



## Wisconsin Parent-Teacher Association

### 1908 - 1933

In February 1908, a copy of the National Congress of Mothers Magazine found its way into the home of Mrs. Henry A. Betts, of Milwaukee, who had made search for guidance in the rearing of her children. Convinced that parenthood is a profession and that somewhere there would be found organized education devoted to it, here was the announcement of a national organization, working for an Educated Motherhood, about to hold an Annual convention in Washington D. But more than this, the magazine contained an article on the "Character Training" from the pen of our beloved founder, Mrs. Theodore W. Birney. Correspondence with national officers began in 1909; Mrs. Frederick Schoff, then the National President, suggested the founding of the Wisconsin branch and appointed Mrs. Betts as State Organizer. A final Wisconsin organizational meeting was called for on June 7, 1910, in Milwaukee, for which President Ellen C. Sabin graciously offered the Chapel of the Milwaukee Downer College. Mrs. Schoff and several members of the national board, who were in route to the Annual Convention in Denver, attended this meeting. And it was here, that the Wisconsin Branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers formally began. This name has since been changed to the one that is familiar now.

Mrs. Betts had the privilege of the trip to Denver, the acquaintance of many of the national officers and workers from other states. Among those officers were Mrs. David Mears, who that year originated "Founder's Day". To all of those, and to Mrs. Orville T. Bright and other Illinois Congress members, Wisconsin owes a debt of gratitude, for assistance in the establishment of an organization. Thirteen Milwaukee women became charter members, one a president of the first Parent-Teacher Organization in Wisconsin - the Maryland Avenue School, and one of the west Side Mothers' Club.

### 1910 - 1912

The honor of the first presidency belongs to one denied the privilege of motherhood, Mrs. J.R. Sullivan of Milwaukee, whose love for dependent children let her to serve all children. Failing strength permitted but only two years of this faithful pioneers service. Two valuable annual reports of hers remain, one of which includes her attendance at the National Convention, in Washington D.C. in May of 1911 and the other records include:

1. The organization of several Mother Groups
2. Her address before the State Federation of Women's Clubs at Janesville
3. She told of a cooperative Story Hour and Lecture, given by Mrs. Gudrim Thorne Thompson in Milwaukee
4. The distribution of considerable literature and of some legislative effort made

### 1212 - 1915

For three years, Mrs. Henry A. Betts of Milwaukee, as President, continued the program of organization, motivated by the following principles of the National Congress:

1. To know the requirements of childhood
2. To unite the two forces most vitally related to his welfare the home and the school
3. To give to every child his divine right to develop physically, mentally and morally

This necessitated correspondence, an increasing board and membership, extension work, and the many informal talks and addresses. Our first Year-Book printed in 1915-16 contained a splendid "slogan" by Wisconsin Superintendent of Schools, Mr. C.P. Cary – "A Parent-Teachers Association for Every School District in the State." Mr. Cary also gave a column space in a monthly bulletin, from the Department of Education. In addition, this Year-Book contained names of all state and national officers, a copy of the state bylaws and a list of 61 Parent-Teacher Association and Child Welfare Circles, then existing in 26 localities. Of those, 26 were in state and national membership.

Its value was increased by the endorsement of prominent Wisconsin educators, among whom were Dr. M.V. O'Shea, of the University of Wisconsin, Superintendent C.G. Pearse, Mrs. Victor L. Berger of Milwaukee and Superintendent Mary D. Bradford of Kenosha. A real "treasury" was begun and "dues" of ten cents per members of Parent-Teachers Associations were divided equally between the State and National Congress. Every member of the state board was either an Associate or Active members of the State and National Congress. Since 1915, a regular Parent-Teacher Section has been supplied by the Wisconsin Teacher's Association. A Baby-Show was held in the Auditorium in Milwaukee, in connection with a Home Show and entries were made from various points in the state.

Monthly board meetings were held in Milwaukee, until 1926, as were all Annual Conventions until 1916. From that time, a state rotation plan had been followed, made possible by a growing treasury and necessary by an ever-widening interest. Mrs. Hannah H. Schoff, National President, spoke before the Wisconsin Teachers' Association in 1912 on "Child Welfare in Home, School and State." Her intimate knowledge of the Juvenile Court, Child Welfare and the Children's Bureau, in Washington, combined to present to a large audience and entirely new aspect of the unsupplied needs of the child, everywhere. Valuable National literature was distributed and great impetus give to organization.

### **1915 - 1919**

Mrs. Edward Hammet, First Vice President, became the third president of the Wisconsin Congress, thus changing the center from Milwaukee to Sheboygan, a welcome evident of progress. Her ability as a parliamentarian, to standardize and to increase the board, her friendliness, which popularized growth in a loyal membership, the continued cooperation of educators, were outstanding in this administration.

A Second (larger) Yearbook published in 1917 - 18 was widely circulated; its additions to the first one included:

1. An increased board membership
2. A list of 77 associations, in 35 localities, 51 associations in membership
3. Announcement of Program Helps, Loan Papers, as series of books, entitled "Childhood and Youth Series: by Dr. M.V. O'Shea, and the affiliation of the Wisconsin Anti-Tuberculosis Association
4. 21 Associate members and 14 Active members

5. Mrs. Hammet's address for 1916 -17 mentioned eight Child Welfare Circles who were studying "Parents and their Problems: as a course and her attendance at a National Board Meeting. She urged future celebrations of Founder's Day and closer cooperation between state and national organizations.

Dr. Ida Schnell, a Milwaukee physician, and a popular speaker on many programs, as Child Hygiene Chairman, edited and distributed many "Health Habits" pamphlets. Letter heads were also printed. Miss Elizabeth Marshall, Corresponding Secretary and Dr. Schnell became our first State Life Members. Later, Miss Marshall made the gifts of three other such memberships.

Annual Conventions were held in Milwaukee, Madison and in 1919 in Sheboygan. One convention was omitted because of the flu epidemic.

### **1919 - 1925**

Mrs. G.N. Tremper, of Kenosha, brought to our fourth presidency both zeal and enthusiasm, that she gained as an active member of the Illinois Congress. As the wife of a high school principal, she was able to understand both the home and the school's viewpoint of parent-teacher work.

Kenosha City Council was organized in 1913; the first in the state and Mrs. Tremper had been its beloved and only president. She was made a State Life member as a gift of this council. The City Council of Milwaukee was soon organized and made the gift at this time of \$397 to the state association.

Eleven districts were organized and district conventions were held. First Parent Courses were started. A continuous growth in membership marks this administration, despite the fact that dues became ten cents to the state and five cents to the national. In 1925, Wisconsin's membership growth won second place in a national contest. Annual conventions were held in Fond Du Lac, Oconomowoc, Janesville and Milwaukee.

A Bulletin, which appeared at intervals, was of the greatest value in unifying and vitalizing local and national objectives. It was edited by Mrs. Tremper and published, usually by high school students, without cost to the state. During the last three years, our president attended the Annual Conventions of the National.

### **1925 - 1929**

Mrs. George Zachow, of Milwaukee, experienced in local, city and district leadership, added parliamentary ability to her presidency. Five Districts were organized, vice presidents became heads of departments and legislative work for the Children's code and for rural schools was carried on. The Publicity Committee secured twelve local and city papers. During 1925 and 1926 the monthly newsletter was published gratis by the University Extension to extend parent-teacher principles.

A second summer Round-Up was conducted, having 2,238 children enrolled from 34 associations. Mrs. Roe and Mrs. Golden each spent a month in Wisconsin, doing extension work. The "President's Package" appeared, and the State Historian was added to the list of officers in 1925. Mrs. Zachow attended National conventions and also its President's Conferences.

Less frequent board meetings were necessary because of reorganization of the board. Lectures in parent education were given and schools of instruction conducted. In 1923, a survey booklet was printed, which included several letters by prominent Wisconsin educators appreciative of the value of parent-teacher work in our schools. Our State Bulletin was published monthly, at the price of 25 cents to subscribers, and two copies sent to each president in membership. Though very profitable to the membership, it was, at times, a serious office problem.

At the 1929 Convention, state dues were increased from 15 cents to 25 cents per capita, primarily to establish a state office and if possible, publish and send every member The Bulletin (later called the Wisconsin Parent Teacher). At this same convention 418 delegates attended from 349 associations.

At Mrs. Zachow's retirement, the presentation of a Life membership in both State and National congresses were made by members of the state board. Also, a gift of \$100 in gold was given by parent-Teacher Associations throughout the state, in recognition of her outstanding service to the Congress.

### **1929 - 1933**

Mrs. W.J. Hubbard, our sixth president, was an experienced teacher, an ex-treasurer, first vice president of the board and familiar with many Wisconsin localities. Three additional districts had been organized. Mrs. Hubbard had been ably qualified to meet expansion problems, even in a depression period, supplementing office service by many miles of auto travel.

Two major projects had been the maintenance of a state office (and paid secretary) and the Magazine. The first had been accomplished and the latter was continued for one and one half years, as a service rendered, in return for dues received. The labor necessary to secure accuracy of mailing lists and to obtain sufficient advertising made this venture impractical for the present, hence, communications to locals had been sent quarterly instead.

The maximum membership was 24,189 in 437 units and the Founder's Day gift totaled \$290.65 from 110 associations.

Mrs. Kendel was with us for three weeks. Mrs. Roe held schools of instruction in five cities and Mrs. Watkins attended two conventions. Wisconsin's Bylaws were printed, various radio broadcast programs continued, the State Historian became the Founder's Day Chairman and Statistician, the Wisconsin Scrapbook of three volumes was placed in the state office.

Increasing alarm had been felt concerning a retrenchment of educational opportunity of Wisconsin's children. Their attention had been directed toward the legislative department of the state government and they had endeavored to give intelligent assistance. The following was the position of the board about it:

"We the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, pledge empathic support and cooperation to a program to eliminate waste and inefficiency in public education. We affirm that economics and budgetary adjustments, regardless of their effect upon the welfare of

children, are unwarranted at this time. Necessary savings should be directed by those responsible for the schools instead of those having retrenchment as a sole interest. We commend our teachers for their loyalty and determination to maintain the high grade of work despite personal burdens and professional handicaps. We reaffirm our stand that all adjustments necessary in this emergency shall give the children first consideration."

The assistance of the Wisconsin Teacher's Association had been invaluable. Together they had shared Annual Round Tables, gave 100 tickets to general programs and were given the use of important convention speakers. Thus, a greater clarity of Parent-Teacher purposes, methods and programs had become familiar to Wisconsin superintendents and teachers, who were giving increasing and sympathetic support. This was further evidenced through a splendid offer of cooperation made in November by the Wisconsin Teacher's Association in which two pages of its monthly magazine were devoted to Parent-Teacher activities. Two copies were sent to each association in membership and the services of a field secretary was supplied for a period of time. And thus is completed a brief record of the Wisconsin's part in a great movement for Child Welfare over a 23 year period, which through national guidance, in future, will give permanence and certainty to the "right of every child" throughout our state. To this high motive, we pledge our continued loyalty.

## 1940

Highlights of the 1939-40 school year:

- Mrs. H.P. Stoll was President; Mrs. Roger Scott was elected to the position in April.
- Emma Brookmire and Minetta Hastings (who was by this time a Past President) were both on the board of directors. The Brookmire Hastings Scholarship is named for them.
- Membership that year was 31,023.
- The Annual Convention was held in Fond du Lac; the theme was "Safeguarding the American way of Life through Everyday Living".
- Wisconsin Parent Teacher Week was held in October.
- The November 1 dues deadline was put into place.
- General singing of hymns and patriotic songs was encouraged to open meetings.
- Wisconsin PTA had a 15 minute radio program on public radio.
- A bulletin subscription was 50 cents a year.
- 350 people attended the parent teacher luncheon and workshop at the Wisconsin Education Association Annual Convention.
- A Fathers' Night was held at PTAs in Ashland.
- Wisconsin PTA was instrumental in the forming of a State Board of Public Welfare.
- Study Groups were a popular program for local PTAs.
- All local units were required to submit an annual report to the state PTA.
- Judge Boraude of the Boys Court of Chicago spoke at the annual convention about 9 things tending to get boys in trouble:
  1. Destructive toys & games
  2. Improper literature (detective and thriller magazines)
  3. The use of alcohol
  4. The use of marijuana
  5. Movies, radio and comic strips
  6. Unsupervised gangs and clubs
  7. Automobiles – he spoke in favor of a law prohibiting boys under 21 owning cars

8. Idleness and unemployment
9. Home life – indifferent and nagging parents or ones that “commit more obvious wrongs against the home”

### **1946-1950**

In 1946 Mr. A. W. Zellmer was state president; he was the only male to ever be president of Wisconsin PTA.

That year a Certificate of Achievement was started; this award was given to units based on how well their programs and activities advanced the objects of PTA.

Whether PTAs should “Equip the Schools” was already a topic of discussion.

During the 46-47 year Wisconsin PTA had 44,170 members in 438 units.

70% of members were women; 30% were men

97% of units were in public schools

11% of units were rural

8% of units were in towns of less than 2500 people

81% were in towns with a population of over 2500 people

The units averaged 7.71 meetings a year with average attendance of 65

The attendance range was from 5 to 400 people

In 1950 the membership was up to 72,226 members in 721 units

During this period one week every October was proclaimed to be Parent Teacher Week by the Governor.

In the fall of 1949 Wisconsin PTA partnered with the DVM on a traffic safety campaign.

Conventions:

1947 – Superior

1948 – Madison

1949 – Green Bay

1950 - Milwaukee

### **50 Years Ago: The Golden Jubilee Years**

Presidents:

1957-1959 Mrs. James Lohr of Sheboygan

1959-1961 Mrs. Willis Van Horn of Appleton

1961-1963 Mrs. Harry S. Sicula of Milwaukee

Conventions:

1959 The Golden Jubilee Convention (50<sup>th</sup>) in Eau Claire – Theme: “School – Home – Community: A Half Century of United Effort toward Meeting Each Individual’s Needs for Tomorrow’s World”

1960 Milwaukee – Theme: “Advancing on New Frontiers by Strengthening the Home”

1961 Sheboygan – Theme: “All in a Child’s Lifetime”

Legislative Priorities:

Supporting a series of bills concerning the well being and treatment of children with psychological issues

Motorboat registration and safety, including stricter enforcement of parent liability for damage done by a child operating a boat

State aid summer school with certified teachers and also allowing credit given toward graduation

Legislation that would have all areas of the state included in a high school district

A minimum standard of 4 years preparation beyond high school for beginning teachers

The allowance of tax deductions for teacher professional education

Prohibiting the purchase and use of fireworks

Prohibiting the purchase and use of switch blades

The expansion of driver's education

Uniform school bus regulations

Miscellaneous:

In 1959 there were 900 local PTA units in Wisconsin (we have 240 today)

The 1959-60 membership slogan was "Let's Call on All"

In 1959 Wisconsin PTA moved into new offices at 148 E. Johnson in Madison

In April, 1960 WI PTA was incorporated at a non stock nonprofit corporation. The main reason was to obtain exemption from real estate tax so the association could purchase property for a permanent office.

In January 1961 WI PTA bought a building to house the office. Renovations were made and the office moved in May at 223 N Baldwin, Madison.

## **1969-1971**

Presidents:

1967-1969 Mrs. Bernard Henkelmann of Green Bay

1969-1971 Mrs. Orrin Brunner of Whitefish Bay

Conventions:

1969: La Crosse, theme: What's Going On?

1970: Milwaukee, theme: Blueprint for PTA Action

1971: Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, theme: Education Progresses Through Action

Initiatives and Legislative Issues:

Children's Emotional Health Project was an initiative to strengthen resources for the emotional health of children and families.

Campaign to have a statewide 21 year old drinking law, due in part to statistics that showed that Wisconsin's 18-21 year olds had higher rates of fatal accidents than surrounding states

Anti-smoking education

Expand kindergarten opportunities for 5 year olds by making it mandatory for districts to provide that service

Support and improve educational TV in the state

Encourage the development of written school board policies with parents involved in the process

Encourage the evaluation of policies and programs for safety patrols, adult crossing guards and school bus safety

Extend guidance and counseling services to the elementary level

Encourage efforts to provide more opportunities for post secondary education

Expand work-school opportunities for at risk students.

Oppose bills for state aid to private schools

Oppose bills to limit participation in family life education

Miscellaneous:

The National PTA and the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers merged at the National PTA Convention June 21- 23, 1970.

In 1970 national dues were 10cents and state dues were 30cents. Convention registration was \$2.50.

## **75 Years Old**

Presidents:

1971-73: Marie Seitz, Racine

1973-75: Helen Katzer, Wauwatosa

1975-77: Betty Cleworth, Wisconsin Rapids

1977-79: Marlene Hoffman, Jackson

1979-81: Jeanne Harris, Eau Claire

1981-83: Jean Hill, Cedarburg

1983-85: Ruth Schmidt, Elkhart Lake

Conventions:

1972: Milwaukee, theme: People Taking Action where it counts

1973: Sheboygan, theme: Parent Education Priorities

1974: Eau Claire, theme: Every Child Needs You

1975: Madison, theme: We the People, for Every Child

1976: Green Bay, theme: Spirit of PTA

1977: Milwaukee, theme: Take Time for Children

Due to declining attendance a one day business meeting was held with workshops conducted at 10 Personal Touch Ambassador sessions around the state – the roots of our current Leadership Conferences

1978: La Crosse, theme: PTA: On the Move

Went back to a two day event, shifted the days from weekdays to Friday & Saturday –had 201 attendees

1979: Stevens Point, theme: PTA: On the Move

1979: National PTA convention is held in Milwaukee

1980: West Bend, theme: A Place for Everyone

1981: Eau Claire, theme: A Place for Everyone

1982: Oshkosh, theme: Rainbow Roundup

1983: Green Bay, theme: football, sports

1984: Madison, theme: Heart to Heart

1985: Wisconsin Rapids, theme: Wisconsin PTA Cares, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

Initiatives/Legislative Issues:

Participation in the Rise Reading Program (Reading Improvement Services Everywhere) started in 1970

Recurring themes in resolutions:

Accurate portrayal of women and minorities in the curriculum and equality and integration in schools

Student records: rights to review and concerns about content of files

Special education

Immunization

Prohibiting the sale of smoking materials to minors

Raising the drinking age to 21

Safety to and from school, both walking and on busses

Parent involvement and including parents in decision making process  
Drug and alcohol abuse  
Domestic violence  
Standardized testing  
Truancy  
Guidance and counseling programs

New issues appearing in resolutions were computer technology, video games and gifted and talented education.

Sent 65 delegates the Parenting Conference sponsored by the March of Dimes and NPTA in 1976 and held a Wisconsin conference in 1978

Improving TV programs remained a priority. A grant from Kimberly Clark funded the TV Violence Project, workshops about effective methods of communication with the media about programming.

Parent Involvement workshops were held throughout the state in 1978

Miscellaneous:

The new membership push during this period was for 100% faculty membership. This was a period of membership decline. This turned around in the 1983-4, year when membership was again on the rise.

Dues were raised several times during this period and were \$1.75 for state and \$.50 for national by 1985 - 86.

1971: The position of District Advisor was formed. This position has evolved into our current Region Advisor.

1976: The Legislative Conference was first held

The Alumni Club was formed for former state board members. Today this is the Alumni PTA.

The state board was reorganized from having program areas to commissions and committees, reducing the size of the board. Liaisons from statewide educational organizations were added to the board.

1977: WALU (Wisconsin At Large Unit) was formed for those who want to support the PTA, but don't have a local unit to join.

1984: The Wisconsin PTA Teacher of the Year Award was developed.

## **1985-95**

Presidents:

1985-87 Joan Dykstra, Racine, Leading the Parade for Kids, National PTA President 1995-97

1987-89 Judy Cardin, West Allis, PTA We Are Family

1989-91 Linda Oaks, Cedarburg, Today's Children, Tomorrow's Stars

1991-93 Ginny Hicks, Oconomowoc, PTA A Circle of Light

1993-95 Kathy Haller, Kenosha, Children First in Every Heart

1995-97 Sheryl Miller, Janesville, And the Beat Goes On

Conventions:

1986 Racine, theme "PTA Leading the Way"

1987 LaCrosse, theme "Come Fly with Us"

1988 Steven's Point

1989 Oconomowoc

1990 Fond du Lac

- 1991 Madison, theme "Dream for Children"
- 1992 Milwaukee, theme "PTA – Lighting the Way for Children"
- 1993 Oshkosh, theme "Lights, Camera, PTA Action"
- 1994 Eau Claire, theme "PTA – Take it to Heart"
- 1995 Appleton, theme "PTA And the Beat Goes On"

#### Resolutions /Legislation:

Smoking – tobacco ads on TV & radio, warning labels on smokeless tobacco, encourage smoking prevention programs in schools, prohibit sales to minors

Traffic safety – No right turn on red in school zones, seat belts in school buses, mandatory use of seat belts in cars, required flashing lights on school buses, prohibit those under 16 to operate or ride on ATVs

Media – strengthen anti obscenity laws, concern for harmful music lyrics, harmful content in music videos, video game violence, oppose use of programs in classrooms that contain commercials, limit sexual references on prime time TV, pornography on computers

School related – require standard guidelines and standardized testing for children who are home schooled, lower class sizes, encourage use of severe weather early warning systems, including maintenance and practice of those systems and equipping outside emergency alarms and procedures, oppose private school vouchers, oppose for profit schools, prohibit corporal punishment, encourage establishment of in school suspensions, encourage requirement for foreign language competency, promote equalization aid formula for school funding, encourage site based management to maintain local control and provide an opportunity for parent involvement in decision making, encourage background checks for teachers, concern about industry and pollutants near schools

Health and safety – AIDS awareness education, childhood obesity, require periodic hearing and vision screening in schools, cult awareness education, dangers of inhalants, gun safety, Rave parties, lead poisoning, dangers of acetaminophen overdose, dangers of 900 phone numbers

#### Unit Awards:

- 1986 Honor Unit – Jefferson Lighthouse, Racine
- 1990 Ben Franklin, Menomonee Falls – National PTA Advocates for Children Award
- 1991 Ben Franklin, Menomonee Falls, WI Advocates for Children Award
  - Council of the Year – Appleton
  - Program of the Year – Washington, Janesville; Honorable Mention, Sherman, Eau Claire
  - Greatest membership increase – Pershing, small PTA @ 90%, Longfellow, Wauwatosa, large PTA @ 40%
- 1992 Council of the Year – Wauwatosa
  - Program of the Year – Houdini, Appleton
- 1993 Advocate for Children – Eisenhower, Wauwatosa
  - Council of the year – Janesville
  - Programs of the Year – Council, Janesville, Local Unit Eisenhower, Wauwatosa
- 1994 Advocate for Children – Milwaukee Spanish Immersion, Milwaukee
  - Program of the Year – Council, Janesville, Local Unit, Sherman, Eau Claire
  - Greatest membership increase – Nathan Hale HS, West Allis small PTA @59%, Houdini, Appleton large PTA @ 35%
- 1995 Advocate for Children – Ben Franklin, Menomonee Falls
  - Program of the Year – Council, Janesville, Local Unit, Thomas Jefferson, Menomonee Falls

Greatest membership increase – Menomonee Falls High School, small PTA @ 108%, Jefferson, Wauwatosa, medium PTA @ 45%, Frank Lloyd Wright, West Allis large PTA @ 4%

#### Miscellaneous:

1984 – National PTA establishes Teacher Appreciation Week

1987 – PTA had largest membership gain in 27 years; National had 6.1 million members, Wisconsin 35,000

- Held joint parenting workshops with CESA 1
- changed from 4 vice presidents to our present 2, all officers are now elected at the same time, added the good standing rules requiring bylaws revision every 3 years, dues in by Nov. 1 and set minimum membership numbers, deleted district presidents and changed districts to today's regions

1988 – The Katzer Smith Volunteer Award was developed to honor Helen Katzer and Silvia Smith

1989 – Received a \$10,000 grant from the WI DOT to increase the proper use of seat belts and safety seats; released a video kit about buckling up

1991 – Wisconsin PTA had 47,175 members

1993 – Our current president, Roxanne Starks joins the board as Region B Advisor

1995-97 – Roxanne serves as Secretary

#### **1996 to the Future and Beyond**

##### Presidents:

1995-97: Sheryl Miller, Janesville “A Rainbow for the Future”

1997-99: Jane Shibilski, Wausau “Wisconsin PTA – Keeper of the Dream”

1999-01: Winnie Doxie, Appleton “Changing the World for Children”

2001-03: Pat Lewno, Racine “Always Believe in Children”

2003-05: Cynthia DiCamelli, Brooklyn “Lighting the Way for Children”

2005-07: Cyndi Barbian, West Allis “Wisconsin PTA – Where Children are the Stars”

2007-09: Penny Larson, Wauwatosa “Planting the Seeds of Success”

2009-11: Roxanne Starks, Milwaukee “The Road to Endless Possibility”

2011-13: Kim Henderson, Appleton

##### Conventions:

1997: Lake Geneva “Hats Off to PTA – 100 Years”

1998: Oshkosh “The Courage to Dream”

1999: Oconomowoc “Celebrate the Dream”

2000: Appleton “Focus on the Future”

2001: Stevens Point “Focus on the Future – Reach for the Goal”

2002: Green Bay “Always Believe in Children”

2003: Oshkosh “Always Believe in Children”

2004: Waukesha “Lighting the Way for Children”

2005: Oshkosh “Lighting the Way for Children”

2006: Wausau “The Greatest Convention on Earth”

2007: Baraboo “Lights, Cameras, Action”

2008: Green Bay: “TYME” (Teaching You, Mentoring you, Educating you)

2009: Oconomowoc “Taking the Next Step”

The 100<sup>th</sup> convention was an historic event where Roxanne Starks, Wisconsin PTA's first African American president was installed by Charles Saylor, National PTA's first male president.

2010: LaCrosse "The Road to Endless Possibility" (Follow the Yellow Brick Road)

2011: Sheboygan

2012: Lake Geneva

#### Legislative Priorities:

After a couple of years under revenue caps, Wisconsin PTA's legislative action has increasingly focused on funding issues and reforming the school funding formula. Some of the funding related events and resolutions are listed below:

WI PTA started a partnership with the Institute for Wisconsin's Future (IWF, the parent organization of WAES) to reform school funding

Resolution calling for equity in school funding

Resolution calling for schools receiving public funds to be held to the same accountability as public schools

Joined in the lawsuit to question the constitutionality of the current funding system, the lawsuit failed

Encouraged full funding for mandated programs, including IDEA

Participated and helped organize in A Walk on the Child's Side, where people from all over the state walked to Madison and held a rally at the capitol to reform school funding in June 2000

In 2001 held Wisconsin's Largest and Last Bake Sale during the Legislative Conference to call attention to the fact that the school funding crisis cannot be solved with fundraising

The Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools was formed in 2002 to reform school funding and WI PTA became a member

Called for a school funding formula based on students needs

Opposed constitutional revenue limits on all governmental entities (also known as TABOR, Taxpayers Bill of Rights)

In 2007, The School Finance Network, a coalition of educational entities working to reform school funding. PTA joins.

Testified at hearing for a new school funding plan in 2009

Participated in another Walk on the Child's Side in June 2009

Other legislative issues during this period:

Encouraged the development and review of school district's discipline code of conduct

Encouraged the use of bicycle helmets

Educated about the threat of pesticides to schools and encouraged eco friendly schools

Called for notification of the release of sex offenders and encouraged programs to protect children from them

A resolution calling for safe school culture covered violence in the media, adequate social services, parenting skills, parent involvement and school programs

Encouraged the adoption of the National Standards for Parent Involvement by schools

Opposed the over reliance on high stakes testing

Called for accountability in the regulation and funding of virtual and charter schools

A resolution against the use of electronic devices in moving vehicles

Supported the existence and use of AEDs in schools

Educated about childhood obesity prevention and the dangers of inhalant abuse

Encouraged the development of programs that close the achievement gap

Advocated for the education of English Language Learners and the Gifted and Talented

Encouraged improved school nursing services  
Called for regulations about cell phone usage during the school day  
Encouraged informed choice and decision making for parents about the cervical cancer vaccine  
Supported the use of local food sources in schools

#### Miscellaneous

- 1996 The CALLS (Child Advocate Local Leaders) was developed to train parent advocates with a grant  
Kim Schwantes joins WI PTA as the executive administrator
- 1997 National PTA celebrates 100 years, Wisconsin's own Joan Dykstra is president  
Valley View PTA in Menomonee Falls wins National's Advocate for Children Award  
The Phoebe Apperson Hearst Educator award goes to Jeanne Hochstatter, Principal of Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School  
National PTA develops the Standards for Family Involvement  
The Joan Dykstra Friend of Children Award is created and Joan is the first recipient  
Wisconsin PTA gives ten \$500 comprehensive School Health Grants to local units  
Developed a partnership with Wisconsin Association of Student Councils
- 1998 Charlie Ash of Milwaukee German Immersion PTA received the Reflections Outstanding Interpretation Award for Music  
The Phoebe Apperson Hearst Educator award goes to Donna Porter, a teacher in Franklin  
Miles of Smiles was developed where books were collected at convention and distributed to children in need  
The WKCE's came into existence and a high stakes graduation test is proposed, but ultimately didn't happen because of PTA's action  
Wisconsin PTA participates in the School Health Coalition  
Gave grants for environment awareness to local units  
Current Newsletter editor and past president Cyndi Barbian joins the board as the Region F Advisor
- 1999 The LEADers program begins  
The Wall of Fame to honor teachers and support the Brookmire Hastings Scholarships is created  
The Partners in Action legislative network is formed
- 2000 Courtney Carlson wins Reflections Outstanding Interpretation for Literature  
WI PTA wins National's TEAM award for the Miles of Smiles Program
- 2001 The tag line "everychild,onevoice" is adopted
- 2002 A 4 year focus through special projects on Middle and High school PTA programs began
- 2003 Eisenhower, Wauwatosa became the 1<sup>st</sup> school in WI to be certified as a Parent Involvement School of Excellence  
Current Immediate Past President, Penny Larson joins the board as the Building Successful Partnerships (Family Involvement) Chair
- 2005 Wisconsin pilots OMDR  
Current president, Roxanne Starks rejoins the board as the Legislative Liaison  
Bylaws are changed to combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer to Secretary/Treasurer

- 2006 Bylaws are changed to create the President Elect position  
Held a Focus on Programs event that highlighted the special projects: preventing childhood obesity, substance abuse and diversity  
Had a PTA Bucks Night where Senator Kohl was awarded the Joan Dykstra Friend of Children Award
- 2007 The Wisconsin Parent Teacher goes digital  
WI PTA serves on the School Health Services Task Force  
The Kim Schwantes, Watching Children Blossom Award is created in memory of executive administrator Kim Schwantes  
Current president elect, Kim Henderson, joins the board after serving California PTA Roosevelt PTA, Wauwatosa wins a Take Your Family to School Award
- 2008 The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Wisconsin Walk for Healthy Kids is held and we raise almost \$1,000  
WI PTA coordinates the National Mock Election for Wisconsin  
Dan Ewert, Germantown HS PTSA wins the Reflections Outstanding Interpretation Award for Literature  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Treasurers' Professional development Seminar is held in conjunction with the Leadership Conference
- 2009 Then president, Penny Larson, wins the State Leadership Award from the Wisconsin Association for Gifted and Talents (WATG) for PTA's Gifted and Talented special project  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Hale and Healthy Grant, funded by the Walk for Healthy Kids is awarded to Jackson PTA, Janesville  
Then president elect, Roxanne Starks is honored by Jamming 98.3 for her service to the Milwaukee community  
Jefferson PTA, West Allis wins a Healthy Lifestyles Month grant
- 2010 *Wisconsin PTA celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 7*