



*Thank you
from the*

*2015-2017
West Virginia PTA
Board of Managers*

As we are preparing for the end of the school year, the West Virginia PTA Board of Managers would like to thank you for a wonderful year in PTA! With over 5,000 members in our state, we will continue to focus on issues that will promote family engagement and the importance of our children receiving a quality education.

It's hard to believe that we just wrapped up the 2016 West Virginia PTA Convention in April! What a wonderful weekend of networking and leadership training, as well as recognizing our hard-working volunteers at the annual awards banquet. This year, our youth participants had a great time learning about team building, STEM activities, healthy snack making, setting goals, and having a positive attitude! They loved the music workshop, had fun at our Hawaiian Luau and game night, as well as assisted with our scholarship auction. We are thankful to not only our workshop presenters that worked with our kids, but also are appreciative to the parents that allowed their children to participate this year. We are also very proud of our first Special Needs Summit and will definitely continue our efforts in providing resources to these families and welcoming them into our association.

Our Student Awards Luncheon was amazing this year with over 95% of our state winners in the Reflections Program and Student Healthy Recipe Challenge attending! We all enjoyed the performances of our students this year and reaffirmed the importance of having programs for our students to showcase their many talents.

As we begin to conclude this school year, the Board of Managers will be busy preparing for our summer leadership meeting so we can plan for regional trainings, conduct the business of our association, and prepare for our next term in PTA. We have a lot of work to do, but will continue to keep our mission at the forefront of everything we do. Thank you again for your hard work and dedication to our children. It's been an honor to work with all of you and I'm looking forward to another great year in West Virginia PTA.

Yours in PTA,

Janelle Sperry
President

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

CRISS ELEMENTARY PTA

Western Region

This has been a year of change for Criss Elementary School. Several members retired at the end of last year. In addition, Criss began new programs – such as becoming a Catalyst school. Our new principal has encouraged us in our motto of “All Aboard”. This year, the PTA goal was to raise money for new, safer blinds for the entire school. Parents, students, teachers, and our community have been *All Aboard* and helped us achieve this goal. Because of this can-do attitude, the Criss PTA has hosted a variety of wonderful programs throughout the school year. We are proud to highlight a few of them for you!



We hosted the Back to School Bash, a free family event. We kicked it off with a parade, featuring our teachers, students, and costumed characters marching in school spirit out to our playground. Local businesses provided volunteers, snacks, and free items. For example, a local salon joined in the fun by spraying the students' hair with wacky colors. The kids especially enjoyed the obstacle course inflatable.



Each October, we host an annual Fall Family Fun Night. The kids play fall themed games for prizes. Parents volunteer for shifts to run the games. We offer yummy concessions, and the kids wear their favorite costumes. We have a Haunted House, and the kids Trick or Treat to end the night. We also use this event as a membership drive. Admission is a \$5 PTA membership.

We held our largest fundraiser in November, our Designer Purse Bingo. The Bingo is well known in our community, going strong for more than ten years! We typically have more than 200 in attendance. Along with the bingo, we host vendors, a designer purse raffle and half and half raffle, concessions, and many door prizes. Local businesses sponsored purses and/or donated door prizes. Our goal is to have as many attendees as possible go home with a prize.

Recently, we sponsored a Spring Carnival. The carnival was a family event as well as a fundraiser. Leading up to the carnival, the teachers competed to raise the most money. The losing teacher in each grade got a pie in the face! The kids were excited to keep their teachers “safe”. Our principal and other staff also volunteered to take pies in the face during the carnival. The pie competition went above and beyond our expectations! Our parents were once again *All Aboard* and signed up to run the games.



From family fun to fundraisers, our kids, teachers, parents, and neighbors have been *All Aboard* for Criss this year!



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

National PTA advocates for all children to receive a well-rounded education so every child can reach their full potential. The National PTA Legislative Conference guided each state's advocates through the 2016 Public Policy Agenda and other education issues facing Congress.

President Janelle Sperry, President-Elect Kathy Parker, and Regional Director Rose Rossana, represented West Virginia PTA at this year's National Legislative Conference and conducted Capitol Hill visits with Senator Manchin, Senator Capito, and Congressman Mooney's offices on the importance of funding family engagement centers in West Virginia.

2016 Annual National PTA Convention & Expo Think Big, Think PTA

Join us for **Think Big, Think PTA—June 30 to July 3, 2016**—to connect with over 1,500 of the nation's most influential leaders in education, as well as other parents and educators in **Orlando, Fla.**

Don't miss the opportunity to:

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

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



Our 93rd Annual West Virginia PTA
Convention was a huge success!
Thank you to everyone that attended and
congratulations to all of our award winners!



Congratulations



It is our privilege to announce that West Virginia had a winner in the National PTA Reflections Program!!!

Congratulations to ANGELA RITHNER from WELLSBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL for winning an Award of Excellence in Film Production! She will be recognized at the National PTA Convention in Orlando! We are so proud of you!!

Nearly 300,000 students in over 8,000 schools across the country and in U.S. schools overseas contributed their original works in dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts to be considered for PTA's highest honor in the arts. Congratulations Angela!!!

Special Thanks to Convention Sponsors!

93rd Annual West Virginia PTA Convention Sponsors



*West Virginia PTA gratefully acknowledges
the generous support of our 2016 Convention Sponsors*



Diamond Sponsor

(\$1,500 or over)

West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts

SimplyCircle

Lifetouch

Platinum Sponsor

(\$1,000)

Association Insurance Management (AIM)

American Federation of Teachers -WV

Silver Sponsor

(\$500)

MedExpress

Blennerhassett Elementary PTA

Konstella

McDonald's

West Virginia PTA Reflections Winners

West Virginia PTA would like to thank everyone involved in participating in the Reflections Program this year. It is always a pleasure to see the creativity of our students and we appreciate our parents and families for encouraging their children to participate!

Visual Arts

Primary

- 1st - Jack Samuel Brunett – Simpson Elementary
- 2nd - Hanah Shaffer - Hooverson Heights Primary
- 3rd - Jameson Trippett - Johnson Elementary

Intermediate

- 1st - Mikayla Childers – Hooverson Heights Primary
- 2nd - Grace Backus – Johnson Elementary
- 3rd - Molly Henthorne – Steenrod Elementary

Middle

- 1st - Grace Givens – Mountain State
- 2nd - Ethan Robey – Wellsburg Middle
- 3rd - Piper Bussard – Musselman Middle

High School

- 1st - Mia James – Brooke County Community PTSA
- 2nd - Rachel Gadd – Brooke County Community PTSA
- 3rd - Daniel Cooper – Brooke County Community PTSA

Special Artist

- 1st - Hayleigh Kackley – Tuscarora Elementary
- 2nd - Luke Karlsen – Eagle School Intermediate
- 3rd - Matthew Beard – Mountain State

Musical Composition

Intermediate

- 1st - Gracie Vensel- Steenrod Elementary
- 2nd - Jaden Minnix – Johnson Elementary
- 3rd - Lily Beecroft – Hooverson Heights Primary

Middle

- 1st - Angela Rithner – Wellsburg Middle



Film Production

Primary

- 1st - Charlotte Kirby – Johnson Elementary

Intermediate

- 1st - Gracie Vensel – Steenrod Elementary
- 2nd - Rhys Davis – Johnson Elementary
- 3rd - Mallory Bell – Johnson Elementary

Middle

- 1st - Angela Rithner – Wellsburg Middle

Literature

Primary

- 1st - Deedra Groves – LB Millsop
- 2nd - Ellie McDonald – Hooverson Heights Primary
- 3rd - Adeline Hilliard – Spring Mills Primary

Intermediate

- 1st - Hannah Seivertson – Steenrod Elementary
- 2nd - Caitlin Gray – Bunker Hill Elementary
- 3rd - Hunter Mozingo – Hooverson Heights Primary

Middle

- 1st - Shaylee Groves – Follansbee Middle
- 2nd - Haeley Shaffer – Follansbee Middle
- 3rd - Alexis Cipoletti – Wellsburg Middle

More winners from Reflections!

Dance Choreography

Primary

- 1st - Raelin Stoll – Colliers Primary
2nd - Paisley Woofter – Johnson Elementary
3rd - Tyler Woofter – Johnson Elementary

Intermediate

- 1st - Mary Katherine McCune – Orchard View
2nd - Molly Henthorne – Steenrod Elementary
3rd - Hailey Moore – Hooverson Heights Primary

Middle

- 1st - Madison Gray – Musselman Middle

Photography

Primary

- 1st - Andrew Morgan – Johnson Elementary
2nd - Andrew Pintus – Hooverson Heights Primary
3rd - Andrew Pintus – Hooverson Heights Primary

Intermediate

- 1st - Spencer Zoladz – Steenrod Elementary
2nd - Alayna Folk – Franklin Primary
3rd - Mitchell Rossana – Johnson Elementary

Middle

- 1st - Angela Rithner – Wellsburg Middle

West Virginia PTA Student Healthy Recipe Challenge Winners

Wholesome Dinner

Ashton Kerns – Mill Creek Intermediate
“Healthy Spaghetti Squash and Meatballs”

Grace Miller – Kanawha Elementary
“Grace’s Cheesy Potatoes”

Healthy Desserts

Rhys Motz – Follansbee Middle
“Healthy Chocolate Caramel Apple Snack”

Cohen Rutherford, Mountain Ridge Intermediate
“Gluten Free Pumpkin Cupcakes w/Cream Cheese Frosting”

Allergy Safe Recipe

Lydia Bunce – Steenrod Elementary
“Go Banana’s – Safe Ice Cream”



Outstanding Cooking Video Winner Healthy Desserts

Alex Heath, Musselman Middle School
“Individual Bread Puddings with Fat Free Caramel Sauce”

2016 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the West Virginia PTA 2016 Scholarship Recipients!

Devin Alt
Savannah Blythe
Katherine Keith
Shyanne Mickley
Sarah Savage



Devin Alt is the son of Donna and Donald Alt of Keyser. He attends Frankfort High School where he has lettered in Basketball, Track, Cross Country and Baseball. He is a member of the Leo Club, FFA, and the National Honor Society. He has coordinated fundraisers for Relay for Life, CASA, Ronald McDonald House and food drives at his church. He is also active in 4H. Devin is undecided in his college choice, but hopes to major in pre-law.

Savannah Blythe is the daughter of Chris & Monica Blythe of Bridgeport. She attends Bridgeport High School where she is a member of the Cross Country Team, National Honor Society, Student Council, & French Club. She has volunteered for Relay for Life, Walk for Autism, & is a Mission Meal Server. She was named Cross Country Athlete of the Year for her school. She plans to attend West Virginia Wesleyan & major in Athletic Training.

Katherine Keith is the daughter of Susan and Jeff Keith of Linn. She attends Gilmer County High School where she is active in Cross Country, Basketball, Student Council, and is a Class Officer. Her volunteer work includes being a Red Cross Volunteer, and fundraisers for FBC Cancer Fund & Fruit Basket for the Community. She was named Top Scholar for Basketball & Most Improved Cross Country. She plans on attending Davis & Elkins and major in Nursing.

Shyanne Mickley is the daughter of Mindy and Tommy Mickley of Martinsburg. She attends Musselman High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society, Library Club, & Marching Band. She is active in her church and is a Bible Study Leader. She received the President's Volunteer Service Award, and Girls State Citizenship Award. She plans on attending WVU and major in Business Administration.

Sarah Savage is the daughter of Mark and Tammy Savage of Kingwood. She attends Preston High School where she is a Varsity Cheerleader and participates in track. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, & Knights of the Round Table. She is active in her church where she has been a Bible School Assistant. She has received English, Science, History and Math Honors. She is undecided on colleges, but plans to major in Nursing.

2016 Awards Recipients Honored at Convention

Outstanding Business Partner Award: *Christmas Creations*

Christmas Creations, and proprietors Linda and Kenneth Craig, are responsible for 30% of the membership of Mountaineer PTSA by offering \$5 off if the customer buys a membership card. They also display and distribute information regarding PTA, get their family members involved by sitting at booths set up in the community, and attended their Child Passenger Safety Week when the PTSA partnered with WV Northern Regional Highways Safety Program.



Local Unit Great Program Idea Award: *Spring Mills Primary School PTA*



Spring Mills Primary School PTA has hosted a Trunk or Treat Family Night at the school since the school doors opened in 2011. It is one of the most anticipated activities of the school year, and grows every year with new activities and more community member participation. With multiple activities set up inside and outside the school, this event gives families the opportunity to spend time together, meet school staff, the PTA Executive Board, and their children's school friends and their families in a fun environment.

Local Unit Great Membership Campaign Idea Award: *Mountaineer PTSA*

Mountaineer PTSA educated the public about the benefits of PTA: you get great savings, it's the most inexpensive non-profit to join, membership in Mountaineer PTSA also gives you membership in WV PTA and National PTA, and there are many saving discounts available through National PTA, and training is offered and information is available on any subject involving all youth and children at every level of PTA. They offer memberships year-round, and their target audiences are grandparents and home-schooled.

Outstanding Teacher of the Year: *Penny Merkel, Franklin Primary School*

Penny Merkel is a very hands-on, old-school teacher at Franklin Primary School in Brooke County, who does whatever it takes to make sure every student in her class gets the education that is set forth in her room. She notifies parents right away if students need extra help or encouragement and sends home extra resources from her room to help her students learn. She encourages her students' parents to join their PTSA, so they don't miss out on all the great opportunities they have to offer. Penny is an honest, hardworking, fun-loving, caring teacher, who also loves PTA.

2016 Awards Recipients Honored at Convention

Outstanding Principal of the Year

Drenna Reineck

Drenna Reineck serves as principal of Spring Mills Primary School in Berkeley County. During school hours you may not be able to find Drenna in her office because she may be in the hallways talking with students, providing aid to her staff, in the cafeteria helping with lunch duty, or in a classroom reading a story to their students. She encourages educators within their school to become PTA members, and informs new parents on the things PTA does for the school. And not only is she a proponent of PTA activities, she is engaged in the activities herself.

Outstanding Service Personnel of the Year

Norman Kidd

Norman Kidd is custodian at Colliers Primary School in Brooke County. He makes every child feel special, and ensures the school is a safe place for their children to attend. He worked tirelessly when their school was nominated for a West Virginia School of Excellence, helping to make sure they met the guidelines. He makes every parent feel welcome and appreciated, and is invaluable to the PTA by helping with fundraisers, setting up and cleaning up after meetings, and helping with Student Appreciation Week, Teachers Appreciation Week, and their end of year School Party.

Membership Awards

2015-2016 PTA Membership Challenge and Incentive Program!!!

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

Central Region	(\$100) Burnsville Elementary
Northern Region	(\$100) Wellsburg Primary
Northcentral Region	(\$100) North View Elementary
Eastern Region	(\$100) Marlowe Elementary
Western Region	(\$100) Lubeck PTA
Southern Region	no units had increases ☹
Southwestern Region	(\$100) Davis Creek Elementary



Largest PTA in West Virginia!

Steenrod Elementary \$200 and the traveling trophy!



At the Awards Banquet this year, it was discovered that we made a HUGE oversight in failing to recognize **HOOVERSON HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL** as **winning a GOLD BAR for their local PTA!**

We are so sorry for this error on our part and sincerely apologize. We would like to congratulate HOOVERSON HEIGHTS PTA for their dedication and hard work for many years in the West Virginia PTA!



**Congratulations to our Convention
Contest Winners!**

T-shirt Decorating Contest

Franklin Primary PTSA
Brooke County

Door Decorating Contest

Jenny Hill, Alayna Folk and Amy Folk
Franklin Primary PTSA
Brooke County

Scrapbook Contest

Eagle School Intermediate PTA
Berkeley County

All Convention
Photos coming
soon to the
website!

*We will be announcing more
award winners including the
STAR Volunteer Winners in
the next issue! There are still
some honorees being awarded in
the next few weeks so we're
going to keep that list a secret a
little longer!*

Pictures from the WV PTA Convention!



WVU's Student Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children helping with the Special Needs Summit at the State Convention.



Roxanne & Matthew Woodard having fun at the Hawaiian Luau. She also designed our amazing candy table!



Winners of the T-shirt contest from Franklin Primary! Two years in a row!



2016 West Virginia Teacher of the Year, Andrea Santos, speaking to guests at the Student Awards Program.



Peggy Molnar enthusiastically introduces National PTA's Enrique Escallon at the convention.



Members of Mountaineer PTSA having fun with our students at the Hawaiian Luau.



Winners from Johnson Elementary celebrating at the Reflections Awards Program at the Convention.



Jeopardy Host Bryan Anderson explaining the game rules to everyone.



Hooverson Heights PTA's Suzie Tennant having fun with Ronald McDonald!

SAVE THE DATE!



FOR THE 94th ANNUAL
West Virginia PTA Convention

March 24-25, 2017

Advocacy – Take Action Alerts



**How can you get involved?
Join PTA's Take Action Network**

**If you don't know how to advocate for your child, here are some easy things you can do.
National PTA has lots of resources as well!**

- ✓ Join the PTA Takes Action Network to receive action alerts to contact your members of Congress on public policy issues important to PTA and you!
- ✓ Sign up to receive Takes ActionE-Newsletters:
 - PTA Takes Action (monthly)
 - Leadership Briefing (monthly)
 - Local Leader News (monthly)
 - PTA Parent (bi-monthly)
 - Member Benefits Provider (bi-monthly)
- ✓ Go to: www.pta.org; under Advocacy – PTA Takes Action Network



What does my PTA need to do over the summer?

Each summer, our PTAs reinvent themselves with new leadership, new ideas, and new goals. Here are a few tips to remember as you end the year and transition into a leadership team:



MOST IMPORTANTLY– Submit your new officer's information!!!!

- Go to www.westvirginiapta.org, on the main page in the yellow box, follow the link to submit your new 2016-2017 Local Unit Officers, even if no changes have been made. This should be completed no later than July 1, 2016, so your unit can receive all pertinent information for the upcoming school year.

If you choose to fill out the 2016-2017 Local Unit Officers form manually, please visit the website to download the form. Once completed, mail to the WV PTA office, PO Box 3557, Parkersburg, WV 26103 and email president@westvirginiapta.org that it was mailed to receive confirmation it was received.

- Complete a financial review or audit of the 2015-2016 financial records. Once complete, send this report to West Virginia PTA at info@westvirginiapta.org.

- Pay any outstanding dues to West Virginia PTA for any unpaid memberships.

- Check your insurance status. If it is time to renew, renew your insurance and submit verification to West Virginia PTA by emailing the information to info@westvirginiapta.org.

- Make any necessary changes of signature cards at the bank.

- Assemble your officer team and have a meeting with the outgoing and incoming officers. Use this time to talk about goals, work on new ideas, and plan for the new year! Attend West Virginia PTA trainings available in the late summer as well!

- Enjoy your summer!

West Virginia PTA Board of Managers

Executive Committee

President	Janelle Sperry	Email: president@westvirginiapta.org
President-Elect	Kathy Parker	Email: presidentelect@westvirginiapta.org
1 st Vice President	Missy Jones	Email: bylaws@westvirginiapta.org
2 nd Vice President	Ponnie Sampson	Email: membership@westvirginiapta.org
Secretary	Dani Hancock	Email: secretary@westvirginiapta.org
Treasurer	Chris Wuest	Email: treasurer@westvirginiapta.org
At Large Member	Karen Sherman	Email: atlargemember@westvirginiapta.org

Regional Directors

Central	Missy Jones (acting)	Email: bylaws@westvirginiapta.org
Eastern	Bryan Anderson	Email: easterndirector@westvirginiapta.org
North Central	Rose Rossana	Email: northcentraldirector@westvirginiapta.org
Northern	Diane Klinger	Email: northerndirector@westvirginiapta.org
Southern/Southwestern	Vacant	Email: southerndirector@westvirginiapta.org
Western	Vacant	Email: westerndirector@westvirginiapta.org

Committee Chairpersons

Marketing	Beth Anderson	Email: marketing@westvirginiapta.org
Diversity	Ginnie Molnar	Email: diversity@westvirginiapta.org
Health & Safety	Jeana Parr	Email: healthandsafety@westvirginiapta.org
Office Coordinator	Vacant	Email: office@westvirginiapta.org
Parent/Family Engagement	Craig Arnold	Email: parentandfamily@westvirginiapta.org
Parliamentarian	Judy Snider	Email: parliamentarian@westvirginiapta.org
Scholarship	Linda Abercrombie	Email: scholarship@westvirginiapta.org
Resource Development	Amy Arnold	Email: resourcedevelopment@westvirginiapta.org
Reflections	Billie Jo Bagnell	Email: reflections@westvirginiapta.org
Youth Member	Gabi Hancock	Email: youthmember@westvirginiapta.org

Office

West Virginia PTA
P.O. Box 3557, Parkersburg, WV 26103-3557
Phone: 304-420-9576 Fax: 304-420-9577
Email: office@westvirginiapta.org or info@westvirginiapta.org

West Virginia
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.[®]

West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.
P.O. Box 3557
Parkersburg, WV 26103-3557

NonprofitOrganization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #320
Parkersburg, WV