Treasurer	Planning Your PTA Year
National Standards for Family School Partnerships	Membership Basics	Preventing Theft in Your PTA
PTA Nuts & Bolts Series	Leadership Enhancement	Running a Successful Program
Board Basics	Creating and Delivering a Speech	Writing and Proposing PTA Resolution
	Cultural Competency	

**Interactive and Engaging Content ~ Downloadable Tools and Resources
Guided Activities and Assessments ~ Course Completion Certificates**

Note: Views expressed in articles contained in this publication that were submitted by non-PTA affiliates are not necessarily the views of the Pennsylvania PTA.

PTA in Pennsylvania (ISSN 1072-3242). September/October 2015 Volume 91, Number 1 Published bi-monthly.
Published at Pennsylvania PTA, 4804 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3440. Periodicals Postage Paid at Harrisburg, PA.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PTA in Pennsylvania, 4804 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3440.

Changes to Pennsylvania Act 153 Pertaining to Volunteers

Since July 2, 2015, there have been many changes and updates to Act 153 as it pertains to volunteers, including the clarification of who needs the background checks/clearances. Changes that affect PTA volunteers are:

- **Fees** –After July 25, 2015, the fees for volunteer background checks/clearances as required by Pennsylvania have been waived. This does not, however, apply to the federally mandated checks/clearances. Those fees remain in place.
- **Dates** - The date that new volunteers must have their background checks/clearances was moved back to **August 25, 2015**.
- **Renewal** of background checks/clearances was changed to being renewed every five (5) years vs. every three (3) years as previously required.
- FBI Fingerprint Criminal History is only required for individuals who have NOT lived in Pennsylvania for the last 10 consecutive years. If you have, you will need to submit a signed Disclosure Statement for Volunteers with your other required checks/clearance documents.
- Your checks/clearances can be used for multiple groups/organizations! You can make a photocopy for each of the organizations you volunteer for, however they must see the original – so be sure to keep your original in a safe place!

Where to get your forms:

- PA State Police Criminal History: <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>
- PA Human Service Child Abuse Clearance: www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis
- FBI Fingerprint Criminal History: https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_pdeNew.htm
- Disclosure Statement for Volunteers: www.papta.org under Forms in the Members Only section

Region Directors – They’re Here for You!

Debbie Munson, President

Did you ever:

- need guidance with running your PTA?
- have a question and needed a quick answer?
- wonder how to get more membership cards?
- miss Summer Leadership Training and need to have an officers’ training closer to home?
- want to find out what is going on with Pennsylvania PTA?

Your Region Director can help with this and MORE!

Region Directors are here to help you. When they call or send an email, they are letting you know what is going on with the region or with Pennsylvania PTA. They also are helping you, by reminding you that you may have forgotten to send something to the office that is needed to be in good standing. If your PTA is not in good standing, it won’t be eligible to receive any grants from National PTA or awards from Pennsylvania PTA. Your students’ Reflections entries can’t go to the Region, State or National levels for judging.

The Region Directors are here to help you...Give them a call or send them an email.

Not sure who your region director is? See page 34 of this publication for a complete list of all Region Directors and their contact information. Also see pages 31-33 for *What’s Happening In Your Region*, including the map of where each of the regions are.

Marketing Your PTA's Membership

Ginny Wade, Membership & Extension Chair



I've heard many times from many PTA leaders that while they deeply appreciate their volunteers, they greatly need membership increased to further their goals. They also want people to understand that joining the PTA does not always require a time commitment. It involves paying a very small annual dues to a community based, nonprofit association that spends every penny to improve the lives of children. Below is a list of a few ideas and strategies to use for your PTA. Do you have great ideas? Have you had a successful membership idea that you could share? We would love to showcase your unit in a future

publication! Send your ideas to gwade@papta.org so we may brag about your wonderful PTA!!

This is a list of ways to increase PTA membership at our schools:

Marketing Materials should:

- ◆ Highlight the projects that your PTA has successfully completed in the past
- ◆ Highlight the projects slated for this year
- ◆ Reinforce that "Joining does not require a time commitment"
- ◆ Include a list of places that you can receive discounts by showing your PTA card
- ◆ Include benefits or perks that your PTA offers to members
- ◆ Include your contact information for new members
- ◆ Include your PTA's website address and any other social media links, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest
- ◆ Have a tear-off section on the primary flier that can be completed and returned with membership dues
- ◆ Be available in the various languages of your community

Current Student Strategies:

- ◆ Packets on Display – Put PTA membership packets in the front office on display, in plain view for parents that are volunteering, bringing students in late or signing them out early, dropping off items, coming up for conferences, etc.
- ◆ Membership Goal in View – Have a large banner or graph at the front entrance of the school showing what the PTA's membership goal is for the year and where they are to date. Have a small table set up next to the banner with marketing materials about upcoming meetings and membership fliers. Stress that joining PTA does not equal a time commitment.
- ◆ High Traffic Days – On days when there is an event scheduled at the school and an increase in traffic is expected, have a couple of people manning the front table handing out brochures and signing up new members. Offer coupons to local establishments with any new membership.
- ◆ Parties for Participation – Have a party for classrooms that have 100% membership. Give students who get multiple memberships (extended family, neighbors, etc.) special perks.

New Student Strategies:

- ◆ Welcome Packet – Make sure that new students receive PTA marketing materials when they are enrolled at school, rather it be during the "Kindergarten Roundup" before school starts or as students transfer in.
- ◆ Follow Up Email – Send a follow up email welcoming the parents of the students to the school/ community and attach your marketing materials. Also include a list of local doctors, dentists, grocery stores, banks, dry cleaners, restaurants, sports team's contacts (for extracurricular activities), and after school care programs that are MEMBERS of your PTA.
- ◆ First Day Breakfast – Hold a breakfast on the first day of school for parents of ALL new students that have not had the chance to attend a getting-to-know-us meeting. PTA volunteers can answer questions, give tours, make introductions and discuss membership opportunities within the PTA.
- ◆ Preschools and Day Cares – Set up a table and hold a mini-membership drive before the new year starts at local preschools and day cares whose children will soon be attending your school. This will help to get parents excited about joining and volunteering.
- ◆ Informational Nights – Set up a table and hold a mini-membership drive at course selection nights for parents at lower level schools that feed into your school.

Pennsylvania Kids Choose Their Favorite Books

Michael Nailor, President, Pennsylvania School Librarians Association



Are you looking for a book or two that your kids might really enjoy?

The Pennsylvania School Librarians Association sponsors an award/competition each year in which school kids from all over the state vote among a list of nominees to

select Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice. Students throughout the state read nominated books over the course of the school year. Their selections are sent in to PSLA where votes are tallied and overall winners in four age categories are named.

And the 2015 winners are in...

Kindergarten - Grade 3:

Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin (Dial Books for Young Readers)

What can go wrong at a party for dragons? Dragons love tacos. They love chicken tacos, beef tacos, great big tacos, and teeny tiny tacos. So if you want to lure a bunch of dragons to your party, you should definitely serve tacos. Buckets and buckets of tacos. Unfortunately, where there are tacos, there is also salsa. And if a dragon accidentally eats spicy salsa . . . oh, boy. You're in red-hot trouble. Kids are guaranteed to love this super silly book!

Grades 3-6:

Jake and Lily by Jerry Spinelli (Balzer & Bray)

Jerry Spinelli, author of *Maniac Magee* and *Wringer*, addresses issues of identity, belonging, family, and bullying in this humorous and heartfelt novel about twins.

Jake and Lily are twins. Despite their slightly different interests and temperaments, they feel exactly the same—like two halves of one person. But the year they turn eleven, everything changes. Their parents announce it's time for separate bedrooms. Jake starts hanging out with a pack of boys on the block. And Lily is devastated, not to mention angry. Who is she without Jake? And as her brother falls under the influence of the neighborhood bully, he also must ask himself—who is the real Jake?

This is an often funny, poignant, and profound

story of growing up, growing apart, and the difficult process of figuring out who you really are.

Grades 6-8:

Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz (Scholastic)

"If I had known what the next six years of my life were going to be like, I would have eaten more. I wouldn't have complained about brushing my teeth, or taking a bath, or going to bed at eight o'clock every night." Yanek Gruener was 10 years old when the German army invaded Poland in 1939 and trapped his family inside the walls of the Jewish ghetto in Krakow. Over the course of World War II, he saw his parents deported by the Nazis and survived 10 different concentration camps. Through Gratz's simple prose, the story of the boy's early life unfolds with the urgency and directness necessary for survivor stories. While some liberties have been taken, with the permission of Gruener and his wife, Ruth, also a survivor, the experiences and images come directly from the Grueners' collective memories of the war.

Young Adult:

Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell (St. Martin's Press)

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. When Eleanor meets Park, you'll remember your own first love—and just how hard it pulled you under. Ultimately, though, this is a book about two people who just really, really like each other and who believe that they can overcome any obstacle standing in the way of their happiness.

Thanks to Amazon.com for their descriptions of the books. Happy reading!

Michael Nailor, a retired school librarian, can be reached at mnailor@psla.org. Your feedback is always welcome.





Teachers ... The 'T' in PTA *A Few Good Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher*

Jerry Oleksiak, President, Pennsylvania State Education Association



The start of the school year is a time full of promise. For students, there are new ideas to explore, new friends to make, and new opportunities to learn and grow.

The start of the school year is also a great time for parents and educators to sit down and talk about how they can partner to nurture student success all year long.

We know from research and experience that when parents and educators both take an active role in the education of young people, those students tend to earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, stay in school longer, and enroll in higher-level programs.

This isn't just true for the youngest students. Take it from a teacher of 32 years who talks with educators all over this state: Your involvement in your child's education is just as important at age 16 as it is at age 6.

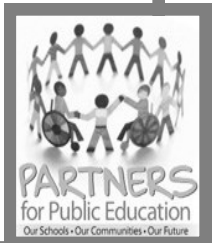
Sometime this fall, you will sit down with your child's teacher for parent-teacher conferences. Come to the table with good questions about how your child is doing in the classroom and what you can do to bolster their success.

Here are a few suggested questions to consider, recommended by professionals in Pennsylvania schools:

- ◆ How well does my child understand the concepts taught in class? What can I do to support my child's success in school?
- ◆ What are some positives you see in my child? I'd like to share a positive with my child that came from you.
- ◆ What is one area with which I can help my child? What can we do as a team to help my child be successful?
- ◆ What are ways you challenge my child?
- ◆ What can I do to ensure that my child is getting the most from his/her education?
- ◆ What are some resources that can be used at home to provide help for my child if he/she is struggling throughout the year?
- ◆ How does my child interact with classmates?

Bring your own questions about your child, as well. Make every minute of that conference count. Partnering with your school community will pay dividends down the road for your child.

Partners for Public Education has more tips and resources for parents who want to help their children succeed in school and in life. Learn more at www.partnersforpubliced.org.



Pennsylvania
PTA
everychild.one voice.®

800.277.6668

PTA
LOGO
STORE



TOTAL Promotions, Inc.
BRANDING YOUR FUTURE

For over 20 years,
Total Promotions, Inc.
has been the official,
licensed, reliable source for
PTA branded merchandise

Get Your PTA Branded Merchandise!!!

You can purchase PTA branded merchandise online by going to the papta.org website and clicking on the "PTA STORE" button on the top right of the homepage.

You can also access it at <http://www.ptabrandedmerchandise.com/PA.html>.

National PTA's 2015-2016 Officers

Pennsylvania PTA congratulates and welcomes our new National PTA 2015-2017 officers, who were elected and installed at the National PTA convention in June:



Laura Bay
President



Jim Accomando
President-Elect



Wayne Bauman
Secretary-Treasurer



Shannon Sevier
Vice President
Advocacy



Debra Strauss
Vice President
Membership

For full biographies and additional information, visit National PTA's website www.pta.org - *About PTA - Leadership*.

National PTA School of Excellence

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.

What does it take to become a National PTA School of Excellence?

1. Enroll your PTA between April 1 and October 1. You will receive the "Getting Started Guide," which describes program components, including your first steps to gather feedback from families and set goals with your school partner.
2. Survey your school community and share the results with National PTA by submitting a Family-School Partnership Scan by November 1.
3. Receive a customized "Roadmap to Excellence" containing recommendations that respond to your specific results from the Family-School Partnership Scan.
4. Complete the National PTA School of Excellence application before June 1, 2016.
5. Celebrate your excellence! All National PTA School of Excellence recipients will receive a toolkit to support celebration activities.

The Pennsylvania PTA highly encourages EVERY PTA to enroll in this beneficial National PTA program! For more information, visit National PTA's website www.pta.org, Pennsylvania PTA's website www.papta.org, or email familyengagement@papta.org.

The New 2015-2016 Official Back-to-School Kit Website is Now Live

We know you're extremely busy, that's why we made sure you can access the kit easily from your phone or tablet. All the information you need is right at your fingertips.

The newly revamped digital kit provides a set of interactive resources to help your local PTAs kick-start a winning school year. It contains user-friendly printable and shareable forms, as well as tools and checklists to help PTAs deepen their impact and venture into new territory. Simply go to PTAKit.org and cheers to a new school year! Questions about the kit? Contact NPTA at BacktoSchool@pta.org.

GET THE NEW BACK-TO-SCHOOL KIT ONLINE



AND IT'S MOBILE-FRIENDLY
FOR YOUR SMARTPHONE
AND TABLET!

PTAKit.org

Student Athlete Bill of Rights

Amy C Ruhf, MS, LAT, ATC, CKTP, CES, Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society PTA Committee, Holy Redeemer Sports Medicine



As a parent, you are the one person who always has your child's best interest in mind. You are the one person whom your child can count on as an advocate no matter the circumstance. In an athletics setting, the Youth Sports Safety Alliance also seeks to advocate for your children to ensure that they may participate in athletics as safely as possible. YSSA has developed a Secondary Student Athletes' Bill of Rights to help accomplish this goal. The Bill of Rights reads as follows:



Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights

Protecting America's Student Athletes

- I. **Student Athletes have the right** to be coached by individuals who are well trained in sport-specific safety and to be monitored by athletic health care team members.
- II. **Student Athletes have the right** to quality, regular pre-participation examinations and each athlete has the right to participate under a comprehensive concussion management plan.
- III. **Student Athletes have the right** to participate in sporting activities on safe, clean playing surfaces, in both indoor and outdoor facilities.
- IV. **Student Athletes have the right** to utilize equipment and uniforms that are safe, fitted appropriately and routinely maintained, and to appropriate personnel trained in proper removal of equipment in case of injury.
- V. **Student Athletes have the right** to participate safely in all environmental conditions where play follows approved guidelines and medical policies and procedures, with a hydration plan in place.
- VI. **Student Athletes have the right** to a safe playing environment with venue-specific emergency action plans that are coordinated by the athletic health care team and regularly rehearsed with local emergency personnel.
- VII. **Student Athletes have the right** to privacy of health information and proper referral for medical, psychosocial and nutritional counseling.
- VIII. **Student Athletes have the right** to participate

in a culture that finds "playing through pain" unacceptable unless there has been a medical assessment.

- IX. **Student Athletes have the right** to immediate, on-site injury assessments with decisions made by qualified sports medicine professionals.
- X. **Student Athletes have the right**, along with their parents, to the latest information about the benefits and potential risks of participation in competitive sports, including access to statistics on fatalities and catastrophic injuries to youth athletes.

Licensed Athletic Trainers play an important role in securing these rights for safe participation in youth sport for young athletes. They serve as advocates for your children and are the only people besides yourself on the sideline who is solely looking out for your child's welfare. They are not concerned with event outcomes, but with the well being of all participants regardless of school affiliation. They partner with coaches, administrators, team physicians, other allied healthcare workers, and you, the parents, to ensure that student athletes are cared for throughout their sports season. Much of what athletic trainers do to ensure safe participation in youth sport is done behind the scenes.

Prior to sport participation, the athletic trainers review all of the athletes' physical examinations and take note of preexisting medical conditions such as asthma, allergies, heart conditions, connective tissue disorders, etc. In corroboration with coaches and other members of the sports medicine team, the athletic trainers develop a plan of care for those athletes with preexisting medical conditions, should they at any time have difficulty while participating in sport.

Athletic trainers often times can be observed

Student Athlete Bill of Rights

walking the playing surfaces a few hours before an event takes place. They are looking for any adverse field condition that might prove dangerous so that measures may be taken to correct the problem before teams arrive. If the field conditions are unable to be corrected, the athletic trainers make recommendations to suspend play until the issue can be addressed so as not to put student athletes in harm's way.

During events, Athletic trainers may appear to be "just watching the game" but in reality, they are observing biomechanics of movement, looking for abnormalities that may lead to injury. They are studying how the student athlete is moving on the field as well as their state off the field. Often times athletic trainers have a good idea of what is wrong with an injured athlete before they reach them, just by watching their performance on the field.

Athletic trainers are familiar with all equipment that an athlete may use during a game. They know how it goes on, how it comes off and how to remove it safely if an athlete sustains a significant injury. They train with the emergency medical services groups that service their facilities to ensure that when emergency transport is necessary, all parties are on the same page prior to an incident occurring. Athletic trainers spend a great deal of time developing and perfecting emergency action plans for each venue on their campus. Not only are the plans developed, but they are also practiced by all parties who may be involved in the care of an athlete should an emergency occur during a

practice or game. Practicing for an emergency by following the plans that are developed helps to ensure that when a real emergency occurs, every person involved will know exactly what to do and when to do it, which leads to the best possible outcome for the injured athlete.

Finally, Athletic Trainers ensure that student athletes receive immediate medical attention. They are available to student athletes to provide quality medical care for any medical condition that may arise while they participate in sport – from blisters to sudden cardiac arrest. They are constantly developing and honing their skills so that they can provide the best care possible to the athletes whom they serve. Athletic trainers are also valuable resources for students who have questions about nutrition and conditioning. They approach healthcare for student athletes holistically, and want nothing more than to see the athletes succeed and excel at their activity of choice.

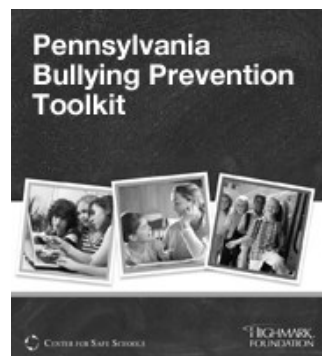
To learn more about athletic training, visit www.gopats.org or www.nata.org. Together, we can ensure the safe participation in youth sport for all student athletes!



Bullying Prevention: Downloadable Resources Available

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's website now contains downloadable resources to support bullying prevention in schools and communities. To access helpful resources such as the *Pennsylvania Bullying Prevention Toolkit* and links to bullying prevention websites, be sure to visit: www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Safe%20Schools/Pages/Bullying-Prevention.aspx#.VYA_PVTD9wE

For further information on how to support your school and community bullying prevention efforts, contact Mary Dolan, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bullying Prevention Consultant at c-mdolan@pa.gov.



Supporting Student Success

Consistent participation in afterschool programs leads to improved:



Behavior



Academics



Attendance

Parents say their afterschool programs provide opportunities that help their children succeed.

77%

say they offer homework assistance

72%

say they offer reading or writing opportunities

69%

say they offer opportunities to learn science, technology, engineering, and math



Every five years, the Afterschool Alliance surveys parents about afterschool to update their publication, “America After 3 PM”. The findings in this report are based on survey responses from parents in 2014, during which 30,720 households were screened nationally and 13,709 households completed in-depth interviews. Research shows that children who consistently participate in these programs experience better behavior, improved academics and attendance. As you can see by the infographic to the left, the surveyed parents tend to agree. As PTA leaders, you should assess the afterschool programs in your school community. Ask your members about the programs their children attend. How can your PTA partner with afterschool programs? Is there an opportunity to help bridge the afterschool program with your school?



Learn more at www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM

<http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM>

<http://expandinglearning.org/research/vandell>



Cultural Awareness in Family Engagement Mini Grant

Dawn Harrison, Family Engagement Chair



Pennsylvania PTA is again offering a Cultural Awareness in Family Engagement Mini-Grant. Decades of research prove that when families are actively involved in their child’s education, student achievement improves, students earn higher grades and test scores, they have fewer disciplinary referrals, and schools get better as a result. To encourage and support our local PTAs, the Pennsylvania PTA’s Family Engagement Committee is excited to announce the annual Pennsylvania PTA Cultural Awareness mini-grant application is now open. This \$500 grant is being offered to a local PTA that

designs a program to engage and support parents from diverse cultural backgrounds. Along with the funds to help support your program, the winning PTA will also receive two complimentary registrations to the 2016 Pennsylvania PTA Annual State Convention, two tickets to the Saturday evening banquet and one overnight hotel accommodation (one room). Congratulations to the 2014-2015 recipient, Fairview Elementary PTA.

To access the grant application and additional details visit our website www.papta.org (listed under Site Shortcuts). The application deadline is **November 13, 2015**.

What’s to see on the Pennsylvania PTA Website???

The Members Only page is chock-full of information that will help you as a PTA leader. Specific areas include:

Awards
Bylaws
FAQs
Forms
Health & Safety
Insurance
IRS Compliance

Leadership Training
Legislation
Member Benefits
Membership
MS & HS PTAs
NPTA Reference Guides
Nomination to the State Board

Nominations & Elections
President
President’s Mailings
Press Releases
PTA Councils
PTA in Pennsylvania
PTA logo

Reflections
Resolutions
Secretary
Social Media
Trainings
Transitioning
Treasurer

Healthy Food Choices in Schools: Free Online Courses

The eXtension Healthy Food Choices in Schools has created two free hour-long online classes!

In the first course, learn how:

- a. The principles of behavioral economics can help the increase sales and consumption of healthy foods in school lunchrooms.
- b. To identify funding and resources available to enhance your school meal program.
- c. To measure and communicate school meal program successes.

For more information or to enroll please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/lgdrkfu> or scan the code to the right.



In the second course, learn:

- a. To identify steps for creating positive messaging about healthy school meal program changes.
- b. How the Six Persuasion Principles can help improve student food selection.
- c. Some of the challenges and successes of implementing a Smarter Lunchroom Makeover and how to create a stakeholder group, work plan, and conduct a needs assessment of your school lunchroom.

For more information or to enroll please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/p883zyf> or scan the code to the right.



Each course consists of three videos and three comprehension questions. A Certificate of Completion will be issued automatically upon completion. School Nutrition Association members are also eligible for one SNA CEU per course, to be emailed upon satisfactory completion.



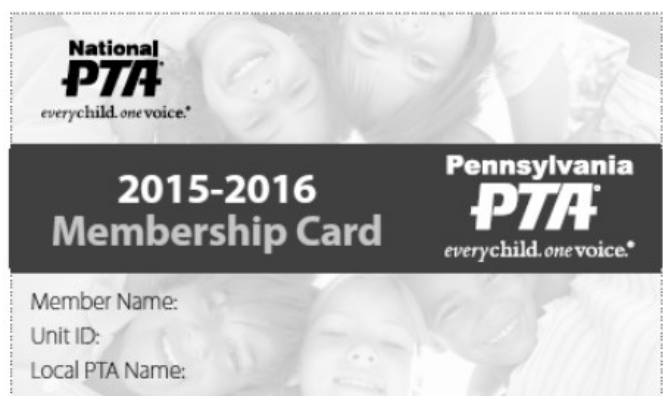
The Healthy Food Choices in Schools Community of Practice is an online resource area where you can find research based tools and information about how to make simple changes that encourage children to make healthier food selections in school food environments!
www.extension.org/healthy_food_choices_in_schools.

Your New PTA Membership Card

Thank you for joining the nation's largest child advocacy association and supporting our efforts to make every child's potential a reality. You are now one of the millions of PTA members dedicated to making a difference in the education, health, and safety of America's children. You are empowered, informed and responsible members.

Membership packets were sent out to all local unit presidents in August. If you have not received your packet yet, please contact the state office:

Pennsylvania PTA at 717-564-8985 or info@papta.org.



Be sure to create your PTA Profile to gain access to National PTA's membership resources and year-round savings from PTA member benefit providers. For more info about how to create your profile, visit www.pta.org/profile.

Breakfast After the Bell “Breakfast Challenge”

Scranton School District Ready for “Breakfast Challenge”



Having a healthy breakfast is the key to a successful start of the school day for students. Unfortunately, far too many students

in Pennsylvania are not getting the nutrition they need at school. To help turn that around, Pennsylvania schools are being challenged to increase student participation in school breakfast with the state’s second School Breakfast Challenge. The Challenge runs between September and December 2015.

Pennsylvania ranks 41st nationally, with only 45% of low-income children in Pennsylvania who are eating school lunch also participating in school breakfast, according to the School Breakfast Scorecard 2015 issued by the national Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). One of the most effective ways to significantly boost school breakfast participation is to make it part of the school day with the *Breakfast After the Bell* program. Precious Gilliard, Food Services Director for the Scranton School District, learned about *Breakfast After the Bell* during American Dairy Association and Dairy Council’s Pennsylvania School Breakfast Summit in May 2014. Gilliard participated in a pilot rollout of *Breakfast in the Classroom* and recognized its value. “The results were tremendous” said Gilliard, who saw participation increase between 500 to 700 meals per day, “so that just tells you that there’s a desperate need in the community for the kids to be fed.” A year later, congratulations to the Scranton School District for rolling out *Breakfast After the Bell* in all of their schools! The district had help from Pamela Rusnak, Youth Nutrition Consultant for American Dairy Association and Dairy Council. Rusnak provides districts, like Scranton, with one-on-one consultations, including needs assessment, planning and goal setting to help get schools on board with *Breakfast After the Bell*. Once a school district commits to the program, Rusnak determines what supporting resources

American Dairy Association and Dairy Council is able to provide – she ordered insulated bags for Scranton and helped with their rollout plan.

New in the 2015-2016 school year, Scranton School District is offering the *Breakfast in the Classroom* model of the *Breakfast After the Bell* program at all of its elementary schools. This method allows students to eat breakfast in their classroom after the official start of the school day. The Grab ‘n Go model is being offered to students attending the district’s Middle and High School, whereby students can pick up conveniently packaged breakfast from mobile service carts in high traffic areas, such as hallways, entryways or cafeterias, when they arrive at school or between classes. These strategies that make breakfast part of the school day are proven to dramatically increase participation in school breakfast by making it convenient and accessible to all children.

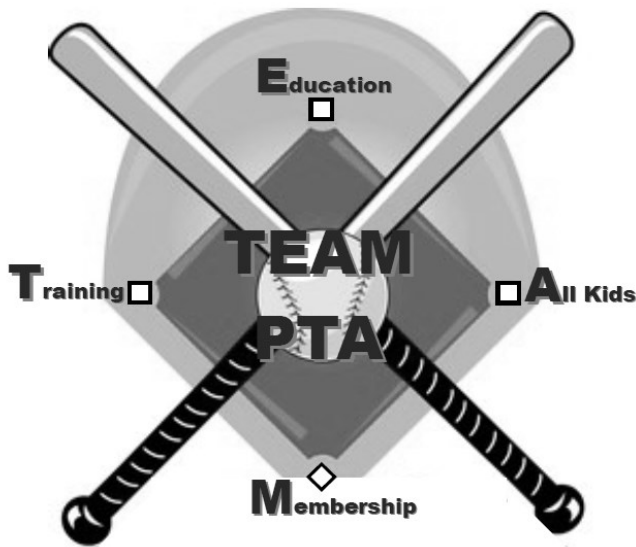
The Pennsylvania School Breakfast Challenge participation increases will be measured comparing average daily breakfast participation from first four months of the 2014-2015 school year to average daily breakfast participation during the Challenge period, with winners announced in late April or early May 2016.

Interested in starting or continuing a *Breakfast After the Bell* program? Contact Pamela Rusnak by email at PRusnak@adadc.com or by phone at 484-895-0260.

Precious Gilliard, Food Services Director for the Scranton School District, enjoys wholesome milk with breakfast during American Dairy Association and Dairy Council’s Pennsylvania School Breakfast Summit in May 2014.



107th Annual Pennsylvania PTA Convention—April 15-17., 2016



Pennsylvania PTA's 107th Annual Convention

April 15-17, 2016

Holiday Inn Allentown - I-78
7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville, PA 18031

Come Play For TEAM PTA

Plan to join us at Pennsylvania PTA's 107th Annual Convention, April 15-17, 2016 in the Lehigh Valley

TEAM PTA will help you check equipment and cover all bases to ensure that your PTA/PTSA is ready to hit a home run out of the park every time you come up to the plate.

Start preparing now. Announce the date at PTA meetings so members can include it on their calendar. Review your PTA's bylaws and standing rules to determine how many delegates you can send to Convention, and how they are selected or elected. Make sure that Convention expenses (registration, meals, hotel and travel) are included in your PTA's 2015-16 budget.

All convention details will be posted on-line and will be printed in the January/February 2016 issue of *PTA in Pennsylvania - Call to Convention*.

See you there!!

2016 Local Convention Committee Needs You!

Calling All PTAs in and around the Lehigh Valley... Would you like to help in the planning of the 2016 Pennsylvania PTA Annual Convention? The Local Convention Committee will be holding monthly planning meetings from now through convention and would love for you to join them! If you or others from your PTA can help out, please let us know. The meetings will be held on the following ***Sundays, 3:00-5:00 pm at 7120 Goldcris Lane, Northampton, PA 18067 unless otherwise noted:***

September 27 *at the Holiday Inn Allentown, I-78
7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville, PA 18031*

October 18

November 29

January 3

January 31

February 21

March 13

April 10 *at the Holiday Inn Allentown, I-78
7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville, PA 18031*

For more information please contact Local Convention Coordinator,
Fran Shehab at 610-261-0814 or fshehab@rcn.com.

How would you like the 2017 Pennsylvania PTA Convention to be in your town?

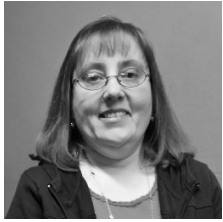
It can be if you submit a proposal to host the annual Pennsylvania PTA Convention! The date and location for upcoming conventions is selected by the State Board of Managers, who currently is looking for a site for April 2017.

Ever wonder how the locations for the conventions are selected? Local units or councils submit a written proposal to host the annual event. For details on how to do so, visit the website www.papta.org, select Trainings/Events tab at the top, select PA PTA State Convention then Proposal to Host a State Convention.

We'd love to bring the excitement of Convention to your city where you can showcase what your area has to offer and "show off" your students talents. So, is convention going to be in your home town? We certainly hope so!

Advocacy - How you can make a difference for our kids!

Tara Purcell, Legislation & Advocacy Chair



As the new school year begins, PTAs are looking at what problems or concerns will affect the children and youth of their schools. Has bullying or cyberbullying been an issue? What about Youth Suicide?

If these are some of the issues that your school has been dealing with but don't know where to start to bring attention to them or how to voice your concern, you are not alone!

Others have felt what you have and knew their voices needed to be heard and action needed to be taken. Pennsylvania PTA and National PTA have adopted resolutions and position statements that have been written to help with these concerns and many more. They formalize and focus the position of the PTA and what needs to be done. These resolutions and position statements are owned by every PTA. Just imagine over 50,000 voices behind you as you spread the word about Cyberbullying and what needs to be done or over five million when you talk about Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management in Schools. What a difference it can make when you can have that

many voices behind you when you are asking for change. These and many others can be found at www.papta.org or at www.pta.org/advocacy.

Can't find one that matches the issue that is of concern in your school or PTA but is something that is shared by others across the state? Then you can write a resolution and help others. Information on how to write one is found on www.papta.org under the Issues/Action tab.

Help bring a voice to an issue that concerns the children of Pennsylvania. Resolution Proposal submissions must be into the state office by October 1. It was people like you, concerned for the children that led to Child Labor Laws and Hot and Healthy Lunch Programs. All it takes is one voice to begin to make changes and that voice can be yours!



Thanks for being a voice for us!!

Please Note: Pennsylvania PTA Advocacy Day scheduled for October 26, 2015 has been cancelled.

National PTA Applauds Administration's Commitment to Strengthening Family Engagement in Special Education

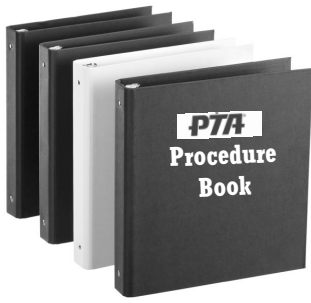
In August, the U.S. Department of Education announced that nearly \$14 million in grants will be awarded to states to operate parent training and information centers to assist families of children with disabilities. The centers are designed to promote effective education of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities by strengthening the role and responsibility of parents and ensuring they have meaningful opportunities to participate in their children's education.

"National PTA has consistently advocated for federal investment in family engagement as it is proven to make a difference for all children, schools and communities," said Laura Bay, National PTA president. "The association applauds the administration's commitment to ensuring that

family engagement remains a fundamental principle of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and that children with disabilities have access to education and services that will enable them to reach their full potential."

With the grants, the parent training and information centers will provide parents with details and assistance on laws, policies and research-based education practices for children with disabilities. They also will inform parents how data can be used to guide instruction, how to interpret results from evaluations and assessments, and ways to effectively engage in school reform activities. The grants are being funded by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and authorized by the IDEA.

What is a Procedure Book?



A procedure book is one of the most valuable tools a board member can have in their possession, right after the bylaws and standing rules for your PTA. A procedure book contains the procedures for each board member to run their program or complete their job duties. It has guidelines on the course of action you need to take. There is contact information for whomever you need to call/email to get your program up and running. The previous chairs should have contributed to the procedure book by writing down what worked and what needs to be changed, how they did things, where the tables or equipment needed is found and a diagram of where to place it for your program. It will give you a foundation to build upon.

It is important that every chairman adds to the procedure book and keeps the contacts up-to-date. If there is not a procedure book for your program or if your PTA does not have procedure books, there is no better time than right now to start putting them together. You will need a large 3-ring binder for each program, officer or chairman. This makes it easy to add new information. A clear view binder with a pocket of the front makes identification easy. In the front put the name of the office, and the name of the PTA.

What should be in a procedure book?

- ◆ The job description for the program/position that is regularly updated
- ◆ A calendar stating when to do each step
- ◆ Any correspondence pertaining to the position
- ◆ Materials from workshops that deal with the position
- ◆ Agendas and minutes from board and committee meetings
- ◆ Evaluations from past years' work with specific suggestions for improvements
- ◆ Copies of newsletters/newspaper articles, etc.
- ◆ Copies of any flyers or forms that were used
- ◆ A contact list of the committee members
- ◆ A contact list of all the officers and chairmen of your PTA
- ◆ A contact list of the council officers and chairmen if you belong to a council
- ◆ A contact list of Pennsylvania PTA officers and chairmen
- ◆ A contact list of resource people for your position
- ◆ Bylaws and Standing Rules of your PTA
- ◆ The budget and budget detail for your PTA
- ◆ Treasurer's reports

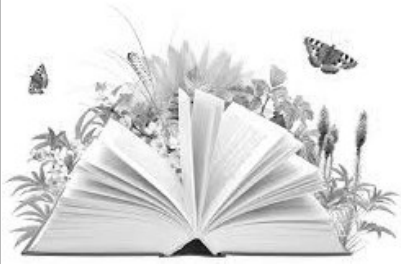
Remember, procedure books belong to the PTA. All of the information in the book must be left intact for the next chairman to use. They need to be passed on to the chairman either at the end of the previous year right after they take office or during summer, but definitely by the first meeting. Procedure books are to help your PTA run efficiently and provide a record of what has been done in the past so they can build upon the successes and continue to make the PTA better.

BEFORE REVISING YOUR PTA BYLAWS

Is your PTA preparing to update or amend the bylaws? WHAT should you do first???

Before your PTA undertakes revising or amending the bylaws contact the current state Bylaws & Policies Chair for guidance and the most recent Local Unit or Council Bylaws Model:

Julie Lesitsky, Bylaws & Policies Chair, 570-977-2308 or bylaws@papta.org



The President's Page

Welcome to a New PTA Year

By Debbie Munson, President



By now, the new school year has started and the daily routine is running like a fine oiled machine. Hopefully your PTA is also running smoothly.

One of the best ways for this to happen is for your board members to attend training. Our Region Directors will be holding fall trainings soon. You are welcome to attend any of these trainings, even if it is being held in a different region from the one in which you live. Be sure to check our website: papta.org regularly for information as it becomes available!

One of our biggest complaints that we receive from the local and council PTAs is not being able to work together as a board. Most of the time this is due to differing opinions on how a program should be run, or personality conflicts. This would be a time to take a step back and remind yourself and the board that you need to work this out for the child's sake.

Every once in a while, there is a real problem where one board member is truly not doing what is in the best interest of the PTA and the children. This is the time to contact your Region Director for help. They can attend a meeting to mediate, and if needed, can ask for the committee on state and local relationships be called in to assist. This committee will listen to both sides and offer suggestions or aid with conflict resolution. However, if it comes to action needed to be taken, the Pennsylvania PTA cannot remove a board member or officer from office. That is up to your membership to bring forth a motion to remove them. If you decide to go this route, your membership must be notified of the meeting and are able to attend – even the person who may be voted off. They all have the right to vote.

You also must be open to new ideas and programs. The President and Treasurer **must** work together. They may not always agree on everything, but they

need to have a good working relationship. Both need to know what the IRS guidelines are for spending PTA funds. The August 2015 President's mailing included the IRS 501(c)(3) regulations booklet. Please be sure to refer to this and share it with the entire board. As a board, you must work together, always keeping the children as your main focus, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

A serious problem, that we unfortunately read about in the paper or see on the news way too often, is an officer stealing money from a non-profit organization, or that the president illegally wrote checks to himself. The easiest way for this NOT to happen is by having the proper money handling process in place. Please be sure to see the article *Proper Handling of Your PTA's Funds* on pages 25-26 of this publication.

Please know that the Pennsylvania PTA State Board of Managers is here to help you. If you have general questions, reach out to your Region Director or for those regions without a director, contact the state office and someone will help you. If you have a question on a specific subject, such as Reflections or bylaws, reach out to that state chairman. President-Elect Bonita Allen and I are also available to assist you. And keep in mind that the state board members are also volunteers. Many, in addition to caring for their families, work full-time jobs outside of the home (and PTA), so it may take a day or two to get back to you. Sometimes we may have to check on an answer before getting back to you; but if you don't hear back from them in two or three days, please try again.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania PTA State Board of Managers, I want to thank you all for agreeing to take on the duties you were elected to. They are very important, we truly appreciate what you do and we are here to help you have a GREAT year!

High School - Is it a Group of Friends or a Clique?



Part of growing up is figuring out friendships. Having a best friend is great and having a group of friends is wonderful. It's great to be part of a group. Your high school child can learn how to listen, share and respect others.

Groups are usually formed around shared interests. Sometimes it's sports or a school club, other times it has to do with out-of-school activities – music or shopping. The group feels like they are welcome and supported. They can be themselves around their friends. There is no pressure to “follow the leader.” Sometimes you may have more than one group of friends and you move between the groups and often you will have one or more people in each group that you are closer to. A group of friends will welcome others to join them.

A clique is closed to new members. Usually they have a code for dress and behavior. Cliques focus on popularity and status. Often times members of the clique will try to hurt others outside of their clique by making fun of them and excluding them; sometimes they go further by bullying others and victimize them for being different. Members of cliques are not supposed to socialize with those who are not in the clique.

If you remember high school as a series of confrontations between groups of kids, this is a good sign that you did indeed go to high school. Some schools are ruled by cliques that are extremely strong, while others don't have sharp divisions between nerds, goths, etc.

So, what causes these differences? It's about how the schools are designed. Daniel McFarland found that in bigger schools, students are more anxious about finding meaningful relationships, and they respond by seeking out familiar peers who offer security, support, and protection. "Larger schools

that offer more choice and variety are the most likely to form hierarchies and cliques and self-segregation,” said McFarland, a professor of education at Stanford Graduate School of Education. "In smaller schools, and in smaller classrooms, you force people to interact, and they are less hierarchical, less cliquish, and less self-segregated.”

Schools that grouped students by academics and created other ways to force kids with different backgrounds to cooperate (whether in clubs or on sports teams) were less ruled by segregation and hierarchy. "In classrooms with assigned seating, students are forced to sit next to someone whom they wouldn't otherwise interact, and that tends to break down the tendency to segregate by background,” McFarland said.

McFarland says his work could easily be misinterpreted as a criticism of big high schools and cliques. He's not prepared to make a blanket statement about the ideal size of a school or classroom in America.

There are silver linings to cliques, as well, said McFarland. “They can be supportive and protective,” he said. "They can also be vicious. We all agree that if people sort on the basis of class or race, that's not a good thing for a pluralist democracy." Belonging to a clique can lead to dealing with lots of pressure to conform to the rules set by the clique, worrying about if you will still be “popular” enough to stay in the clique or if you will be kicked out.

Instead, McFarland's biggest point isn't about how we ought to organize our schools, but rather how organizations shape our behavior. Our preference for familiar people and ideas is deep-rooted, as are our anxieties about people who are different and our ambition for status within our community. People are social animals, but we're also creatures of our environment. Our habitats shape our habits.

Daniel McFarland, the lead author of a new paper on high school cliques, it offers a perfect lesson in how cliques harden in some schools—and why they barely form in others. In short, the natural instinct for teenagers to separate themselves into clusters and hierarchies is weakened when schools force kids to partner with peers they wouldn't otherwise want to be around to see first-hand the benefits of unlikely friendships.

Some excerpts taken from: Why Cliques Form at Some High Schools and Not Others by Derek Thompson, a senior editor at The Atlantic, where he writes about economics, labor markets, and the entertainment business.



The Middle School Child

The middle school child is full of contradictions. One minute they don't want you involved with them and the next minute they don't want you out of their sight.

This is the time that your middle school child, who was thrilled to have you at school in elementary grades, suddenly doesn't want you in his school. But as a parent, you need to realize they need you now, more than ever, despite the fact they make it sound like they don't need you.

Socially, middle schoolers are worried about the opinions of their peers, have a strong desire to fit in with their classmates, keep their feelings a secret from their parents and have a lack of interest in the opinions of their parents. You will see mood swings and crying for no apparent reason.

Young adolescents are going through the biggest brain development other than birth to three. On top of this, the hormones are starting to kick in. Your middle school child is not able to understand all of the changes going on in their body. This usually starts around ten years of age and lasts up to 15 years of age. There is a large gap in their social development during this time. Some are acting very much like adults while other are still playing with toys.

With all the changes going on, then add in moving from the elementary school, where they were the oldest in the building, to the middle school, where they are now the youngest in the building, and being in larger classes, it makes it even harder for the middle child to adjust.

Parents need to realize they can help their children understand the changes they are going through and listen to their problems and even offer suggestions, but don't expect to become their confidante. Your daughter or son is now beginning to look for answers from others, not in the family circle. They are always trying to fit in.

You may have to compromise on your involvement in school functions, work on the fundraiser instead of chaperoning a field trip; but you must always stand firm on safety issues. Meet your child's friends' parents, have a set time for them to be in the house, have a set bedtime. You may have to compromise at times, but make sure your child knows where you stand.

You have to let them grow up, but don't let go of their hand just yet, they still need you!



The Pennsylvania PTA State Board of Managers is seeking eligible individuals to fill vacancies in the following positions:

- Region 3 Director
- Region 11 Director
- Region 13 Director
- Health and Safety Chairman

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions, please contact the state office for eligibility requirements or additional information.

Pennsylvania PTA 717-564-8985 info@papta.org

Gearing Up For Your Reflections Program

Nellie Connelly, Arts in Education Chairman



I can smell the copy machine heating up with all the copying that you are doing to keep your checklists handy and to get out all the exciting information to your student participants for this year's Reflections program: *Let Your Imagination Fly!*

If you were at Summer Leadership Training, you should have a greater understanding of the process, time lines, paperwork and new updates/rules. If you missed it, you can go to our webpage, www.papta.or/reflections, and piece together what took us two hours to go through...we were quite thorough!

Here are some highlights...

NEW THIS YEAR to Pennsylvania PTA's Reflections Program: 3D VISUAL ART!!!

Other states have already been offering this so our committee agreed that it was time for us to give it a try. The guidelines are on the Reflections page of the website, but I want to clarify the judging process.

- The local level will present the 3D category and will judge it separately from our current (2D) visual arts category.
- Top five winners will forward to the council level and again be judged separately. When Council picks the top three winners and sends them to the Region level, they will be judged together (2D & 3D) under one visual arts category, as well as on the state and national level.

OTHER CHANGES TO NOTE:

- Photography entries may only be one photo. This allows the artist to concentrate on that one picture that stands out in subject, color, layout and focus. It cannot be smaller than 8x8" (including mat) and not larger than 11x14" (including mat).
- Notice the updated entry form – it's been simplified. PLEASE take the time to make sure that every participant has completely filled out all information related to their artwork.
- We have returned to using sleeves to hold the entry form on the back side of the entry.
- Only use CD's or flash drives and manila envelopes for music, dance and video entries.

We tried to make sure all the necessary information and print out forms are available on the webpage. If you cannot find something, check the National PTA website www.pta.org/reflections, or email me at nconnolly@papta.org. Also, I'll be doing my best to send out reminder emails as we go through this program together. So, just reach out and be sure I have your contact info then get geared up to...

Plan ~ Promote ~ Present ~ complete Paperwork ~ Judge ~ Forward ~ & Party!

You're not alone and you're greatly appreciated for all your help to make this a successful program for our students!!! ***Cheering You On!!***

Nellie



ABC's of Male Involvement

Deborah Walsh, PTA National Membership/Extension Supervisor and Marilyn Ferdinand, former Editor of Our Children Magazine.



What does your PTA look like? Do men make up half your PTA members? Leaders? Volunteers? If they don't, do you know why?

Do you know why men are important to PTA?

Studies show students perform better when BOTH parents are involved in education. Men and women think differently and bring different perspectives to PTA. PTAs are more vibrant and more appealing to all when both men and women help run them.

PTA wanted to know what men value about PTA and see as obstacles to membership. Therefore, in 2004, we asked our active male leadership for some advice using a poll and leaving lots of room for personal responses. About 2,700 men responded, 98 percent of them PTA members, and a large majority with students in school. Their responses helped us come up with the ABCs of male involvement.

A = Ask

Asking men. Nearly half the men polled said they were not asked to join PTA. As with every "sales pitch," asking for their membership is the strongest tool you have to get men involved in PTA.

Understand that sending a form through the "backpack express" or a flier on the PTA table at a school open house is not a very effective "ask." A real "ask" is personal and powerful. Show enthusiasm and draw on your experiences. Don't apologize for asking, and be prepared to say what your PTA is doing to help their children. Most important, make the message meaningful to men.

According to the survey, men join "to work to improve the school to benefit my child." The overall message should be, "Your child benefits when you join PTA."

An obvious strategy for getting more men to participate is to encourage their wives to ask them. Ask for partners. Male community members participate in various organizations and activities, such as Kiwanis, YMCA, and Little League. The men surveyed also suggested PTA invite male speakers from typically male organizations to speak at PTA meetings about what their organizations do—and then ask for the same invitation to their groups. PTA leaders can contact these organizations to initiate joint projects, such as fundraisers, blood drives, and teen nights. Through such partnerships, you can demonstrate PTA's value to men and gain a valuable opportunity to ask them to join.

B = Bend

One size does not fit all in meeting the needs of PTA members, particularly men. Unless your unit is brimming with male PTA members, what you are doing is not working. Therefore, it is essential that you bend, that is, be flexible in your actions and thinking.

The top reason men in our survey gave for not joining PTA was time. In fact, general membership surveys PTA does regularly all say that time is the top reason why all survey participants do not join PTA. But what does time have to do with signing up as a member, paying dues, and carrying a membership card? The fact is that most people think that to belong to PTA means they have to volunteer.

Men not only want to know if membership equals volunteering, but almost half of the men surveyed said they would volunteer if their roles and expectations were clearly defined. For these survey participants PTA membership and volunteering are not social activities—these men want results.



Pennsylvania PTA Awards... Be Sure Your PTA Applies

Tricia Dietz, Region 14 Director, Awards Chairman



The following awards are offered by the Pennsylvania PTA:

President's Choice Award: Champions for Children

Deadline is February 1, 2016 for a PTA/ PTSA Unit or Council that has demonstrated outstanding advocacy efforts for children in youth.

Dr. Walt Kealey Leadership Award

Deadline is February 1, 2016 to nominate a principal, that has established parent involvement, created a quality learning environment, upholds the PTA's Mission, and is an advocate for all children.

Outstanding School Nurse Award

Deadline is February 1, 2016 a PTA/PTSA to nominate a school nurse that has provided substantial medical care to students within your school.

PTA/PTSA Unit of the Year Award

Deadline is March 1, 2016 to acknowledge a PTA/PTSA that has shown student achievement, school success, and public awareness.

Most Outstanding Membership Promotion Award

Deadline is March 1, 2016 for effectively networking with schools and communities to retain and increase membership for the PTA.

Most Outstanding Newsletter Award

Deadline is March 1, 2016 for focusing on the frequent circulation of PTA/PTSA events to members and communities.

Most Outstanding Published Article Award

Deadline is March 1, 2016 to acknowledge the dedication of the PTA/PTSA who created focus on PTA/PTSA's accomplishments by use of media.

Volunteer of the Year Award

Deadline is March 1, 2016 to recognize an outstanding volunteer member of your PTA/PTSA for their strong commitment to the mission and purposes of PTA.

PTA/PTSA Wellness Award

Deadline is March 1, 2016 to a PTA/PTSA that educates the school and community on health and safety issues.

Graduating Senior High School Scholarship

Deadline is April 1, 2016 to acknowledge a high school senior for volunteering service in the school and community.

Honorary Awards your PTA also can present to individuals:

- ◆ Pennsylvania Honorary State Life Membership Award
- ◆ Child Advocacy Award

Additional information and forms can be found at our website www.papta.org, Members Only, Awards. To access the Member's Only section of the website you'll need to log in using the PTA member's username (**everychild**) and password (**onevoice**.) You can also contact Awards Chairman, Tricia Dietz at tdietz@papta.org.



The Key To Running Effective PTA Meetings

Michele Morrow, Pennsylvania PTA Past-President, Consultant to the Pennsylvania PTA

Use Robert's Rules of Order and the Parliamentary Process

And what may you ask are they? Simply put, they are the guide to smooth, orderly and fairly conducted meetings.

Ten Tips for running a productive meeting

1. Start and end on time.
2. Use an agenda and stick to it.
3. Request minutes be looked over prior to meeting.
4. Re-direct "side-tracked" discussion and bring it back to original topic (*it's not being rude, members will appreciate staying on track.*)
5. Limit non-agenda related discussions until after adjournment.
6. Have committees do their work at a separate committee meeting and only report results at board/membership meeting.
7. Conversations usually spark thoughts that tend to sidetrack the main discussion. Have people write down unrelated thoughts then discuss them at the end if needed – or direct them to the appropriate committee.
8. Use motions when voting on issues.
9. Be sure the secretary (or someone) takes accurate minutes.
10. Follow basic parliamentary procedure & Robert's Rules of Order to "keep the peace."



Four Simple Steps to a Motion

1. Motion is made
2. Motion is seconded (*to 2nd a motion does NOT mean agreeing with it, it just allows it to be discussed*)
3. Motion is discussed
4. Motion is voted on

Motions

- Only 1 motion can be on the floor at a time - It must be voted on *before* another motion is brought up.
- To amend (change/reword) a motion, simply follow the **Four Simple Steps to a Motion** (BEFORE the vote is taken) to accept the amendment. THEN vote on the amended motion.
- To revisit an old motion that either passed or failed:
Reconsider IF the motion was made during the same meeting. This may occur IF someone who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion agrees to it. (If the motion passed and they voted Yes or if it failed and they voted No). This requires 2/3 majority vote to pass.
Rescind IF it took place in a previous meeting. This requires a majority vote, and the action must not have actually taken place yet.

Typical items that need a motion to be voted on

- Non-budgeted bills to be paid
- Adjustments/amendments to the budget
- New action to be taken

Typical items that do not need a motion to be voted on

- Minutes/Secretary's Report - They are an account of what took place at the last meeting and can't be voted down since it already happened. They are to be reviewed, corrected if needed and accepted as written or corrected.
- Treasurer's Report - This is an account of what the current financial status is - it too cannot be voted down.

The Key To Running Effective PTA Meetings

Who Gets To Speak & When

During discussions (and other times to keep order) each person speaks only once until all others wishing to comment have done so. Length of time each person has to speak is determined by your PTA.

When Does the President Vote??

- Voice Votes - The president votes at the end before the results are announced and usually only to make or a break tie. Issues that controversial causing the members to be divided equally, should really be seriously thought out. The president should be very careful when deciding to make it carry or fail. This decision should be based solely on what's in the best interest of the association, not their personal opinions.
- Ballot Votes - The president votes at the same time as everyone else. The president should be aware of the number of ballots being cast and factor in if their vote could potentially cause a tie.

Is Proxy Voting Allowed?

Proxy voting is not allowed. According to our bylaws, members must be present at the meeting to vote.

Special Meetings

Only items advertised for the special meeting may be brought forward for discussion at the special meeting. This protects the rights of the members who were not present knowing what issues were being discussed in their absence.

Four Basic Rights of Every Member

1. The Right To Know
2. The Right To Vote
3. The Right To Hold Office
4. The Right To Debate

Important Documents to always have on hand:

- Your PTA's Standing Rules
- Your PTA's Bylaws
- Robert's Rules of Order

This information is intended as a quick reference guide. For more detailed information, refer to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, visit Pennsylvania PTA's website www.papta.org (Member's Only Section), and attend Convention/Summer Leadership Training and region trainings.

Presidents, please share what's in this publication with your PTA Members.

Simply photocopy any page / article or visit www.papta.org to download a PDF version of the entire publication! (See *PTA in Pennsylvania* in the *Members Only* section.)

PTA President's Monthly Checklist

The calendar/checklist below is designed to help guide you through a successful term as president. The full year's list can be found on the Pennsylvania PTA website, www.papta.org.

SEPTEMBER

- Kick off Membership Campaign.
- Hold 1st General membership meeting. Adopt the fiscal year end audit and forward a copy to the state PTA office. (*Record submission date on the Pennsylvania PTA "Local Unit and Council Standards of Affiliation check list" www.papta.org/AnnualRegistrationForm.*)
- Check for regional & council PTA events and plan to attend.
- Begin Reflections Program
- Attend Fall Region Training. (*September/October/November – watch for updates on website for date/location of Region events.*)

OCTOBER

- Remind your Treasurer that a portion of dues must be submitted by October 15 to remain in good standing.
- Winning Reflections entries due to Council or Region (if not part of a Council.) Refer to website, www.papta.org, for specific date.

NOVEMBER

- Host the Local Reflections Awards Ceremony.
- File IRS Form 990 (due by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of the PTA fiscal year according to the IRS.) Forward a copy of the IRS Form 990 that was filed to state office. (*Record submission date on the Pennsylvania PTA "Local Unit and Council Standards of Affiliation check list".*)
- Council Reflections winner's entries due to PA PTA Region Reflection chair. Refer to website, www.papta.org, for specific date.
- Forward dues to state office.

DECEMBER

- Councils may host council level Reflections Awards Ceremony.
- Forward dues to state office.
- Enjoy the holidays and rejuvenate yourself for the remainder of the year.

JANUARY

- Prepare items to be submitted to Pennsylvania PTA for state award consideration.
- Advertise the need for members to serve on the Nominating Committee, *if applicable*. (*Refer to your PTA's bylaws.*)
- Forward dues to state office.
- PTA in Pennsylvania* "Call To Convention" edition arrives in the mail.

FEBRUARY

- Host PTA Founders Day Celebration; invite your Region Director or state officers to join your celebration.
- Elect/select delegates to attend Pennsylvania PTA Convention.
- Elect the nominating committee. (*Refer to your PTA's bylaws for specific month.*)
- Celebrate Take Your Family to School Week.
- Forward dues to state office.

MARCH

- Register delegates for Pennsylvania PTA Convention.
- Forward dues to state office.
- Report of nominating committee presented at general membership meeting. (*Refer to your PTA's bylaws for specific month.*)

PTA President's Monthly Checklist

APRIL

- Attend Pennsylvania PTA State Convention.
- Audit Committee to be formed. (*Refer to your PTA's bylaws and standing rules.*)
- Request budgetary needs from each committee.
- Middle/Jr. High Schools: Send letter to elementary parents whose children are moving up inviting them to continue at the middle/high school level.
- High schools: Send letter to Middle/Jr. High School parents whose children are moving up inviting them to continue at the high school level.
- Election of officers. (*Refer to your PTA's bylaws for specific month if it's not April.*)
- Budget committee should begin planning next budget.
- File the **Annual Local Unit Registration form or Annual Council Registration Form** following elections. This form must be submitted no later than June 15 (to continue to receive mailings and info from the state and National PTAs.)
- Forward dues to state office.
- Honor all PTA volunteers during National Volunteer Week.
- Recognize outstanding contributors to the PTA by giving them a Pennsylvania PTA's Honorary Life Membership Award.
- Attend Spring Region Meeting. (*April/May/June – watch for updates on website for date/location of Region events.*)

MAY

- Approve local portion of dues and budget at annual general membership meeting. (*Refer to your PTA's bylaws for annual meeting month.*)
- Forward dues to state office.
- Remind committee chairs to update procedures book for their successor.
- Work with incoming president to ensure a smooth transition.
- Review the standing rules and revise as needed.
- Plan next year's dates & provide to school district for inclusion in their district calendar.
- Celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Attend Region Reflections Awards Ceremony.

JUNE

- June 15 – deadline to file the **Annual Local Unit Registration form or Annual Council Registration Form**.
- Select members to attend Pennsylvania PTA Summer Leadership Training.
- Hold an Installation Ceremony for new officers. (See Pennsylvania PTA's publication, *Installations, Inspirations, Founder's Day* for sample ceremonies.) Invite your Region Director to assist in the installation.
- Attend National PTA Convention.
- File proper Facility Request forms for next year with school district if required.
- Change the signers on the PTA's bank account(s) as soon as the fiscal year ends. (*Refer to your PTA's bylaws.*)



Get Connected... Be sure to "friend" and "follow" us!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/PA-PTA/145742975504392> & http://twitter.com/#!/pa_pta



Proper Handling of Your PTA's Funds

Michele Morrow, Pennsylvania PTA Past-President, Consultant to the Pennsylvania PTA

Fiscal responsibility is a serious matter and as a Charitable Non-Profit 501(c)3, your association must follow IRS regulations – which really isn't as hard as it sounds. Here are a few tips on how to properly handle the funds and keep your money safe:



Why Worry About It?

- * IRS never used to audit non-profits – now they do! If your association's records are not in order, fines may be incurred.
- * Whether your non-profit is a PTA, scout unit, booster club, or youth sports club, it's still a business and should be run as such. Questioning and double-checking the treasurer's records is not being "untrusting" – it's simply being responsible. And it also helps catch the occasional honest mistakes, and in worse case scenarios, embezzlement.
- * Organizations that are small, casual groups are typically easy-going and very laid back with financial procedures and record keeping. This habit leaves the accounts VERY vulnerable to be embezzled from. Small groups need to be as responsible as larger ones.
- * You elected an honest and dedicated volunteer as treasurer – As much as you want to believe this to be true, all too often we read in the papers about volunteers embezzling funds, usually because of laid back financial procedures (How many more are not caught?)

Responsible Financial Habits & Protecting Your Funds

Who controls your money?

- While the treasurer is the financial steward of the association's funds, the entire board is ultimately responsible.
- Never have one person in charge of all assets.
- Never have one person as the treasurer and other leadership position.

Check Writing

- NEVER- EVER - sign blank checks.
- ALWAYS require two (2) signatures on ALL checks –with at least three signatures on file.
- NEVER have a married couple be two of the signatures.
- Purchase checks with two (2) signature lines.

Paying Bills & Reimbursements

- Receipts are to be provided for ALL purchases – small and large.
- Reimbursements should NEVER be made without receipts.
- Personal checking accounts should NEVER be used to pay association's bills.

Treasurer's Reports

- The financial records are the property of the association and should be available for review whenever requested.
- The treasurer should provide a written report at EVERY meeting. If unable to provide a particular month – be sure to provide it the following month.
- Report period should be from meeting to meeting and should include: Disbursements (dates, amount, check #s, to whom checks were written); Deposits (dates, amounts, what money was from); Balance at time of report; If using a computer program – just print out the register for that period.

Proper Handling of Your PTA's Funds

Bank Statements

- Bank statements should be mailed to someone other than the treasurer - OR – have the treasurer give them to someone else each month to review. It catches honest mistakes quickly when two people review them monthly. Have these individuals initial/sign the statement verifying they read it.
- Statements should be reconciled each month.
- E-statements – can be sent to who ever the association gives access to.



Checks vs. Cash & Handling Cash

- Checks are far easier to work with and can be traced if needed. Avoid collecting cash if possible. If unavoidable take proper precautions when handling cash.
- Always require at least two people count cash.
- Deposit cash right away. Do NOT take it home, leave it in your car, folders, back pack, purse, etc.
- Utilize night deposit box at bank (confer with local bank branch on their procedures.)
- Give receipts when possible for cash received.

How Much Money Can You Make and Keep?

- Simply put...Fundraise to meet your budget and spend what you make.
- It is acceptable to keep extra money in savings, checking, CDs, etc. The amount can be anywhere from a few months' operating expenses to a half year's operating expenses. (This is one of the gray areas as some reports say up to a year's operating expenses.)

What Can We Spend Money On?

- All money spent should fall within the mission of the organization.

You cannot, however, spend money on:

- Donations to other organizations (except those that follow the same mission such as other PTAs.)
- Donations to individuals.

Standards of Affiliation: Is Your PTA in Good Standing?

A local PTA in good standing is one that:

- adheres to the Purposes and basic policies of the PTA;
- has bylaws approved according to the procedures of the Pennsylvania PTA (renewed at least every five years on the most current model and approved by the state Bylaws and Policies Chairman);
- remits the state and national portion of the membership dues to the Pennsylvania PTA by dates designated by the Pennsylvania PTA (a portion of the dues must be postmarked no later than October 15);
- submits officers form (annual registration form) to the state office immediately upon election of officers and no later than June 15 annually;
- forwards to the state office each year upon completion a copy of their Form 990N, 990, or 990EZ as required per IRS regulations;
- forwards a signed copy of all audit reports to the state office immediately following their adoption by the general membership; and
- meets other criteria as may be prescribed by the Pennsylvania PTA.

PTA Membership Dues Remittance Form

2015-2016 LOCAL PTA/PTSA DUES REMITTANCE FORM

For units to be in good standing a portion of dues must be postmarked and submitted to state office by October 15.



Instructions:

- Fill in the information requested below.
- Calculate amount of dues at \$5.00 per member per annum.
- Dues should be submitted on a monthly basis, unless no dues are collected.
- Write one check (or money order) for all forms submitted at the same time.
- Remember, your PTA check must have two signatures.
- Submit this form along with payment and list of members.** Keep a copy of this form for your records.
- Make checks payable and mail to Pennsylvania PTA, 4804 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3440

Date		Local Unit ID #	
PTA Name		Region	County
Contact Person		PTA Position	
Address			
City	State		Zip
Cell Phone		Home Phone	
Email			
_____ Check here if you wish to receive email notification that dues payment was received.			

DUES CALCULATION

Total dues are \$5.00 per member per annum (\$2.75 for state, \$2.25 for National PTA).

Number of members _____ at \$5.00 each = \$ _____

Number of Student Members _____

Number of Male Members _____

PTA Founders Day Gift Donation \$ _____

Hannah Kent Schoff Fund Donation \$ _____
(In Memory/Honor of _____)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Signature of President or Treasurer: _____

** List of members should include: name, address, and email address for each member's dues submitted.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	
Amount Received \$ _____	Date Received _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check/Money Order # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash

Tips on Keeping Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone to every PTA. Keeping volunteers is vital to maintaining continuity and stability in your association. Remember that all volunteers are potential future board members and even potential presidents.

Volunteer Appreciation

Thank them!

- ◆ It makes people feel good knowing their efforts were appreciated.
- ◆ Hold a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration.
- ◆ Treat volunteers with respect and courtesy.

Avoid burning out the volunteers

- ◆ Spread the wealth.
- ◆ Break down the tasks into multiple jobs so more people can be involved.

Volunteers should:

- ◆ know when job needs to be done – and any specific deadlines.
- ◆ know school district & school rules/procedures that may affect their committee.
- ◆ know Specific guidelines.
- ◆ receive a copy of the Volunteer Handbook.
- ◆ be able to do the work, so let them do it, but give them proper information to do so.

Be sure to call everyone who signs up to volunteer

- ◆ If people don't feel useful, they won't volunteer in the future.
- ◆ Have chairmen call everyone who signed up to help with their committee just to touch base with them - even if they're not needed for a while.
- ◆ Avoid always starting calls from top of list - people at the end of the list often get missed.
- ◆ Avoid always calling your friends first - step out of your comfort zone!

Utilize committees

- ◆ Committees of ONE are ineffective.
- ◆ Use of numerous people help cultivate new leadership.
- ◆ Have all volunteers teach their successors.
- ◆ Use and pass down procedure books.
- ◆ Sharing information bits at a time makes the transition much easier.
- ◆ Include “non-board members” on committee.

Top reason people don't volunteer...

They were never asked!

Top 2 reasons volunteers don't come back...

Their efforts were not appreciated.
They signed up but were never called.

What's Happening in Your Region

So many things are happening all around the state! To find out what's going on in your region, and in the rest of the state, contact your region directors. Not sure who your Region Director is? The contact information for each member of the State Board of Managers is in the back of this issue.

Be sure to read the information regarding the PTA Standards of Affiliation on page 28 of this publication. The required information must be sent to the State Office. Without it, information, your PTA will not stay in good standing with the National PTA, and Pennsylvania PTA.

And remember visit Pennsylvania PTA website www.papta.org and the National PTA website www.pta.org for more information.

If you know of a school or community that would be interested in becoming a PTA please contact the state PTA office and we will reach out to them.



REGION 1

Bonnie Fagan, Director

Welcome back to school! I hope that your new school year is off to a good start. If your PTA submitted its new officer list, you should have received your membership cards and should have access to the new digital 2015-2016 National PTA Back-to-School Kit. Visit www.PTAKit.org, or contact me if you need help or have any problems.

If your PTA is doing Reflections this year, please start it soon. If your PTA hasn't participated in the Reflections Program and would like to start, please contact me.

Please let me know what your meeting schedule for the year is because as I really would like to visit a meeting at each unit this year. And, most importantly, please mark your calendars for our fall regional training on Tuesday, September 22, from 6:30-8:30 pm, at J.S. Wilson Middle School, 901 West 54th Street, Erie, PA 16509.

REGION 2

Leonard Sadowy, Director

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and your children are enjoying being back to school! I would like to thank the PTAs in Region 2 for sending their officers' information to state office, this really was a big help. I am currently planning on having a Fall Training in the 1st week of October, date, times, and location will be announced soon. If you have any questions, you can reach me at 724-698-6003(cell) or 724-385-0457. You can also email me at region2director@papta.org.

REGION 3

The position of Region 3 Director is currently vacant. If you are interested in filling this position please contact the state office.

REGION 4, *Jessica Carlisle, Director*

Hello and welcome to a new PTA year! My name is Jessica Carlisle, and I am your new Region 4 Director. Prior to moving to Pennsylvania, I served as a middle school PTA president, and council Arts in Education chair in San Antonio, Texas. I'm excited to now be serving on the Pennsylvania PTA State Board of Managers. I'll be sending updates, holding one or two trainings, and overall, helping the PTAs within our region to be successful!

I look forward to talking to and meeting you! Please remember that I am here to help so feel free to contact me with any questions! I can be reached by email at jcarlisle@papta.org or by cell at 210-213-8198.

Have a great school year!

REGION 6

Beth Dale, Director

I'd like to welcome all returning PTA leaders and especially those of you who are new presidents and first-time board members! Remember to be patient, welcoming, and above all, to invite ALL people to join your PTA.

Does everyone have their new backpacks, notebooks, pens and pencils ready? How about your NEW PTA

What's Happening in Your Region

MEMBERS? Region 6 PTAs are busy preparing for the new school year by getting ready to kick off their membership drives, conducting their fundraisers, reviewing their bylaws, and more.

We have been working together to make sure that PTAs are following not only their school districts' policies, but the new state-mandated volunteer clearances as well. We also are in the process of ironing out the details for a very informative and interesting Fall Training in October. Date, time, location, and details will be sent out as soon as they are available.

Save the Date: Pennsylvania PTA Convention - April 15-17, 2016...Plan now on attending! Your voice and vote matter...let them be heard!

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments across Region 6, PLEASE don't hesitate to email, text or call me at Bdale@papta.org or 814-312-6501.

REGION 7

Sharon Sitch-Brode, Director

Hello Region 7! It's that time of year again for the 2015-2016 Pennsylvania PTA Reflections Program. The theme this year is ***Let Your Imagination Fly***. Check our website at www.papta.org for due dates and all necessary forms to participate. All PTAs in Region 7 will be notified on an upcoming Fall Leadership Training as soon as the details are available. If your PTA wishes to participate kindly respond to me at sbrode@papta.org - no later than September 10, 2015.

REGION 10

Jennifer White, Director

It is such an exciting time for Region 10. A big *Shout-Out* to Shikellamy School District! With the Shikellamy High School forming a PTSA in August, their school district now has a PTA or PTSA in every school!! That is 6 local units from 1 school district in our region!! This all came together quickly with the help of a very motivated and cooperative group of parents with just the prompt of a Facebook status to see if there was any interest. It was so exciting to see this come to fruition so quickly.

This is one more PTA to add to our regional training which will be scheduled in the very near future. One of our topics will be creating and amending your budgets. Hope to see you all there!

REGION 11

The position of Region 11 Director is currently vacant. If you are interested in filling this position, or if you have any PTA related questions, please contact the state office.

REGION 12

Christine Strange, Director

I hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer! Back to school time is here which means that your PTA is in full swing! There is always a lot to do at the beginning of the school year but, effective planning will make your year a success. You will be receiving lots of information from the state PTA office, please take the time to carefully read it. There are great ideas, suggestions, and other relevant information in your packets and emails that will help you throughout the year.

Please remember to submit your new officers' information to the state office as soon as possible. We need to have this updated information to send out your membership cards. To those PTAs who have already completed the paperwork, thank you and be on the lookout for your packet with membership cards and other relevant information.

We are still working on dates and a location for our fall training and will get that information out as soon as possible. Please stay tuned for details as they shape up!

Thank you for all that you do for our children! Feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached at region12director@papta.org or 267-718-8947.

What's Happening in Your Region

REGION 13

In the absence of a Region 13 Director, Tricia Dietz, Region 14 Director and Jennifer McAndrew, Region 16 Director will be assisting the PTAs in Region 13. We would like to thank all the presidents, board members, and volunteers for all the hard work you do for the children and for PTA.

Region 13 is proud to be hosting the 107th Pennsylvania PTA Convention. The local convention committee will be meeting monthly and would love for you to join them! See details on page 14 of this publication. We are also in the process of planning the fall training, if there is something you would like to see covered please let us know. The date, time, and location will be announced as soon as it is available.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Tricia at tdietz@papta.org or 570-536-6407, or Jennifer at jmcandrew@papta.org or 570-780-8537.

The position of Region 13 Director is currently vacant. If you are interested in filling this position, or if you have any PTA related questions, please contact the state office.

REGION 14

Tricia Dietz, Director

I would like to thank all the presidents, board members, and volunteers for all the hard work you do for the children and for PTA. We are in the process of planning a Fall Training, if there is something you would like to see covered please let me know. The date, time, and location will be announced as soon as possible.

You can reach me if you have any questions by email tdietz@papta.org or phone 570-536-6407.

REGION 15

Nancy Karpovich, Director

Hope everyone enjoyed their summer. I look forward to working with each of the PTAs in Region 15. As your Region Director I would love to attend one of your meetings or special events you may be hosting.

In June I attended the National PTA Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina as a Pennsylvania PTA delegate. It was a great experience to be able to voice my opinions on the National level.

We will be holding a region training in late September or early October. The time and location will be announced as soon as everything is finalized.

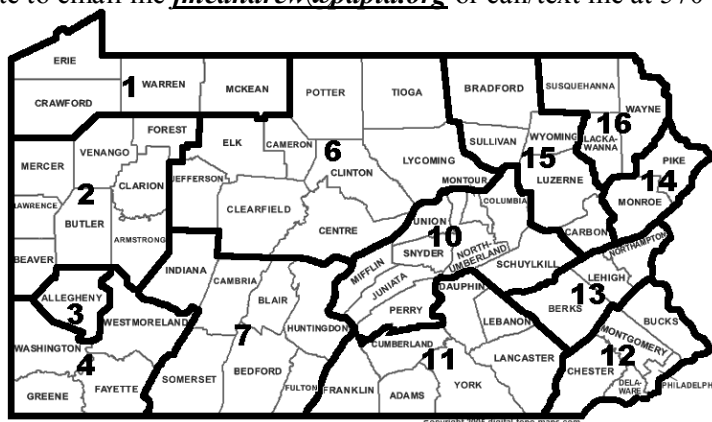
Please feel free to contact me at nkarpovich@papta.org or call my cell 570-407-1345 if you have any questions. Thanks for all you do for the children.

REGION 16

Jennifer McAndrew, Director

Welcome back to another school year! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Region 16 Fall Training. Until then, I will continue with my email communications and updates. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email me jmcandrew@papta.org or call/text me at 570-780-8537.

Pennsylvania PTA Regions



Pennsylvania PTA State Board of Managers

OFFICERS

President - Debbie Munson

610 Roslyn Avenue, Erie, PA 16505
H-814-838-6123, C-814-651-3227.....dmunson@papta.org

President-Elect - Bonita Allen

6554 Northumberland Street; Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-422-4350.....ballen@papta.org

Secretary - Tonya Moore

3229 Stoughton Road, Erie, PA 16506
814-460-2362.....tmoore@papta.org

Treasurer - Janice Cain

1002 Irwin Street, Aliquippa, PA 15001
724-417-6071.....jcain@papta.org

REGION DIRECTORS

Region 1 - Bonnie Fagan

5316 Astronaut Drive, Fairview, PA 16415
814-449-0996.....bfagan@papta.org

Region 2 - Leonard Sadowy

846 Duss Avenue Apt 3, Ambridge, PA 15003
724-698-6003.....Region2director@papta.org

Region 3 - *Vacant* *Contact the state office*

Region 4 - Jessica Carlisle

123 Linda Court, Canonsburg, PA 15317
210-213-8198.....jcarlisle@papta.org

Region 6 - Beth Dale

309 N. Eighth Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601
814-312-6501.....bdale@papta.org

Region 7 - Sharon Sitch-Brode

1200 Mifflin Street, Saxton, PA 16678
814-635-2351.....sbrode@papta.org

Region 10 - Jennifer White

228 S. 4th Street, Sunbury, PA 17801
570-556-0702.....region10director@papta.org

Region 11 - *Vacant* *Contact the state office*

Region 12 - Christine Strange

2109 Oakdale Avenue, Glenside, PA 19038
267-718-8947.....region12director@papta.org

Region 13 - *Vacant* *Contact the state office*

Region 14 - Tricia Dietz

122 Fulton Street, Simpson, PA 18407
570-267-6378.....tdietz@papta.org

Region 15 - Nancy Karpovich

528 Wilkes-Barre Street, Hanover Township, PA 18706
570-407-1345.....nkarpovich@papta.org

Region 16 - Jennifer McAndrew

32 Thorn Street, Carbondale, PA 18407
570-780-8537.....jmcaudrew@papta.org

STATE CHAIRMEN

Arts In Education - Nellie Connolly

21 Kane Street, Carbondale, PA 18407
570-955-9924.....n.connolly@papta.org

Bylaws & Policies - Julie Lesitsky

PO Box 214, Albrightsville, PA 18210
570-977-2308.....bylaws@papta.org

Family Engagement - Dawn Harrison

6119 Footemill Rd, Erie, PA 16509
814-397-6685.....familyengagement@papta.org

Health & Safety - - *Vacant* *Contact the state office*

Legislation & Advocacy - Tara Purcell

151 Chestnut Street, Kulpmont, PA 17834
570-875-8733.....advocacychair@papta.org

Membership & Extension - Ginny Wade

148 West Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465
610-326-5659.....gwade@papta.org

Resource Development - Mark Conner

1820 Younger Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216
412-639-9136.....mconner@papta.org

Technology & Social Media - Kali Wade

148 West Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465
610-326-5659.....tech@papta.org

Consultants to the State Board of Managers

Caroline Allen	Harrisburg
Philip Horn	Harrisburg
Michele Morrow	Bath

Pennsylvania PTA State Office & Staff

4804 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111
717-564-8985 info@papta.org
Website: www.papta.org
Mary Hess mhess@papta.org
Deb Wray staff@papta.org

PTA in Pennsylvania Editor - Michele Morrow

2015 Summer Leadership Training

Were you "A Board" the PTA Express? Summer Leadership Training was held July 18-19 at the Ramada Conference and Golf Hotel in State College. Special general sessions provided vital information and updates on volunteer clearances, PTA awards and programs, and understanding and treating concussions. Workshops supplied detailed tips and techniques to help officers perform their specific roles; explained the purpose and functions of councils; demystified bylaws and their revision; uncomplicated advocacy and made its value clear; and provided a step-by-step guide for running a successful Reflections program. The Saturday evening partnership team networking social activity was particularly enjoyable and enlightening. We shared refreshments along with accomplishments, membership drive and fundraising ideas, "job" challenges and rewards, and best advice.



2015 National PTA Convention

Bonnie Fagan, Region 1 Director



The 2015 National PTA Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, in June was great for several reasons. First of all, it was an election convention, so we had the opportunity to participate in the process of electing our new National PTA officers. Also, the National board had been charged with revising the National PTA bylaws, which created quite a bit of interest among the delegates, but, after much discussion, the bylaws were sent back to the committee for further work. And, finally, the convention had a new format with *Thought Leader Sessions*, *Learning Labs*, *Leadership Forums*, *Trending Topics* and *Meet-Up* sessions, instead of traditional workshops. The new sessions were in the Expo Hall (which had 400 vendors) to get more delegates to visit the vendors. One of the guest speakers was the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

I had the pleasure of attending sessions on *Future Ready Schools & PTSA Proud*. I also attended the Hispanic Family Engagement Symposium, the Diversity & Inclusion Breakfast and the Reflections luncheon (my favorite). I really appreciated my first opportunity to represent Pennsylvania PTA during this national convention.





Working All the Angles – Design, History, Arts & Geometry!

By Roger Smith

Executive Director, Perry County Council of the Arts



“Thanks for getting me out of math class.” This expression of gratitude came from a student who was unwittingly using geometry to lay out a quilt design on two 4’ x 8’ sheets of plywood. I was observing her and her classmates as they participated in an arts residency designed by the Perry County Council of the Arts (PCCA) in cooperation with her school’s history, math and art teachers. PCCA’s multi-disciplinary Quilt-Barn Project established quilter Denise Hoke as an artist-in-residence in her high school for ten days.

In the past few years, Ms. Hoke has worked with history, math and art students in five Central PA school districts. A local historian kicked off each residency by meeting with students in their history classes and presenting them with an array of events and movements that had occurred within their school districts over 300



years. Ms. Hoke enriched this historical stew with a short-course about the history of quilting, the many styles of quilts, and the meaning behind the styles.

Building upon their new knowledge, the students created 2’ x 2’ quilt prototypes that paid deference to the past through shape, placement and color. Then the action moved to the art room.

Using now quite relevant geometry skills, students



enlarged the patterns onto sheets of plywood, laying out and painting their 8’ x 8’ designs. The quilts were then hung on the sides of local barns within sight of highways in their school districts.

During the Quilt-Barn Project, students learned local history and practiced geometry through a unique, stimulating enterprise. Perhaps just as important, they learned how their efforts can have a positive effect on their community. In this case, the 13 quilts created by the students are now part of a Quilt-Barn Trail that boasts 18 quilts within sight of local roadways. As a whole, the Quilt-Barns have injected a sense of artistic exuberance into our rural landscape, reinforced a positive sense of cultural identity and historical significance, and have even become a modest economic engine. Numerous groups and individuals have driven the entire trail, and along the way they have patronized ice cream parlors, antique shops, gas stations, and restaurants.

Now back to our young student... I had never met her before. Perhaps she was a kid who simply didn’t like geometry, or maybe her antipathy toward school was more profound. But innovative programs like the Quilt-Barn Project have assisted in keeping our kids engaged and productive in school, learning in ways that are not frequently a part of the traditional school paradigm, and connecting them to their community.

www.arts.pa.gov | [facebook.com/Pennsylvaniacouncilonthearts](https://www.facebook.com/Pennsylvaniacouncilonthearts)
www.perrycountyarts.org | The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) works with experienced regional partners to foster participation in the creative process in schools and community settings. The Perry County Council of the Arts is one of 13 Arts in Education (AIE) Partners that recruit, select, train, place, and evaluate professional teaching artists to work for extended periods of time in educational environments.