

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

**NPTA - Student Success**

**Just Between Friends**

**Giving PTA a Voice**

**It's Cold in Region G**

**Reflections Participants**

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## President's Perspective

Greetings my PTA family,

It's that time of the year to look at the Annual Business Meeting and Convention for Wisconsin PTA.

It is my pleasure to extend an invitation to you and your family to attend the **102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business Meeting & Convention** at the **Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan**. We are going to be "Making a Splash" on this "Road of Endless Possibilities". You ask, 'what kind of splash are we going to make?' Well, let me list the splashing moments you can join and participate in:

- Wisconsin PTA's Annual Business Meeting;
- Bylaws Amendments;
- Resolutions;
- Workshops for parents and their children;
- Guest speakers;
- Membership Luncheon;
- Election of officers for 2011-2013 term;
- Reflections Luncheon;
- Excitement;
- Scavenger Hunt for children and parents;
- Exhibitors;

- Fabulous Water Park for everyone;
- Awards and celebrations for all;
- National PTA guest, Nicholas Nelson-Goedert, National PTA Youth Member;
- Great accommodations & food;
- Networking;
- Storytelling;
- Professional Development;
- Your Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors;
- Fun;
- Your attendance and participation;
- Bringing your family to join in the splash

This is a once in a lifetime affair that you and your family can enjoy and still take care of business with pleasurable moments added.

Make this a weekend getaway. You ask when this fabulous event will take place, **Friday, April 29 – Saturday, April 30, 2011.**

This is certainly an allowable expense in your PTA budget as well as an appropriate use



of Title I money at your school. Take the time to attend this annual business meeting & convention for your opportunity for professional development and networking with your fellow PTA members from across this great state. Your CD about convention tells it all. If not, information can be found on the website, [www.wisconsinpta.org](http://www.wisconsinpta.org).

On behalf of the Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors and myself, we welcome you to be our guest.

Let's make this splash together,

*Roxanne Starks*

President, Wisconsin PTA

## Legislatively Speaking

*James Howard, WI PTA BOD, Federal Legislative Chair*

To receive  
Legislative  
Alerts  
send your  
email address  
to:

[wi\\_office@  
pta.org](mailto:wi_office@pta.org)

Your  
Job  
as a  
PTA  
Member:

Be a  
STRONG  
Voice

for

ALL  
Children!

Deficit concerns in the 1980's and 1990's drove lawmakers to rein in parts of the budget they could control. Today with the national debt poised to rise to unsustainable levels, pressures on discretionary budgets are even greater. America's fiscal mess was a major focus of conservatives during the midterm elections. Cutting the size of the government, reducing spending and lowering taxes were rallying cries of the Tea Party movement, which helped Republicans win the House of Representatives. The new conservative members of congress rail against increases in spending of any variety and some even advocate defunding the Department of Education. President Obama has called for freezes to discretionary spending. The impact on education

resulting from this freeze if enacted is unknown. With both Governor Walker's and President Obama's budgets due to be revealed in February the fiscal state of Public Education in the Nation and Wisconsin will be known soon. In his Jan. 25 State of the Union address, President Obama gave education and his K-12 agenda prominent attention, tying them directly to the nation's economic future. President Obama used his address to reiterate his call for recruiting 100,000 new math and science teachers by the end of the decade. Although the public education dialogue on the national level is encouraging with a congress stacked against the president, increased optimism for public education funding has understandably fallen.

President Obama's budget recommendations were just being released at the time of the writing of this article. While cutting many programs, the new budget does propose spending increases in selected areas of education. Exactly which areas of education that will receive spending increases are still unknown and the impact to states is anyone's guess. What is known is that on the state level we will see an expansion of choice with increases in voucher programs, virtual school programming, Charter School Options, and a lowering of state aide to existing public schools. I believe that public education is integral to a democratic society. We will need to defend public education as strongly as ever in the days to come.

## JBF - Still Time to Earn for Spring Semester

In the beginning of February, Just Between Friends distributed revenue share checks to units that met the revenue share criteria for the Fall semester. Units who met the criteria earned \$122 to \$245 each for the semester.



**justbetweenfriends™**  
Simplify your life. Strengthen your group.

There's still time to earn revenue for the Spring 2011 semester. To be eligible, your unit must have one parent in at least 20% of the households in your community go through the Just Between Friends household start-up wizard. Then, they'll have a Just Between Friends household account and this gets them into your unit's communications group. Communicate with them at least 10 times during the semester to enjoy revenue share. If you communicate at least 10 times in the semester to 50% of the households in your community, you double your revenue share. The number of dollars depends on how much revenue is derived from companies that advertise on the Just Between Friends system. Eligible units will receive their checks for the Spring 2011 semester in August.

If your unit isn't using Just Between Friends yet, get started by going to [www.JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAquickstart](http://www.JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAquickstart) and entering your unit. It's provided free by National PTA to all PTA units. You can use the system for membership management; communications; volunteer management; and revenue share/fundraising. If you have any questions, please visit [www.JustBetweenFriends.com](http://www.JustBetweenFriends.com) and click on the "Contact Us" button, or contact Eric Dickerson, your Just Between Friends PTA liaison at [edickerson@mailjbf.com](mailto:edickerson@mailjbf.com). Eric can also be reached at 412-561-0500 x 1010.

# Parents Can Lead Effort to Stop Billions in School Aid Cuts

*Tom Beebe, WAES Liaison to WI PTA*

Some were 100-percent behind teachers who left their classrooms to make a statement about their rights and the future of public education.

Others were understandably confused and upset.

What gets lost in all of this is the common denominator that should bring us all together: State government has signaled up to a billion dollars in cuts in school aid—a brutal move that will decimate programs and services for our children.

The Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES) - of which Wisconsin PTA is a proud member - has a unique position in this discussion. Whether educators, parents, students, or taxpayers, we are key to safeguarding quality public education.

We need to talk about why teachers really went to Madison. Local PTAs should work hard to make sure that communication is held - the sooner the better.

Teachers who came to The Capitol are fighting for their rights as professionals. They have already agreed to work with the Governor to correct the state's fiscal problems, and you need to give them the opportunity to tell that story back home.

More importantly, teachers left their classrooms to fight for the future of public education and the opportunity for your children to succeed. For 18 years, Wisconsin's school-funding system has slashed programs and services, snatching opportunities from students all over the state, and decreasing the state's commitment to our children.

Now, it has been widely reported, Governor Scott Walker will propose in his 2011-13 budget address, set for early March, to devastate public schools by cutting up to a billion dollars from school aid. The consequences of this brutal action will be far-reaching and tragic.

Whether you agreed or disagreed with our teachers' decisions, we must all stand together this week to protect our students and fight against budget proposals that will hurt our schools, our children, and our communities. You are in the position to start the discussions about what you can do together tomorrow.



Wisconsin Alliance  
for Excellent Schools

## NPTA Releases Parents' Guides to Student Success

National PTA announced the release of guides on the Common Core State Standards for parents. The **Parents' Guide to Student Success** will empower parents to work with state and district leaders to ensure that the Common Core State Standards are implemented effectively in schools across the country.

Now that more than 40 states have adopted the Standards, at least 86% of students across the country will be taught to the new standards in the coming years. National PTA is releasing one guide for each grade, K-8, and two guides for high school in English language arts and mathematics. There are a total of 11 guides.

National PTA has supported the Common Core State Standards Initiative since 2009. Created by teachers, parents, education experts, and others from across the country, the Standards provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and career.

"As the Standards are implemented within the next few years throughout the country, a key part of the work will be to help parents talk about and understand how the Standards can be used to improve their children's chances for success. "These Guides will help parents do just that," said National PTA President, Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor.

The Guides include four key components:

- Key items that children should be learning in English and math in each grade;
- Activities that parents can do at home to support their child's learning;
- Ways parents can build stronger relationships with their child's teacher; and
- Tips for planning for college and career (high school guides only).

For more information go to [pta.org](http://pta.org).

## Finding New Officers ~ Best Practices

*Kim Henderson, WI PTA President-Elect*



**Please Thank  
WI PTA  
Business  
Members:**

### **PREFERRED PARTNER PLUS**

*School-Pak, Inc.  
Milwaukee*

*Lifetouch National  
School Studios  
Madison*

### **PREFERRED PARTNERS:**

*Association of WI  
School  
Administrators  
Madison*

*WI Retired  
Educators'  
Association  
Middleton*

*Parents Plus, Inc.  
Menasha*

**PARTNER**  
*Bank of  
Turtle Lake  
Turtle Lake*

Does your PTA struggle from year to year finding new people to step forward to assume leadership positions? Your PTA is probably not utilizing the most important committee: the nominating committee. Having a more formal process usually leads to more prospects and better outcomes.

A nominating committee is elected at least two months prior to your election. (See your unit bylaws for the number of people to be elected.) The nominating committee members should be a diverse group of members. The president can not sit on the nominating committee. The committee then elects their own chairman. A paper nomination form should be created and sent to all your membership to solicit people to step up. This

gives you a chance to have all your members suggest candidates as well as those who are not aggressively outgoing to nominate themselves. The nominating committee meets and **confidentially** discusses those nominated as well as anyone else they are familiar with.

The nominating committee should:

- seek nominations from diverse populations of your membership.
- look beyond current board members and those that always step up.
- approach parent and school leaders to ask for suggestions.
- be familiar with the goals and responsibilities of your PTA.
- discuss potential candidates confidentially.
- be objective when looking at candidates.

- not be obligated to nominate any current officers to an additional term.
- seek to find the best member to serve in the position.

Once the nominating committee completes their selections, the chairman should present a report at a PTA meeting or post the information at least 30 days prior to the election. Additional candidates can be nominated from the floor following the nominating committee report.

By using the nominating committee process, you can set your PTA up for success for the future. Don't wait until the election meeting and wonder why you can't find new leaders.

## News From Up North

*Bev Thomas, WI PTA BOD Region G Advisor*

The Northwoods has been busy so far this year. Everyone is working so diligently for our students. All our units have been working hard to increase membership, engage our children in educational programs, and support the staff. Some of our units have been very creative in their efforts. They have every reason to be very proud of their accomplishments.

One program that was a huge success was "A Grand Lunch". The students invited their grandparents or anyone they feel is grand, to join them for recess and lunch. This lunch was a great success also because they wisely

held it during the week of their book fair. A great turnout and wise planning left some very happy children.

In October of each year, the fourth grade classes of St. Germain, Land O' Lakes/Conover and Eagle River Elementary Schools all go to Madison to see the State's Capital. This is such an educational trip and one that is looked forward to for every third grade class. It has become an annual trip that the PTA's help fund. We are all proud to be a part of this awesome trip.

During March, which is Youth Art Month, The Land O' Lakes/

Conover PTA works in conjunction with the art teacher to run Cards by Little Artists. Artwork from all grade levels of students is created. One piece of artwork per grade level is chosen and those six pieces of artwork are printed into sets of note cards. Those note cards are then sold in local shops throughout the summer. The past three years have shown this fundraiser to be quite profitable.

As you can see, everyone has been busy and quite creative in their planning. We hope this spring will bring additional inspiration and energize our units to push forward for the next school year. I can't wait to see all the new things they have in store for us.



# Proposed Resolution ~ 2011

## 2011-1 REMOVING POLLING PLACES FROM SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS One of the purposes of National PTA is to promote safety for children and youth, including the protection of children from violence; AND
- WHEREAS Wisconsin PTA has many resolutions in place to encourage local units and councils to work with legislators to protect children; AND
- WHEREAS Many school buildings in Wisconsin are utilized as polling places during which gymnasiums, auditoriums, and other instructional spaces are often used as polling areas for a full school day which prevents student use and is in direct conflict with National PTA's resolution in support of daily physical education as an integral part of children's education; AND
- WHEREAS School safety and security experts strongly support efforts to remove places from schools, educators work hard throughout the school year to reduce access to school grounds and buildings in an effort to keep students and staff safe, and election day presents security challenges for schools that serve as polling places;
- WHEREAS Wisconsin state statutes do not require the use of public schools as polling places; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers supports efforts to maintain the safety of staff and students during elections and to utilize school buildings for the instruction of students; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teacher encourages school, election and community officials to find and utilize polling places that are not located in schools.

**Submitted by**  
**Janesville Area**  
**Council PTA**

## Why Resolutions...

On this page you will find the one resolution to be brought forward for the delegates to discuss and vote on during the 2011 Wisconsin PTA Convention in April.

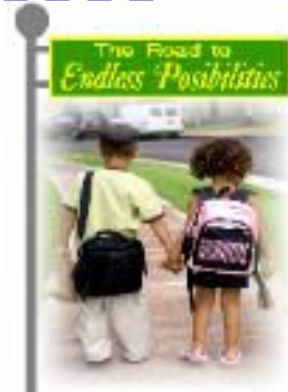
Every year all of the PTAs across Wisconsin are invited to submit resolutions for consideration at the convention. This is the way in which the voice of PTA is established.

PTA resolutions and position statements are the official documents outlining the opinion, will or intent of the association to address problems, situations or concerns that affect children and youth and require statewide action to seek resolution to the issue.

The resolutions serve an important purpose in formalizing and focusing the positions of the organization on various important and relevant is-

sues. Wisconsin PTA has adopted hundreds of position statements and resolutions on a wide variety of education, health, and safety issues since our first State convention 101 years ago.

Please review this year's resolution and send your delegates to convention to vote as your PTA decides.



## 2011-12 Reflections Theme:



“Diversity  
Means...”

# WI PTA Proposed Bylaws Amendments

*Penny Larson, WI PTA BOD Interim Bylaws Chair*

The Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors is bringing forward four changes to the Wisconsin PTA Bylaws. These changes will be discussed and voted on during a general session at convention, April 29-30 in Sheboygan. The intent of all the changes is to create a more efficient and workable board structure. A summary is written below. To see the detailed amendments, with all wording changes, please see the Proposed Bylaws Amendments document on our website, [www.wisconsinpta.org](http://www.wisconsinpta.org) under the Bylaws Tab in the Members Only section. The user name and password needed to access the Members Only section are on the back of your membership card.

1. Change the Leadership and Health & Welfare Commissions to committees and to change the Membership Committee to a commission.

Rationale: The distinction between commissions and committees is inconsistent. This would

define a commission as something that oversees multiple committees.

This change will necessitate amendments to Article IX, Section 2e and Article X, Section 3c

2. Change the duties of the Vice President.

Rationale: Implement structure changes. Currently the board structure allows for duplication of efforts as well as confusion as to how committees work together. These changes allow for more efficient work between committees, more effective allocation of resources, and encourage more accountability for all board members.

This change will necessitate an amendment to Article IX, Section 3a

3. Remove the requirement that the immediate past president be in charge of State & Local Relations.

Rationale: The past president may or may not be the best person to fill the position of State and Local Relations chair. Their expertise might be better used elsewhere. This would allow the best individual to be placed

in the position.

This change will necessitate amendments to Article XIV, Sections 1, 2 & 3

4. Split the position of secretary-treasurer to secretary and treasurer

Rationale: Although these two positions are both small, it is not always the same person that has skills best matched to each position. Splitting this position would also create a position that is smaller allowing for developing future leaders. Having a separate Treasurer would also allow that position to become a backup for the office manager.

This change will necessitate amendments to Article VIII, Sections 1 and 8, Article IX, Section 4 and adding Section 5, and Article X, Section 6. If these amendments are approved, both a secretary and a treasurer will be elected at this convention. If the amendments fail, a secretary-treasurer will be elected.

## Reflections 2011

*Kirsten Knickrehm, WI PTA BOD Reflections Chair*

Thank you to the following PTAs for their participation in the PTA Reflections Art Program for 2010-11 “Together we can...”: **Region A:** Bose Elementary, Whittier Elementary, Cordelia Harvey Elementary, Charles W Nash Elementary, Pleasant Prairie Elementary, Mahone Middle, McKinley Middle and Washington Park High Schools. **Region B:** Milwaukee School Of Languages and Milwaukee German Immersion Schools. **Region D:** Monroe Elementary, Lakeview Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, Edgerton Community Elementary and Parker High Schools. **Region F:** Ben Franklin Elementary, Franklin Elementary, Southwood Glen, Frank Lloyd Wright Intermediate and Nathan Hale High Schools and West Allis-West Milwaukee PTA Council. **Region G:** Eagle River Elementary, Spencer, Hillcrest Primary and Shawano Middle Schools. **Region I:** Clayton Elementary and Lincoln Elementary Schools. **Region J:** Sam Davey Elementary School. **Region K:** Four Corners Elementary and Spooner Area School District. **Region L:** County Line, Amy Belle Elementary, Grafton Elementary, MacArthur Elementary, Meadowbrook Elementary, Parkview Elementary, Rockfield, Kennedy Middle and Germantown High Schools.

Winners have been personally notified and will be receiving letters from local Reflections chairs. Everyone is invited to attend the Reflections Luncheon Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. For more information, email [wi\\_reflections@yahoo.com](mailto:wi_reflections@yahoo.com) or contact the Wisconsin PTA office.



**NEW YEAR,**

**NEW**



**POSSIBILITIES!**



**LET'S JUMP START YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP IN 2011 TOGETHER!**

The PTA January Membership Campaign theme, "New Year... New Opportunities," plays on people's optimism that the new year brings new opportunities to improve ourselves, our lives, and the world around us. For parents, the world in which they want to make a difference is largely defined by children and schools. Encourage parents to make it their number one resolution to be more involved in their children's education. It's a resolution they'll want to keep. And PTA makes it easy.



Wisconsin PTA

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[wi\\_office@pta.org](mailto:wi_office@pta.org) [www.wisconsinpta.org](http://www.wisconsinpta.org)





*everychild.one voice*

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**Phone: 608-244-1455**  
**Fax: 608-244-4785**  
**Email: [wi\\_office@pta.org](mailto:wi_office@pta.org)**

**Reminder to PTAs:**  
Update Board Rosters on OMDR  
with all:  
***Additions, Deletions  
or Changes  
throughout the year!***



## WI PTA Calendar

### March

- 8-10 National Legislative Conference, Arlington, VA
- 22-23 Beyond Random Acts of Partnership, Building the Climate for Student Success, Milwaukee



### April

- 29-30 Wisconsin PTA Convention, Sheboygan
  - Elections
  - Bylaw Amendments
  - Workshops
  - Exhibitors
  - Networking Opportunities
  - Awards Ceremonies

**Is your PTA traveling down the road of endless possibilities?**

**Check the Wisconsin PTA website: [www.wisconsinpta.org](http://www.wisconsinpta.org)  
For more Convention Details**

### June

- 9-12 Annual National PTA Convention & Exhibition  
Disney Coronado Springs Resort & Convention Center,  
Orlando, Florida

**...the amazing possibilities there are also endless!**