

**POINTS OF
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Delightful** 3**Diversity
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President's Perspective

Dear PTA Friends and Guests,

As the 2010-2011 school year comes to an end, we look ahead to the upcoming school year and work to begin new partnerships with our community organizations, businesses, educational groups and others.

We can't stand by and not think about the resources our schools and our children will be losing due to the massive budget cuts across this state. We must continue forward on the road to endless possibilities and begin to create waves of change.

These waves of change must be tidal waves that will not only allow us to seek and build partnerships but take to action to make positive strides for every child to reach their full potential. We will have to step out of our comfort zone and forge ahead. We will need to talk to elected officials, the business community, as well as with the faith based community and community organizations, our school board members, education groups, and our own superintendent to build on relationships regarding what they can do to help our children to get the necessary resources

they deserve.

This is certainly no small task, but a task that each and every one of us must challenge ourselves, and others, to take. We can no longer afford to merely talk the talk but we will certainly have to walk the walk. My challenge, to all of you; to create those waves of change. Begin now. Don't take "no" for an answer, and remain positive through this difficult time. Together, united as one, we can make huge tidal waves on which we can surf this continual road of endless possibilities.

It has been a pleasure serving as your president for the past two years. My passion and enthusiasm will continue, as I will remain only an email, or phone call, away.

The road to endless possibilities brings waves of change to Wisconsin PTA.

There will be a new board of officers effective July 1, 2011:

Kim Henderson,
Appleton
President

Heather Leckey,
Janesville
President-Elect



Michael Anton,
Racine
Vice President

Vicki Huffman,
Shawano
Secretary

Linda Dubiak,
Hartland
Treasurer

Please welcome this outstanding group of individuals who will be your officers for the 2011-2013 Wisconsin PTA term.

Thank you,
and have a super summer.

Roxanne Starks

President, Wisconsin PTA

Legislatively Speaking

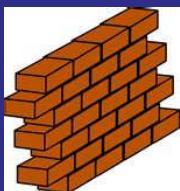
James Howard, WI PTA BOD, Federal Legislative Chair

To receive Legislative Alerts send your email address to:

wi_office@pta.org

Wisconsin PTA Convention Wall of Fame

Most Honored Teacher



Pat Gain
West Allis Central High School

Now that President Obama and the Republican Party (GOP's Ryan) have placed their two opposing Federal Budget proposals on the table we are left to ponder the future of Public Education. In the mist of March Madness at the State Capitol initiated by the draconian cuts to state education revealed in the budget repair bill, we are still left with concerns of where the Federal Government will direct Federal Education Policy. Because of those concerns we must maintain our focus on the reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act – No Child Left Behind (ESEA- NCLB) because it's generating many significant issues and proposals for its improvement.

National PTA believes that to ensure that schools and districts can provide a quality education to all children, meet the accountability standards set forth in ESEA-NCLB, and prepare students for employment in the global economy, greater financial support is critical. With state and local government budgets tightening,

schools are struggling to provide basic educational services. At the same time, demands have been placed on schools to improve student achievement. Without sufficient resources to engage parents, hire qualified teachers, expand compensatory education programs, and address other challenges we face, schools cannot make improvements. Additional targeted federal funds are needed to help schools implement specific interventions designed to improve student achievement.

The 2011 PTA Public Policy Agenda (PPA) calls for increases in funding in several areas:

- Parental Information resource centers.
- Title 1 of the ESEA, Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) state grants.
- Parent Training Information (PTI) Centers (IDEA Part D).
- Teacher Quality State Grants and Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants.

Although the PPA calls for in-

creased funding in several areas, the current environment in Washington as it relates to budget cutting made the likelihood of such request being realized very unlikely. Therefore during the Federal Legislative Conference this year our Capitol Hill advocates did not request additional funding for the next budget cycle. During the Hill visits our advocate requests were limited to holding the line at current funding levels.

During the postwar years from 1948 to 1973, education accounted for 29 percent of the increase in gross domestic product (GDP). In 2009, Department of Education discretionary and mandatory funding totaled 3 percent of the federal budget. If we are to improve our standings in the global educational arena increases to state and federal level education funding is urgently needed.

For more information about PTA activities on the Federal level please consult the National PTA Public Policy Agenda.

**Annual Form 990
Filing Requirements for Tax-Exempt
Organizations Forms 990, 990-EZ,
990-PF and 990-N (e-Postcard)**

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4839.pdf>



**New \$50,000 amount
will save many PTAs
from having to file
a form this year!**

It is Happening in Region D

Kristin Hesselbacher, WI PTA BOD Region D Advisor

Many thanks to Heather Leckey for “sharing” Region D duties with me. I cover Janesville and Beloit, where local units have had a very busy year! Fall was very busy, with back-to-school events and submitting everything to be in “good standing.” Two units in Beloit were brought into good standing last fall, thanks to their leaders. The 13 local units in Janesville have hosted many family events and fundraisers at our schools throughout the year, and donate hundreds of hours for school-related activities.



The JAC-PTA also sponsors the Family Network TV show once each month on local cable, including a School Board Candidates’ Forum moderated by the League of Women Voters. These shows are re-broadcast throughout the month and give viewers and parents an opportunity to stay informed. The JAC-PTA meets monthly to network among local PTA units and our liaisons from the school district, principals, teachers, WI PTA, and the school board.

At the WI PTA convention in April, our own Heather Leckey was voted President-Elect of the WI PTA for 2011-2013. The nominees from several Janesville units won state-level awards (Kim Schwantes award for non-teaching positions, Katzer-Smith Volunteer of the Year, Joan Dykstra scholarship to attend convention, and Teacher of the Year (Secondary). The Janesville Area Council PTA submitted a resolution encouraging school, election, and community officials to use sites other than schools for polling places, and it was approved at the convention in April.

Locally, our JAC-PTA awards banquet was held May 9. Kudos to our dedicated volunteers and leaders! We also honored long-time PTA leader and supporter Sheryl Miller, who is retiring from the school district as Public Information Specialist. Sheryl served as WI PTA president and on the National PTA board in the 1990s. Thanks to Sheryl for all of her support!

Wisconsin PTA Turns 101

Penny Larson, WI PTA BOD Immediate Past President

Wisconsin PTA’s 101st birthday is coming up on June 7th. The Wisconsin Branch of the National Congress of Mothers was founded in 1910 by Agnes Bettes of Milwaukee. Mrs. Bettes, a former teacher in rural Waukesha County, believed that parenthood was a profession and was searching for education on the subject, when she received the National Congress of Mother’s Child Welfare Magazine. She was impressed and started corresponding with the National officers and soon went to work to start a branch in Wisconsin. The first president was Mrs. J.R. Sullivan from Milwaukee, who, though childless understood the desperate needs of children of the time. The Wisconsin PTA’s earliest programs revolved around lectures and discussion

groups about child care, health and welfare. In the early twenties, the need for legislative advocacy was realized and Wisconsin PTA hasn’t stopped advocating at the state and national levels since. Resolutions about appropriate movies, books and entertainment started as early as 1915; tobacco resolutions in 1921. The 1925 resolutions included those about alcohol, drugs, child labor, illiteracy, physical education, music education, state aid for schools, teacher quality and certification, the concerns of rural schools, quality, free high schools and the education of special needs children. Starting in 1935, we find resolutions about parent education and automobile/traffic safety. In 1954, there was a resolution to support educational television. In 1964, there was



a resolution about using public funds for publically controlled, tax supported schools only. These topics and many more continue to appear in resolutions to this day, the newer ones expanding

to reflect an ever changing and more complex society. Of equal importance has been the day to day advocacy and programs provided by our local units and councils. Thank you to all of you for helping make Wisconsin PTA strong and effective as we continue to work to improve the education and life of every child.

Congratulations!

2011
Brookmire-
Hastings



Scholarship
Recipients:

Megan
Gaynor

Solon Springs
High School
Solon Springs

Jenna
Rosienki

Washington Park
High School
Racine

WI PTA Bylaws Amendments

Penny Larson, WI PTA BOD Interim Bylaws Chair

Delegates passed four bylaws amendments at the Wisconsin PTA Annual Convention and Business Meeting, April 28-29, 2011 at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. The intent of all the changes is to create a more efficient and workable board structure. The Wisconsin PTA Bylaws, with all wording changes, can be found on our website, 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 was inconsistent. This defines a commission as something that oversees multiple committees.*

2. Change the duties of the vice president.

Rationale: *Implement structure changes. The board structure allowed 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.*

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 allows the best individual to be placed in the position.*

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 also creates a position that is smaller allowing for developing future leaders. Having a separate Treasurer also allows that position to become a backup for the office manager.*

And the Theme Is...

Kirsten Knickrehm, WI PTA BOD Reflections Chair

"Diversity means..." the 2011-2012 National PTA Reflections Art Program Theme has been released and we hope you will encourage students to share their unique personal response in one of six categories. Each Reflections Program year, students create works of art inspired by a specific theme. That theme is selected from hundreds of ideas submitted by students to the PTA Reflections Program.

National PTA is looking for a theme for the 2012-2013 Reflections Program year. The student who submits the winning entry will receive \$100, and his or her theme will be presented at the 2011 National PTA Convention. Repeat themes will not be considered. The deadline for submissions to the State of WI PTA Reflections Chair is November 1st, 2011. Forms will be available on the WI PTA website very soon. What a great way to have fun, be creative, encourage others and become involved besides the opportunity to win money so put those thinking caps on over the summer and enter your idea!

Thank you and congratulations to all who were able to attend the Reflections Luncheon in Sheboygan. Student art was on display for all to enjoy and the awards ceremony was wonderful for acknowledging all of the effort the children gave to their submissions. All art has now been returned and if there are any questions as to missing art or a photograph taken at the luncheon please contact the WI PTA Reflections Chair, Kirsten Knickrehm via email at wi_reflections@yahoo.com or by calling 715-392-1200.

PTA Needs to Point Legislature Toward a Better Way

Tom Beebe, WI PTA BOD WAES Liaison

Wisconsin's public education community delivered a strong message, April 20: "Budgets are value judgments, and Governor Scott Walker's proposed budget doesn't reflect the values of our state. It's time to find a better way."

The message was delivered at a press conference in the Senate Parlor by a coalition of education, parent, student, and religious groups. Wisconsin PTA was represented by Jill Gaskell, state legislative liaison. The event was co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES).

While acknowledging the fiscal challenges Wisconsin faces, speakers said the budget should not be balanced on the backs of children. The group also presented a host of funding sources that could be used to finance education if the Governor and Legislature wanted to take a different path than the devastating cuts already proposed.

You can read more about the press conference at <http://www.excellentschools.org> and see it in its entirety on Wisconsin Eye at <http://www.wiseye.org/Programming/VideoArchive/EventDetail.aspx?evhid=4109>.

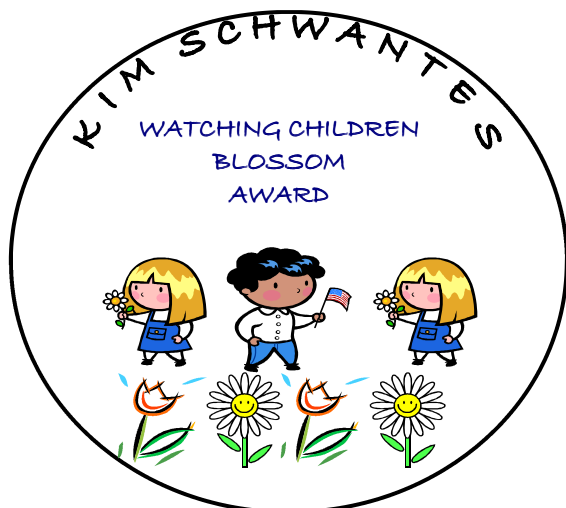
So, your job is to tell the Governor and your legislators - over and over again until they introduce sensible legislation - that there is a better way. For example, State Superintendent Tony Evers has offered a good school-funding repair plan (<http://www.fairfundingforourfuture.org>) and WAES has made it better with "A Penny for Kids" (<http://www.apennyforkids.org>). You need to urge that both plans be written into legislation and introduced as soon as possible.

Need some help? Here you go:

- There is a choice, and the Wisconsin PTA can promote it. Find a road map on how to get there at http://www.excellentschools.org/events/PennyforKids/better_way_roadmap_and_talking_points.pdf.
- Build a coalition in your community to work for "a better way" by contacting WAES to do a presentation and start a discussion. Go to http://www.excellentschools.org/resources/Host_presentation.htm.
- How about wearing your opinion on your sleeve where everyone can see it? Order your "There's A Better Way" WAES T-shirt at http://www.excellentschools.org/events/PennyforKids/TShirt_order_form.pdf.

See, there are options for our state to follow. Now it's up to you to make sure that happens.

For more information, contact WAES at 920-650-0525 or tbeebe@excellentschools.org.



Wisconsin PTA Congratulates
 Sharon Hamby
 Library Media Specialist
 Jackson Elementary School, Janesville
 As the 2011 Kim Schwantes
 Watching Children Blossom Award Winner

Thank you, Sharon, for helping children Blossom!

Use Just Between Friends to Communicate & Manage

Just Between Friends is the official PTA communications and membership management system. The online system was developed to help PTAs efficiently communicate with their entire school community; earn money for their unit; and manage membership. The system also helps parents to manage their hectic lives.

Benefits to PTA Units

- By using the system, units can easily perform all the functions necessary to manage and grow their PTA unit while earning money from Just Between Friends family-friendly sponsors.
- Leaders responsible for communications will streamline their tasks with automatic reminders and the ability to attach documents to their emails.
- Membership Chairs will spend less time: entering members,

creating directories, printing membership rosters, and printing membership cards.

VPs and chairs responsible for volunteer recruitment and management will simplify their volunteer efforts by providing members the ability to self-report volunteer hours.

Benefits to Parents

- Just Between Friends is an easy way to manage a family's participation in group activities.
- When a parent accepts an invitation to join your group, they have a single private customized online page showing all of their family's events, deadlines and activities related to their groups.
- Parents can manage and remember important personal dates by using their customizable calendar.

- With the system's private email communications and directory/roster creation modules, it's simple for parents to stay in touch with their group.

The system helps parents manage their own volunteer activities.

Enter your Unit Today

If you're not currently using Just Between Friends, it's easy to get started. Simply visit www.JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAquickstart to enter your unit. Then, visit www.LearnJBF.com for lots of how-to information.

If you have questions, please visit www.JustBetweenFriends.com and click on "Contact Us" or call 412-561-0600 x 0 and a knowledgeable, friendly Just Between Friends Customer Support Representative will help.

Wisconsin PTA Officers 2011-13

President

Kim Henderson
Appleton

President-Elect

Heather Leckey
Janesville

Vice President

Michael Anton
Racine

Secretary

Vicki Huffman
Shawano

Treasurer

Linda Dubiak
Hartland

Splash! Highlights from Convention

- Wisconsin State PTA Convention began on Friday, April 29 at the Blue Harbors Resort in Sheboygan Wisconsin.
- Early Bird Workshops "Building an Effective Team" and "The Science Alliance Bring Fun of Science to School."
- Meet and ask questions of the candidates that have stepped forward
- Celebration of the achievements of the PTAs that excelled in Membership attainment and recruitment during the year.
- General Session address amendments to the WI PTA Bylaws and an opportunity to hear the candidates
- Some afternoon workshops: "What I Signed Up For" and "Common Threads: The History of the PTA"
- An opportunity for the delegates to visit Vendor Exhibit
- Now it was time to have fun! Pirates Costume contest and the Treasurer hunt throughout \Blue Harbor Resort.
- Saturday General Session included WI PTA Annual and Treasurer's Reports, the State and Federal Legislative Reports and a Final Bylaws amendment was passed.
- More workshops: "Underage Drinking : What Every Parent Needs to Know and DO" "Successful Grant Writing"
- Reflections Luncheon which hosted the many winners, and families, from the Wisconsin PTA Reflection Program
- Workshops: "Just Between Friends-Membership Database" and "Teacher Appreciation"
- Final General Session was held in the afternoon to announced the candidates that would become the WI PTA Executive Board beginning July 1, 2011. Congratulations to President, Kim Henderson; President-Elect, Heather Leckey; Vice President, Michael Anton; Secretary, Vicki Huffman and Treasurer, Linda Dubiak.
- One Resolution was presented by the Janesville Area Council and approved, pertaining to the removal of polling places from schools in an effort to keep your children safe.
- "Banquet and Celebration" to honor another successful year of Wisconsin's PTAs, and say thank you to outgoing President, Roxanne Starks. Honorees included recipients of: Brookmire Hastings Scholarship, Kim Schwantes Watching Children Blossom, Teachers of the Year, Katzer Smith Volunteer Service and the Wisconsin PTA Honorary Life awards. Once again, many memories and lasting friendships were made thanks to the hard work of the convention committee under co-chairs Lisa Anderson and Vicki Huffman, as far as splashes go—this was a cannonball!

Update WI PTA's Voice

Heather Leckey, WI PTA Vice President

Once a problem or concern is identified a unit or the Board of Directors can submit a resolution for consideration. The resolution is considered at the annual state PTA convention, where we vote on issues that impact children and youth statewide and requires statewide action for solution. By adopting resolutions we can advocate for all children. The Janesville Area Council PTA submitted a resolution regarding removing polling places from the schools and at the 2011 Wisconsin PTA convention the resolution was passed.



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.

Transitions

Kim Henderson, WI PTA BOD President-Elect

Counting days until you are out of your PTA position? Although you may be thinking tropical drinks on a beach, you still have one very important job to complete: TRANSITION. Many people begin a PTA position with little or no information or training. Do not let your successor have that experience. The following steps will help your new PTA members to have a smooth transition and a successful term.

Even if you are not leaving your PTA position, these steps should be completed annually.

Submit Officer List to the State PTA

Make sure contact information for your PTA is sent to the WI PTA before the end of the school year. This allows WI PTA to mail important information to the

incoming PTA officers during the summer and fall.

Organize Paperwork

Make sure an accurate job description exists for your position. Summarize what you did over the past year (good and bad). List any suggestions for future improvement. Make sure any budget items are included. Make sure they have a copy of the unit bylaws, budget and any other important documents. Compile this and any other information in a format that someone else can understand. (Not just thrown into a box.)

Complete Tasks

Make sure nothing is left in progress. If additional follow-up needs to be completed next term, make sure complete instructions are included.

Submit Bills and Financial Reports

Make sure everything is turned in a timely manner.

Talk With Your Successor

Let them know who you are and if you are available for questions during their term. Show them the resources available to them. Let them know who to contact at the Council, Region or State PTA. Help them to understand what your position responsibilities are. But do not do their job!

Let Go!

Many people never seem to be able to let someone else take over. Each person holding a position will work differently and may not always do things the way you did. Let them have their chance to grow and shine.



everychild.one voice

Wisconsin PTA
4797 Hayes Road, Suite 102
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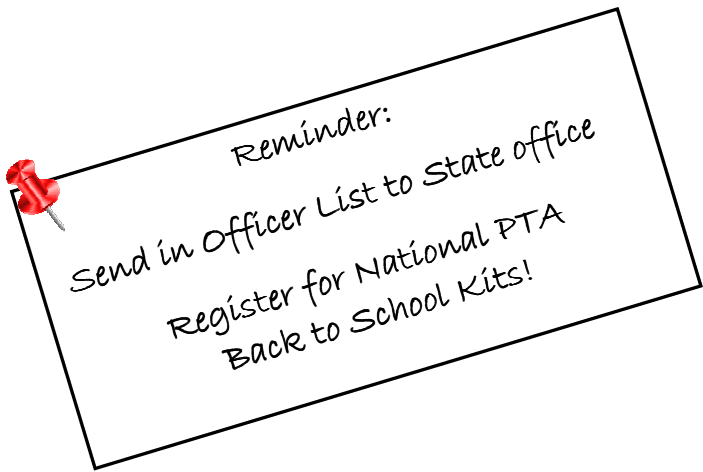
Reminder to PTAs:
Update Board Rosters on OMDR
with all:
**Additions, Deletions
or Changes**
throughout the year!



WI PTA Calendar

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

July
29-31 WI PTA Board of Directors Meeting, Madison



Thank you



Parents Plus

Your sponsorship has helped
Wisconsin PTA
Find the road of endless possibilities
That lead to the
National PTA Convention
Orlando, Florida!



everychild.one voice.®

2010-2011

Partner Level

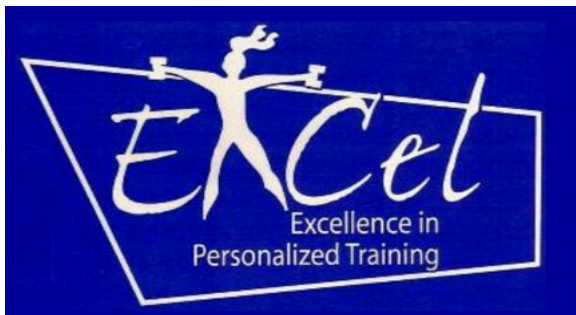
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| Balestrieri Environmental | Elkhorn |
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| ELRA Bowling Lanes Inc. | Janesville |
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Www.parentspluswi.org



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Representing Wisconsin's Retired Educational Community

www.wrea.net

Wisconsin PTA/PTSA Annual Officer List

School Year:		Name of Unit:	
Region & Council: (If known)		City of Unit:	
		National PTA Id #: (If known)	

Please complete and return this information via email, fax or regular mail by June 10th for your unit/council to receive the materials for the upcoming school year. All officer names and addresses must be filled out (including those in the second year of a term). This information is **REQUIRED ANNUALLY** for your unit/council to be properly serviced by Wisconsin PTA.

PRESIDENT		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
VICE PRESIDENT		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
SECRETARY		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
TREASURER		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
MEMBERSHIP		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
LEGISLATIVE		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
REFLECTIONS		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
NEWSLETTER		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
OTHER (or Co-Chair)		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
OTHER (or Co-chair)		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
JBF-Just Between Friends Admin (or Membership Database Chair)		Phone:	
Address, City & Zip:		E-mail:	
PRINCIPAL		E-mail:	

Return to: Wisconsin PTA, 4797 Hayes Rd. Suite 102, Madison, WI 53704
 Fax: 608-244-4785 Email: wi_office@pta.org