**State Network Call Notes**

**Monday, September 17, 2018**

**Topic: How to support local program participation**

* **Review:** Use the [**State Reflections Library**](https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections/State-PTA-Reflections-Library) to help support local program participation
  + Make sure you have ALL resources necessary to help them participate. We have a lot of calls/emails coming in about missing deadlines, forms, and rules for the 2018-2019 program year. Some states have some of these, but not all.
  + **Reminder:** At National level, we’re not able to provide them with these types of specifics, it’s very important websites are updated ASAP.
    - Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon: REFLECTIONS SITES NOT UP TO DATE
* **Reflections 50th Anniversary:** Help us share your state’s stories and Reflections history and promote **#PTAReflections**
  + We want to gather stories from past Reflections winners/participants to highlight during our 50th anniversary year. Do you know any former Reflections winners now working in the arts? Do you have any stories that show the impact the Reflections program had on a student, their family, school community?
  + If you have any stories, press clips, media, photos of art you think are special, PLEASE share them with us via [Reflections@pta.org](mailto:Reflections@pta.org).
* **Friendly Reminders:** 
  + Please send in visual art entries from national-winning students from your state! This artwork will tour at the Department of Education in Washington DC on January 22 and at National PTA’s Convention & Expo June 20-23, 2019 in Ohio; ~150 people attend our student showcase in DC and it makes it so special for students and their families to see their artwork displayed. If you have any questions, please email [Reflections@pta.org](mailto:Reflections@pta.org).
  + Help us build our 2018-19 State Reflections Network! If you haven’t contacted us already, please email us with your name, number, email, and position. If there’s anyone else you feel would benefit, please let us know and we’ll add them to our network.
  + If you have any questions you’d like to ask another state chair and want to be connected, please email us at [Reflections@pta.org](mailto:Reflections@pta.org). We’re happy to connect you!
* **Arts Ed Week:** How did you celebrate Arts in Education Week? Any exciting stories from the state or local level you’d like to share?
  + Kicked-off to open arts ed week with students reflecting on the theme; superstars and heroes around us/coaches/teachers/first responders – thinking outside the box about what a hero is; spotlighted arts teachers (MO)
* **Participation Ideas:** How to increase program participation with in-school and at-home events and through **National Arts and Humanities Month** in October
  + How are you encouraging your local units to celebrate program kick-offs/program participation?
    - For ideas, check out the [PTA Live we hosted on our Facebook last Wednesday](https://www.facebook.com/ParentTeacherAssociation/videos/240308846633751/)
    - Also, check out [our blog post](http://onevoice.pta.org/?p=7734)
    - Some of our biggest takeaways for Promotion/Kick-Off Events were:
      * + Making sure materials are accessible to our local leaders
        + Encouraging At-School Activities, including Reflections Club, hosting a family art night, bringing in arts leaders from the community, having a Reflections table at Back to School night, creating a space and facilitating a conversation that helps students reflect on the theme
        + Encouraging At-Home Activities: Family field trip to a museum/play/musical, family art night, throw a family art party, discover cultural heritage through folk and traditional arts
* **Discussion:** What are the best practices for local program participation? Biggest challenges? What kinds of events do you encourage your local leaders to put on?
  + Best Practices
    - Connect with after-school programs (NH)
    - All who enter receive a ribbon; promotes participation- especially at the elementary-school level (SD)
    - Set up a Facebook page just for local/district chairs; update every 2-3 days and post questions; e.g. “What are you doing to promote your program? Have you found your venue for your celebration event?”(OK)
    - Students at kick-off event working on visual arts with National Honor Society students from the local HS while parents at PTA meeting; National Honor Society students follow state guidelines after 10 min training and earn credit for their work (MN)
    - Collaborate with arts conservatories or arts museums in your cities – promotes PTA and Reflections (MN)
    - Unite parents and teachers by presenting Reflections program and theme to the arts teachers; teachers appreciate the curriculum idea and it generates submissions and art shows (MN)
    - Team up with tech centers for digital arts (NY)
    - Artist taught students with direct instruction – very successful; suggest finding people across disciplines to teach students; encourage local leaders to team up and teach students (MT)
    - Use the space at school; bulletin board, marquee or big visual to get the kids excited – use the promotional materials available!
    - Have units share Reflections stories and kick-off event ideas and share with other units – use #PTAReflections to share with National PTA (MN)
  + Challenges
    - When chairs change and information gets lost in transition (NH)
      * Chairs required to keep a notebook with a plan of work which they can add to every year and pass on with changes; held accountable; e.g. email communications, judge list (OK)
      * Google Drive for each school and add information in there; short-term positions and smaller network (Germany)
  + What kinds of events do you encourage your local leaders to put on?
    - Teachers have students create artwork in the classroom; integrate the program in the classroom – yields more entries! get Principal buy-in/support; get schools to adopt the theme in their school (NH)