

Message from our Region 7 Director!

Welcome back to school! Make sure that you are getting our WSPTA Leadership News, as well as like our Region 7 Facebook page so you don't miss anything. Is your PTA doing work you are proud of? Share that great news with the rest of us! Our region team loves sharing and hearing about all the amazing ways you are helping your school community. Thank you for all your continued efforts. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

-Jessica Giffin, WSPTA Region 7 Director



Advocacy News– Washington

The new Top 5 Issues are: 1) Social & Emotional Learning, 2) School Construction & Simple Majority for Bonds, 3) Prevent Gun Violence, 4) Strategies to Address the Teacher Shortage, 5) Strategic K-12 Investments to Close the Gap.

There were some questions heard last month when Governor Inslee announced his proposed budget. Why the focus on Social and Emotional Learning? Aren't there other things more important for our kids? For those of you that want to know more about Social & Emotional Learning (SEL), check out these informative videos from Education Week: <https://youtu.be/PkuOgMDrDOK> , <https://youtu.be/Cq5mex-I7JY>.

From either of those videos, you can click on Education Week and go to their YouTube page. They have a large number of informative videos on many of the other issues in WSPTA's supported platform, Principles, and Resolutions.

For all the details on each issue in the WSPTA's Advocacy Platform, go to: <https://www.wastatepta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/> and click on the down arrow next to each issue. You can also [sign up for action alerts](#) to receive emails about action on each of these issues. If you would like to actively work on any of these issues, including giving testimony in Olympia, please contact Nancy Chamberlain at ptalegdir@wastatepta.org

Upcoming Trainings

WSPTA Webinars:

Effective Budgets & Financial Strategies, January 9th, 7-9:30pm <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/effective-budgets-financial-strategies-webinar-tickets-49115603091>

PTA & the Law, January 19th, 8-11am , <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pta-and-the-law-webinar-tickets-49053562526>

WSPTA eLearning Options:

Check out the PTA Leaders: Training webpage for a growing list of eLearning options for all members! As of 9/26/18, options included: Nominating Committee, Effective Meetings, Secretary: More than Just Minutes, Treasurer Basics, and Bank Statement Review. [WSPTA Training webpage](#)

National PTA eLearning Options:

National PTA offers a wide variety of eLearning options for local PTA leaders and all active members. They are FREE and a great supplement to our local offerings! Go to: <https://member.pta.org/Shop/Local-Leader-eLearning-Courses>

eLearning Options in Spanish! National PTA also offers 5 eLearning options for our Spanish-speaking leaders. Check them out at: <https://member.pta.org/Shop/eLearning-Courses-En-Espanol>

The February Region Newsletter will be out the first week of February. If you have PTA news items to share, please send them by 1/27/19 to : PTAKim.Kuhne@outlook.com



11,656
Membership Thermometer
goal: 12,000



Nominating Committee: Finding PTA Leaders of the Future

If your PTA hasn't got one already, it should elect a Nominating Committee in January or February. Having a team in place now gives them time to seek out candidates for officer elections before the end of the school year. It's a good idea for the existing officers and the elected Nominating Committee members to read thru the Nominating Committee Handbook: https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/NomComElections_Handbook_2018-19-FINAL-rev10-18.pdf in addition to the Standing Rules for your PTA to make sure all requirements are met ahead of election.

In addition to your own local PTA, take a minute to think beyond your school. Does your PTA belong to a Council? If so, then your Council will also be looking for new leaders this spring. Every PTA in Region 7 is supported by Jessica Giffin, the Region 7 Director, and Mary Levesque, the Area E Vice President. All of the leaders at the Council, Region, Area, and State levels started as committee chairs or officers with their local PTAs. In many cases, it was a simple ask from a friend, "would you consider taking on a role with our PTA?" that started them on the path to leadership.

Elections for WSPTA Board positions will take place at Convention, April 26-28, 2019.

Share Member Benefits with the Members!

LEGO Bags discount is here! Members shopping at www.LEGObags.com will have a 50% discount for online purchases. Great source for LEGO themed backpacks, lunch bags, accessories, AND LEGO storage bags! Purchase will also give a discount to the LEGO parks! [LEGO flyer](#)

Ticket Monster Now Tickets at Work! Use your Ticket Monster log in or start a new account. Company Code for new accounts: WSPTATickets [Tickets at Work website](#) Members can use this benefit to get discounted tickets to Volta at Marymoor park. [Volta flyer](#)

Be sure to use your card to get the best discounts. For a full list of benefits, go to : <https://www.wastatepta.org/pta-leaders/benefits-discount-codes/> and access using Every Child.

Reflections Reminder

Entries are due at the WSPTA Office by January 18th (not a postmarked by date)! All entries must be entered in the National PTA database before sending them to the state office.



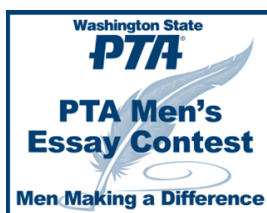
Students needed to participate in the WSPTA Men's Essay Contest

In an effort to help promote male engagement around the state of Washington, the objective of this contest is for students of all ages to write an essay about a male role model that has had a profound impact on their life. All men involved in a child's life (fathers, uncles, grandpas, brothers, step-fathers, mentors, coaches and friends) impact the children they care about.

When writing their essays, students can consider many questions including (but not limited to):

- Why is this male role model important in your life?
- What life lessons, ethics, or skills have they taught you?
- Why do you look up to him and appreciate having him in your life?
- How would your life be different without this person?
- How would other kids benefit from having a similar role model in their life?

Entries are due March 1st at the WSPTA Office (not a postmarked by date) There are grade divisions for kindergarten, 1-2nd, 3-5th, 6-8th, 9-12th, and Special Author category. Details can be found on the WSPTA [website](#).



Focus Day 2019

HOW do members advocate on our priorities?

WSPTA members can send a strong message by showing up in Olympia on Focus Day, February 11, 2019, for a day of talking to legislators. Members should consult with their local PTA, council or region legislative/advocacy chair for assistance in making legislator appointments for Focus Day.

The most important tip for those leaders is to **make appointments with the legislators as far in advance as possible!** Input addresses [here](#) to get the names of the Representatives and Senator(s) for your school district and their contact information.

WSPTA will be asking members to send prewritten emails each day during **Advocacy Week – February 11 – 15, 2019**. More information on Focus Day and Advocacy Week logistics will be coming soon. Subscribe to the [WSPTA Action Network](#) to stay informed.

We KNOW you care about kids – that's why you are a PTA member! Imagine if legislators heard from all 130,000+ members about how much we care about kids! *Every Child, One Voice!*

By: Nancy Chamberlain, WSPTA Advocacy Director
ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org

Winning Ideas

Each month we will highlight programs from local PTAs that have gone above and beyond to do something special for their school community. Do you have something to share? Send your story to Kim at kimkuhne@hotmail.com

On January 7, **Marth Lake Elementary PTA** will kick off their annual Shine a Light for Safety Nightlight drive! They collect new nightlights from the school community and deliver them to a local fire station to deliver to area Seniors. This will be the 3rd year of the program. Last year they collected 560 nightlights! (This program has won an award for a PTA 'Taking Significant Action'.)

Program GUIDELINES:

- Please purchase a night light – new night lights only! Please be sure it is safe and has the UL or the ETL symbols on it. Feel free to purchase generic night lights or ones with designs on them.
- Write a personal card and/or color a picture to the senior who is getting the night light. (Please sign your card with your first name only.)
- Bring your donated night light and card to your classroom. There will be a prize for the classroom that collects the most! (One class prize for primary classrooms and one for intermediate classrooms.) You must have a note with the night light for it to count in the classroom competition. One note per night light package.
- The night lights and cards will be donated to the Snohomish County Fire District #1 Night lights will be distributed to seniors by the Fire Department along with the cards / pictures.

Beverly Elementary PTA hosted its 3rd Annual Holiday Bazaar on Dec 1st. It was a great turn out of both vendors and shoppers again this year. Most of the vendors were students, parents, and grandparents with a few returning from outside the school. Student vendors included: Chloe, 5th grade, sold an assortment of holiday accessories and gifts that she and her parents made, Elly, 6th grade, had her custom slime booth, and Mimi, 5th grade, sold her hand-made bath bombs. Last year, Elly donated half her earnings to 5th grade camp. This year she donated to the reading boot camp! Elly makes plain white slime in advance and then customers choose color, scent and mix-ins. She had a line the entire time the bazaar was open! The PTA's 5th grade camp fundraising team had an outstanding bake sale



and Harry Potter themed gift shop that did amazing! All funds raised go to lowering the cost of camp for all 5th graders. One vendor took family photos for \$5, free for families referred by the family advocate. The bazaar is not a fundraiser or money-making event. All vendor fees go back into the event to fund the free hot chocolate and marshmallow bar and the kids craft zone. Kid vendors do not pay a vendor fee. Beverly PTA partners with the school for a holiday gift drive. A donation station for that was set up at the event.

Winning Reflections Plan! **Jackson Elementary PTA** changed things up this year by hosting a Reflections workshop as part of their Art Docent program. Students were given a mini-lesson on what the Artist Statement is and how important it is to the submission. After pieces were created, parents were asked to fill out the entry forms. From 200 pieces, there were about 100 official entries for just the visual arts category! The Jackson PTA will be getting some cameras this year. They plan to add photography workshops into their program for next year.

Kent Prairie PTA received news in December that they were one of 200 winners of the Connected with Google grants to host a "Be Internet Awesome" event before the end of May. Congratulations! We'll be watching to see more details on the event!

Alderwood Middle School PTA had "Coffee and Cocoa" for staff on December 21 to celebrate Solstice, the shortest day of the year.

Many PTAs had "Holiday Cookies for Staff" in December.

Two schools have started the process to form or re-charter their PTA! A new elementary set to open in September will have it's first PTA-interest meeting later in January. Region 7 is growing!

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Region 7 Contact Information

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