A message from our President

Welcome back local units! Some of us are starting this school year off as new board members and some are in new positions. I want to introduce myself, and personally welcome and thank you for your volunteerism. Some of you I have had the pleasure to meet over the summer at our trainings. My name is Cynthia McNeill, your President for the next two years. The board has some exciting ideas we are working on to improve communication with you. You will, if you have not already, receive communication from one of the Board members that is going to be your liaison. It is to provide your unit a more one on one contact. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to your liaison or myself. As always, our Board meetings are open to you and all are welcome! Next meeting is October 10 at 7:00pm in our new office located at New England Institute of Technology, 2500 Post Road (3rd floor).

Reminder!

Please remember to send in your Unit’s Directory to receive important updates and reminders from Rhode Island PTA. Email them to ripta.csecretary@gmail.com

2017-2018 Dates:

Board Of Manager’s Meetings at the office at New England Tech:
October 10, 2017 - 7 pm
January 9, 2018 - 7 pm
March 20, 2018 - 7 pm
May 15, 2018 - 7 pm
July 10, 2018 - 7 pm
all are welcome to join us.

Contact us

RI Congress of Parents and Teachers
P.O. Box 8476
Warwick, RI 02888

Cynthia McNeill, President
presidentripta@gmail.com
401-288-7109 call or text

Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter @RI_PTA
website: rhodeislandpta.org
**Membership Card and Contest**

Now that we’ve gotten your attention, let’s talk about membership cards. After careful consideration and hearing your feedback from last year, Rhode Island PTA decided against printing membership cards this year. We found that fewer and fewer units were handing out the cards to their membership. We have provided an online version that you may download and print on your own, if you choose to do so. The template, as well as your membership remittance form, can be found on our website: rhodeislandpta.org

The Fall Membership Contest is underway. Details below for your opportunity to win $200 for your PTA!

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**Spotlight on Membership Ideas:**

School is officially back in session and soon Open House’s will take place. Think about having a membership table set up to allow easy access for potential members. Offer an incentive for joining, such as an entry into a raffle.

One local unit, Warwick Vets PTSA, used a donation from a local sandwich shop to entice parents to join during their orientation night as well as a basket of school supplies for students who joined. In one night, they signed up 44 new members!

(pictures courtesy of Warwick Vets Middle School PTSA)
Schedule your educational, entertaining, and excellent opportunities for engagement with Mark Binder’s classroom programs, assemblies and residencies

- **Awesome Author Visits** (all grades)
  - encourage literacy enthusiasm with and readings and storytelling
- **Write it Up!** (workshop for grades 3–12 and teacher training)
  - how-to start a story, add depth, and create an ending
- **Stories of Diversity** (elementary)
  - Cinderella Spinderella and other tales for inclusion
- **Tall Tales Old and New** (grades 3 and 4)
  - from Paul Bunyan to Erke P. Spunk
- **A Holiday Present Celebration!** (elementary)
  - multicultural stories from around the world
- **The Zombie Cat Ate My Sister** (middle grade, middle school)
  - NEW! spooky comedy storytelling and author program
- **Transmit Joy with Storytelling** (elementary)
  - fun and funny stories — adjusts based on age of group
- **Telling and Reading Stories with Children** (Family Engagement and Teacher Training)

**Mark Binder**
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CALL today
- 401-272-8707
or email Beth Hellman
(beth@markbinder.com)

Any time... Start of year • Halloween • Holidays • Reading Week • Writing Week... the day before vacation • accomplishment reward • or end of year celebration

“Stories define who we are. When we hear stories, and write stories, and tell stories, we can change the world.” — Mark Binder

"Mark was super easy to work with. He was well prepared and the students were truly engaged in his stories." — Northern Lincoln Elementary, RI

"Mark Binder is a master at spinning old tales and everyday events into storytelling gold." — 2016 Parents’ Choice Gold Medal Awardee
FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER:

Welcome back new and continuing Treasurers

Beginning the New Year Right

It’s a new fiscal year, a new school year and a perfect time for you, your board and your membership to review your bylaws, standing rules and any policies your unit may have. This way you can be assured that moving forward, as the treasurer, you are following proper procedures.

If you haven’t already done this:

1. Take the e-learning course at pta.org/elearning
2. Read the Finances Section of National PTA’s Back to School Kit
3. Encourage all Board Members to know their bylaws and read their section of the Back to School Kit
4. Set up a Treasurer’s binder if one has not been given to you
5. Go to the bank with 2 other board members to be put on the bank account(s) as check signers
6. Do you have all passwords, account information, bank cards, reward cards, membership cards, etc.?
7. Do you have ALL the documents from the previous treasurer, i.e., bank statements, receipts, 990s, Annual Audit, Annual Report, etc.?
8. Is your PTA’s insurance is up to date/paid, contact information is up to date, all Board Members have a copy and that your PTA has the proper insurance coverage needed to carry out your PTA’s work?
9. Has your Annual Audit/Financial Review has been completed?
10. File your Annual Report and 990 with Rhode Island PTA - email treasurer@rhodeislandpta.org

And now a word from our Secretaries

Please remember to send in your Unit’s Directory to receive important updates and reminders from Rhode Island PTA. Email them to ripta.csecretary@gmail.com

“Good communication is the bridge between confusion and clarity.” - Nat Turner

Next Board of Managers meeting is October 10th at our new office at NEIT, 2500 Post Road in Warwick at 7 pm.

Positions available at RI PTA
President - Elect
Membership Extension Chair
Diversity Chair
Special Education Liaison
5 local unit representatives
Healthy Lifestyles Chair
Male Involvement Chair

Committees needing your help!
Membership Extension
Bylaws
Nominating and Board Dev
Reflections
Spring Convention
Diversity
Communications
LPL Scholarship
Tarin Byrne Volunteer Award
Nuts and Bolts & Fall Congress
WE ARE MOVING TO A NEW LOCATION
920 BALD HILL RD

LAUNCH
TRAMPOLINE PARK

BEST JUMP EXPERIENCE EVER
PRIVATE BIRTHDAY ROOMS
ALL NEW PARK RE-DESIGN
ALL NEW ARCADE

SOME NEW FEATURES

KRVE
BUILD YOUR OWN PIZZA

Our all new restaurant will allow you to create your own pizza and ice cream! We will also have a great selection of fresh eats and much more.

HURRY
LAUNCH THE EXPERIENCE

BATTLE BEAM

Do you know when it takes to be the last person standing? Test your skills on battle beam for bragging rights.

ROCK CLIMBING

NINJA COURSE

Bring your 4-game to the all new ninja course. You will need strength, endurance, will power and strategy to conquer this beast.

WWW.LAUNCHRHI.COM  (401) 828-5867
Bylaws Keep Us In Business

We get this question quite a bit from board members new to PTA: Why do we all need to have the first three articles in our bylaws? Sure, while they don't seem to pertain to local units directly and some units even want to change the language, the fact of the matter is the first three articles pertain to our relationship with National PTA.

Article I states who we are (National, State and Local PTA), the next 2 articles are National PTA's Purpose and Principles. Being a local PTA unit also means that you are a member of the Rhode Island State PTA and National PTA. With that, Nationals Purpose and Principles becomes a local unit Purposes and Principles. These Articles have changed in the last year. If your unit has not updated these articles, contact Mary McGrath (bylaws@rhodeislandpta.org) to help you update your bylaws. We are offering bylaws review help on October 24th at 7pm at our office. We can help simplify the process.

Did You Know....?

It is not legal to show movies at a school or PTA event without a license?

"© It's Not Just a Symbol... It's the Law. Many schools use entertainment movies for Student Rewards, Holiday Events, Family Movie Nights, Before/After School programs, Last Days of School, Student Groups, etc. In order for a K-12 school to remain legally compliant with Federal Copyright Law, they must obtain the proper licensing. The reason is – these movies are made for "Home Use Only" and anything outside of that is considered a public exhibition and subject to copyright infringement unless the site where the movies are shown is licensed for public performance."

Jayinda Corsi
Copyright Licensing Manager
Movie Licensing USA

Talk to your school Principal or Superintendent about obtaining a license for your PTA, School or District
Spring Convention is April 10, 2018 at Valley Country Club in West Warwick. Be sure to save the date!

The theme for the 2017-2018 school year is Within Reach. Register your PTA to participate today! It’s a low-cost, and fun show to coordinate. The students love to share their artistic abilities within their communities. Please take a moment to visit the RI PTA Reflections page to find more details of the program. If you have any questions, contact the State Reflection Chair, Rachelle Friesen at riptastasterelections@gmail.com. If you are interested in being a part of the committee, please let us know as well.

Deadline of October 1st! Don’t miss out!

artists exchange was the proud sponsor of the location of the Rhode Island PTA 2017 Reflections Ceremony
Subject to certain conditions and requirements, contributions in excess of the annual limit can be carried forward and deducted in future years. If an account owner makes a non-qualified distribution or certain transfers or rollovers to another state’s program, the amount of the deduction may be “recaptured” and included in the account owner’s Rhode Island income.

Contributions to your account must be postmarked on or before December 31 to qualify for the tax deduction.

Before you invest, consider whether your or the beneficiary’s home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in that state’s qualified tuition program.

For more information about CollegeBound Saver, call 877-517-4829, or visit collegeboundsaver.com to obtain a Program Description, which includes investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information; read and consider it carefully before investing. Ascensus Broker Dealer Services, Inc. (“ABD”) is Distributor of CollegeBound Saver.

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INVESTMENTS ARE NOT FDIC INSURED, MAY LOSE VALUE AND ARE NOT BANK GUARANTEED.

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