

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Inclusion & Diversity
- Superior Region
- Just Between Friends
- WCEA Conference

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President's Perspective

Welcome to the new school year.

September means time for children to go back to school. As a parent I know I often have mixed emotions, sometimes I am so glad to have the kids out from under my feet and other times I miss the time to play with my kids. Either way is it a time for change.

Change happens whether we choose it or not.

But we can and should prepare for and shape change.

It is a great time to start reminding our kids and ourselves what school is about: Time to work on study habits, time management, communication skills, and organization. It would also be a great time to offer a parent education night helping parents and children learn these skills. It is also a great time to ask teachers to present a workshop on how to help your students with homework. An emphasis on helping



those parents who do not speak English, have students in special education or have recently moved to Wisconsin is a great way to start

working with parents that might not normally attend your PTA meetings.

Change is also on the horizon for our schools with the many budget changes in Wisconsin and at the Federal level.

The federal legislation governing education, ESEA (the Elementary Secondary Education Act) is up for reauthorization. It is time to speak up and let your legislators know how important you feel education is.

Change is also occurring with new accountability standards being evaluated in Wisconsin. Wisconsin PTA will be represented on this task force. A positive change is the move towards RtI and PBIS that many schools are making. Wisconsin PTA is also represented on these state-wide councils. Watch for updates in our newsletter, on our website www.wisconsinpta.org and the National PTA website at: www.pta.org.

The beginning of the year also brings membership drives.

Membership is about getting everyone involved to improve the education of children and youth. There are many different ways to be involved. Whether it means helping in a classroom, helping a



student, writing to a legislator, planning a community event, financial support or just staying aware of what is happening, we need all parents, teachers, staff, and community members to help. Reach out to those who care about kids in your school. Membership is not limited to parents. By becoming a member of a local or a community PTA, you are also joining the efforts of Wisconsin PTA and National PTA. We are much stronger working together than we would be working separately.

Thank you to every member of PTA and best wishes for the upcoming school year.

Creating waves of change,

Kim Henderson

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)

Now that the State recall elections for the Senate are over, we are once again left to ponder the future of public education.

With the current deficit fight on the National level and the minimal political will displayed by many of our federal legislators to tackle the tough deficit reduction issues it's almost a certainty that the discretionary side of the budget will incur greater reductions. These reductions will probably result in less Federal education funding to states. Unfortunately for our public schools this is where public school funding resides and education funding is a significant portion of the discretionary budget. The Federal deal to raise the debt ceiling



calls for cuts of \$25 billion to discretionary spending in 2012 beginning October 1st, and another

round of cuts to the discretionary budget of \$47 billion in 2013. Because of the draconian cuts to state education funding revealed in the budget repair bill, we are now left with greater concerns when considering where the Federal Government will direct Federal Education Policy. Furthermore, what will happen to education funding, Senate or both in the future? Because of these 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.

While there has been no movement on a Senate draft for reauthorization of the ESEA we are hopeful that Committee staff will release language sometime this fall. In the House of Representatives three bills has moved through the Education and Workforce Committee.

- Setting Priorities in Education Spending Act (HR 1891)
- Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act (HR2218)
- State and Local Funding Flexibility Act (HR2445)

Considering the ongoing National debt debate and the upcoming presidential election it's increasingly unlikely that we will see full reauthorization of ESEA this year.

IRS Deductions

The IRS announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final 6 months of 2011. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business and other purposes.

The rate will increase to 55.5 cents a mile for business miles driven from 7/1/11, through 12/31/11. This is an increase of 4.5 cents from the 51 cent rate in effect for the first six months of 2011, as set forth in Revenue Procedure 2010-51.

In recognition of recent gas price increases, the IRS made this adjustment for the final

months of 2011. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a for the next year.

"This year's increased gas prices are having a major impact on individual Americans. The IRS is adjusting the standard mileage rates to better reflect the recent increase in gas prices," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "We are taking this step so the reimbursement rate will be fair to taxpayers."

While gasoline is a significant factor in the mileage figure, other items enter into the calculation of mileage rates, such as depreciation, insurance and other fixed and variable costs.

The new six-month rate for computing deductible medical or moving expenses will also increase by 4.5 cents to 23.5 cents a mile, up from 19 cents for the first six months of 2011. The rate for providing services for charitable organizations is set by statute, not the IRS, and remains at 14 cents a mile.

The new rates are contained in Announcement 2011-40 on the optional standard mileage rates.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

PTA
Dues



Increase
to
\$5.25

Leadership Links

Heather Leckey WI PTA BOD Leadership Committee

One of the most common concerns I hear from PTA leaders is that they don't know how to get people to attend their meetings.

Why do they want people there?

To conduct PTA business, to find volunteers, to get people involved? As you sit reading this you may be preparing for your first ever PTA meeting or your 50th PTA meeting but all the same 'rules' apply. Below are some tips to keep in mind when running a productive and efficient meeting.

The agenda: Before you even get to the meeting an agenda has been created. Use it! The agenda should have reports from each of the offi-

cers and committee chairs, teachers and the principal, new business, and unfinished business. Use this guideline that's been created as a blueprint for the meeting. Once the meeting is called to order any last minute changes to the agenda should be announced. To be respectful to those who arrive on time start on time. People may come in late which is okay. They can be introduced between items.

During the meeting: Follow the agenda during the meeting. If things get off track anyone can respectfully remind the group that the goal is to get people home at a reasonable time. Don't tell members that meetings are only an hour if they aren't going to be kept to an

hour. If the discussion gets off topic it needs to be brought back on topic. If a single report becomes a 20 minute discussion you should suggest that the topic be put on next month's agenda since there seems to be more discussion than you have time for. People who become frustrated or bored will not come back and if a meeting is unproductive they will not return.

Don't make "Does anyone have any questions or concerns?" a rhetorical question. If members don't feel that their feedback is sincerely welcomed they will not offer the valuable feedback that PTA boards yearn for. Give everyone a chance to participate and value what is said.

"...you may be preparing for your first ever PTA meeting or your 50th PTA meeting but all the same 'rules' apply..."

Inclusiveness & Diversity

PTA values and appreciates diversity, which enriches and strengthens the structure of our society within our state and nation. PTAs must be reflective of their communities to assure we speak for every child with one voice.



☆ Assure inclusiveness in all work with schools and families and within the PTA.

- ☆ Make every effort to create a PTA board and membership that are reflective of the community.
- ☆ Become acquainted with leaders of the many diverse groups in the community.
- ☆ Share community history and traditions. Focus on the rich diversity comprising the members of the school community.

- ☆ Propose change wherever you perceive exclusive or discriminatory practices.
- ☆ Empower your members with support and encouragement to build a learning community based upon trust, care and respect.
- ☆ Allocate ample resource support to meet programming needs.
- ☆ Measure results; identify barriers and problem-solve as needed.

What Needs to be in the Minutes?

Linda Dubiak, WI PTA BOD



Ever wonder what needs to be in the minutes from the meeting and what does not? This is something I think every Secretary struggles with. You don't want to leave out anything that is important, on the other hand you don't want to bog things down with too much information. Listed below are bullet points to guide you through the making of your minutes.

Minutes should contain:

- Name of the association and kind of meeting (association, executive board, special);
- Date, time and place of meeting;
- Name and title of presiding officer (or pro tem);
- Disposition of minutes of

previous meeting - whether read and approved/ corrected or their reading postponed including when and how they are to be approved;

- Statement of account as given and list of bills approved for payment;
- Summarized reports of other officers and chairmen (important reports such as budget should be attached to the minutes in full);
- Record of each motion voted upon, the name of member who made the motion, and whether carried or lost (the name of the seconded does not need to be recorded);
- Copy of any resolutions adopted;

- Record of results of any election and votes cast;
- Brief notation of program topic, names of participants, and method of presentation;
- Time of adjournment;
- List of persons in attendance or excused absences; and
- Signature of secretary, using own given name.

And should NOT include :

- Opinions or interpretations of the recording secretary
- Judgmental phrases like "heated debate" or "valuable comment"
- Motions that are withdrawn
- Flowery language
- Detailed reports

Keeping in Touch ~ Made Easy!

Ellen Chicka, WI PTA BOD

"Diversity Means"

2011-12

Reflections Theme



Let the Arts Begin!

Have you registered your school on the **FREE** Just Between Friends System yet? Did you try to log on and never went back, or maybe used it one year and then stopped? Now is the time to use Just Between Friends (JBF)! **WI President, Kim Henderson, is requesting each unit in WI register with JBF and get their units on the system by December 1st, 2011.** If you register your unit by December 1st, your unit will be entered into our prize drawing!

Here's what you get for registering.

First, it's a great way to keep track of your membership. You can put them on your system once, and then every year after

all you have to do is click a button to renew them. For new members, you can either load them via a spreadsheet, or send them an email to put themselves in the system. Plus, once they are in there, you can print membership cards, create communications groups for different events, for your Exec. Board, and keep track of the volunteer hours that they put in. You can also create paper or online directories.

Second, it's a great way to communicate with your members. You can send out notices, events and announcements easily and create your own template, too. You can even attach photos or newsletters, and add reminders to your notices with just a few clicks. Once we get all the units registered, the state

will be able to use the system to contact different groups as well, including all the secretaries, treasurers, reflections chairs, and more.

Third, you can earn money just by using the system! Your unit will enjoy another great benefit just by using the system-**revenue share**. Contact your PTA/Just Between Friends liaison to get all the details about revenue share (412-561-0500 x1203).

If you're not using the system, it's easy to get started. Visit www.justbetweenfriends.com/PTAquickstart and enter your unit. If you have questions, click on **Contact Us** and a Just Between Friends Customer Support Representative will promptly help you.

Title I Parent Involvement

Jane Grinde, WI PTA BOD DPI Liaison

“Involving parents and families as full partners in the education of their children is one of the cornerstones of the ESEA/No Child Left Behind Act. When families support learning, children are more successful in school and school success helps children become successful adults.”

http://www.dpi.wi.gov/titleone/t1guide/t1guide_14.pdf

The above paragraph sets the stage for the statutory requirements for parent involvement in Sections 111 and 1118 of the federal No Child Left Behind law. The DPI website includes information and resources on Title I, including a summary of the parent involvement requirements. Those requirements include development of school and district policies; implementation of meaningful practices; funding requirements, and development of

school-parent compacts.

According to the DPI, compacts are the most commonly cited problem in Title I monitoring. The law requires that the compact be developed jointly with parents and tailored to meet their needs. In a Targeted Assistance school, only Title I students and their families get a compact; with School Wide, every student gets one. This is often done at Parent/Teacher Conferences in the fall.

As outlined in a soon-to-be released PowerPoint on Title I, compacts must address:

- ◆ How parents, staff and students share responsibility for improved student achievement
- ◆ School’s responsibility to provide high quality instruction to meet standards
- ◆ Ways in which parents will sup-

port their child’s learning at home

- ◆ Importance of communication between school and home
- ◇ Must include annual P/T conference, frequent progress reports, opportunities for parents to participate in class

Districts that receive at least \$500,000 in federal Title I funds must reserve not less than 1 percent to carry out parent involvement activities. Districts receiving less than \$500,000 are still responsible for parent involvement activities but no minimum dollar amount is required.

For more information, check out the DPI web site (<http://www.dpi.wi.gov/titleone/index.html>) on Title I and the U.S. Department of Education web site (<http://www.ed.gov/>) and talk with your principal and district Title I coordinator to get involved.

“When families support learning, children are more successful in school...”

Fuel Up to Play 60

Mary Andrae, Registered Dietitian & Regional Program Manager for the WI Milk Marketing Board.

Fuel Up to Play 60 Scores Big in Wisconsin Schools The Super Bowl Champion Green Bay Packers and the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board are teaming up for another exciting year with the Fuel Up to Play 60 program. Join the lineup of schools using www.FuelUpToPlay60.com to encourage your students to take the Fuel Up to Play 60 pledge, enter the challenges and take action to improve nutrition and physical activity at their school.

What is Fuel Up to Play 60? Fuel Up to Play 60 is a nationwide program that empowers youth to take action for their own health by implementing long-term changes at their school. We know a main focus for schools is to promote health and wellness and Fuel Up to Play 60 can be the MVP (Most Valuable Program) at your school.

How do I join and support my local school? Simply, go to www.FuelUpToPlay60.com and select the "Join Now" link and the radio button "Educator/Adult". Follow the easy steps of entering your email address and locating your school. As an interested parent/supporter, you can contribute to your school's efforts and assist in fueling up students at your school and playing 60 minutes of physical activity a day.

How can parents get their kids involved? Parents can motivate students to enter the Fuel Up to Play 60 Challenges. Students can enter a Challenge on www.FuelUpToPlay60.com by posting a video or photo story to showcase what their school has done to Fuel Up to Play 60.



WCEA and PTA



Is your local PTA Unit in need of funds to support your program objectives and goals? Are you lacking volunteers with good grant-writing skills to solicit external funds for your programs? Do you want to learn how to be an effective grant writer?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, consider attending the Wisconsin Community Education Association conference on October 3rd at the Mead Hotel, Wisconsin Rapids.

In addition to learning more about community education, the benefits of participating in community education, and how it complements PTA programs, participants will have opportunities to attend a grant-writing clinic in the afternoon facilitated by Eric Smith, who has conducted grant writing workshops for other organizations around the state. Mr. Smith, now retired, has been a Graduate Fellow for the C.S. Mott

Foundation, consultant for WI DPI, and Director of the Dane County CESA 2. He has been recipient of many grants and has expertise in developing School and Community Partnerships.

The afternoon will also feature two other clinics – one on the nuts and bolts of establishing community education in your own school district and the other focusing on implementing quality after-school programs. Registration is low at \$59/each or if two or more attend from a school, then \$49/each.

The Wisconsin Community Education Association (WCEA) is now a liaison member of the State PTA Board. Community Education, which is 100 years old in Wisconsin, is an opportunity for local citizens, community schools and agencies to become active partners in addressing education and community concerns. Nearly 100 school districts throughout Wisconsin have active community

Nancy Kraft, WI PTA BOD WCEA Liaison

education programs, many of which also have active PTA Units.

Results of participating in community education include: 1) a responsive education system and an improved learning climate in the schools; 2) efficient and cost-effective ways of delivering education and community services; 3) broad-based community support for schools and other community agencies; 4) an emphasis on special populations; and 5) collective action among all educational and community agencies to address quality of life issues.

To learn more about the benefits of participating in community education and about the upcoming conference, please check out this website: <http://www.wcea.info> or contact Nancy Kraft, WCEA President & PTA Resource Development Committee Chair at (715 452-5315 or by email at: nancy.kraft@centurytel.net).

Don't Delay!

Consider your nominees now:

**WI PTA
Honorary Life**

**Katzer-Smith
Volunteer
Service Award**

**Kim Schwantes
Award**

Region H is Superior!

I'm glad to be back as Region Advisor for a second year. If you don't already know, units that were previously in Region J and K and now all part of Region H, due to a realignment of the regions this spring. My region now covers 19 counties and 25 units in Northwestern Wisconsin!

By now you should have turned in your officer's lists, and be busy getting Remember, a copy of your taxes, audit and your first membership dues must be to the state office by November 1st for your unit to be in good standing. Get logged on to Just Between Friends to get your members added, and you can com-

municate with them easily as well! There's been discussion about doing officer training in our neck of the woods this fall. If the officers of your unit are interested, please contact me at chickpta@yahoo.com so we can get a regional session scheduled.

If your unit is in Douglas County, join the Superior Area Council of PTA at the Youth Fair at Superior Middle School, September 24th from 10-2. Many local agencies will be there to show you know what services are available to your family, and all have door prizes available.

Ellen Chicka, WI PTA BOD Region H Advisor

PTA will be hosting a carnival in the gym, complete with bounce houses, games, face painting and more. Admission is free, and they provide lunch. Contact me with questions, or if you'd like to help out. We hope to see you there!

If you have exciting events planned, please send your information to me and I will do my best to include it in the regional newsletter.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns as you transition into the new school year, please feel free to contact me or the state office with any questions. We're here to help!

Let This Budget Work for Your PTA

Linda Dubiak, WI PTA Treasurer

Let's Prepare a Budget for the year. A few things before I talk about the budget. You will need a committee of three, plus the President and Treasurer, last year's budget (if you have one) and last year's expenses. Below is an example of an Excel spreadsheet budget

Expense	2007-08	2007-08	Actual	2008-09
	APPROVED Budget	APPROVED Budget	EXPENSE YTD	PROPOSED Budget
Teacher Appreciation	70.00	200.00	202.26	
State Leadership Training	70.00	50.00	80.95	
Founders Day	200.00	200.00	546.95	
Fundraiser Expenses	10500.00	10000.00	9547.00	
Reflections	500.00	500.00	68.53	
State Convention	500.00	300.00	225.00	
National Convention	1500.00	2000.00	1558.79	
Programs	2700.00	2500.00	112.78	
Postage	40.00	40.00	42.00	
Printing	200.00	200.00	18.17	
Sunshine	100.00	100.00	198.40	
President	200.00	100.00	33.30	
Treasurer	40.00	40.00	40.00	
Secretary	30.00	30.00	17.40	
Legislative Conference	100.00	100.00	122.50	
Newsletter/Website	250.00	100.00	211.15	
Membership Expenses	150.00	150.00	125.00	
Membership State/National Portion	375.00	375.00	412.50	
Bylaws/Policy	30.00	30.00	0.00	
Health & Safety	30.00	50.00	67.85	
Insurance	135.00	135.00	150.00	
Miscellaneous	200.00	200.00	48.98	
Carryover	301.41	300.00	4534.72	
Total	18221.41	18060.00	18364.34	

Budget Considerations

1. State Leadership Training. You should send people to be trained. It makes the job easier.
2. State Convention is the Annual Meeting of WI PTA and a great place to learn/exchange ideas with other PTAs.
3. Carryover is the expense that was not paid the year before. The carry-over in the income section is the balance in the checkbook at fiscal year end.
4. With the committee discuss line by line what it is think you think will be spent in the new year. Remember totals for expense and income should be the same.
5. Once the committee has finished, the budget is presented to the general membership for discussion and a final vote once it's posted for 30 days.
6. Budgets should be ready by the first meeting of the year and after the audit is completed.

Income	2007-08	2007-08	Actual	2008-09
	PROPOSED Budget	PROPOSED Budget	INCOME YTD	PROPOSED Budget
Fundraiser	15000.00	16525.00	16365.00	
Grants/Donations	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Miscellaneous	37.00	27.22	214.23	
Carryover-Balance in Checkbook	2684.41	1507.78	1285.00	4534.72
Total	18221.41	23200.00	18364.23	

State PTA is always there to help you. Hopefully this simplifies a budget for you. Questions? Contact Linda Dubiak (414) 687-1590 or ldubiak@wisconsinpta.org



everychild.one voice

Wisconsin PTA
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Reminder to PTAs:

Update Board Rosters
with all:

**Additions, Deletions
or Changes**

throughout the year!



WI PTA Calendar

September

- 5 WI and National PTA offices closed ~ Labor Day
- 14-16 WASDA Conference, Madison
- 30 Back to School award deadline

October

- 1 Early Bird Award deadline
- 3 WCEA Conference
- 6-7 WI Association Talented & Gifted Conference, Wisconsin Dells
- 15-16 WI PTA Board of Directors Meeting, Site TBD
- 26-28 AWSA Convention, Wisconsin Dells

November

- 1 First installment of dues & Audit due to WI PTA office
M.O.R.E. & Student Shout Out awards due to WI PTA office
M.O.R.E., Emerging Minority Leaders & National Youth
Conferences
- 11 National PTA offices closed ~ Veteran's Day
- 15 IRS Annual Return due
- 24-25 WI and National PTA offices closed ~ Thanksgiving

December

- 1 10% Membership Increase award deadline
- 26-27 WI and National PTA offices closed ~ Christmas



Back to School Football Challenge

Deadline: October 10, 2011

Prize: Green Bay Packers Game Tickets

Challenge: Create a commercial to show how your school is kicking off Fuel Up to Play 60 and showing its team spirit.

This school year we will be awarding over \$75,000 in grants and student rewards to Wisconsin schools as the movement continues to grow. To learn more visit:

www.FuelUpToPlay60.com

It is a "Super" year to Fuel Up to Play 60 with the Green Bay Packers and the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board. For more information, please contact the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board at WDC@wmmb.org.