

WSPTA REGION 7 Newsletter

Sept
2025



Welcome to the 2025/2026 term to our new and returning PTA leaders in Region 7!

Hi! I'm Kristina, your WSPTA Region 7 Director covering Snohomish and Island County PTAs. This is my second year in this role, so I have some confidence in my abilities however, I am still learning and growing my skills. Don't stress if I bring other people into our conversations, I like to ask for help when needed. WSPTA has an amazing group of leaders at the ready, so if I don't know something, I can connect you to someone who does. If you have any questions, please reach out. My role is to support you and to help you grow as leaders in PTA.

A bit about me: My husband and I have been married for 21 years now. I work part time. I am a mom to two amazing kids. My daughter is starting her first year in college and my son is in 7th grade. I have been in PTA for 14 years, 9 of which have been as either a president or treasurer, and 4 years on the Region 7 Service Committee.

I have experienced being a part of a multi-award winning PTA with a dream team as a board, as well as a low turn out, barely holding it together PTA board. I have had amazing relationships with principals, as well as needing to call in the experts while sorting through difficult situations. I am telling you this so you know that you are not alone. Every PTA experience is unique and yet, it can be just like someone else's experience. It can change from year to year as well. If you are on a board that is currently struggling, there is hope, just reach out, you are not alone.

I am going to encourage all of you to seek out training this year as it only helps your PTA navigate the world of running a nonprofit. I will give information on where to go, how to sign up, and even connect you with private training sessions as needed. With knowledge comes power and I want you all to have the power to succeed. One of my goals this year is to offer a few meet and greets throughout the year in various areas of our region. If you would like to host a training session or a get together, please let me know. I am excited to see where this year takes all of us in Region 7.

I hope you all have an amazing and successful year!

Tips for success

- Connect with your board often. Daily, weekly, monthly. Regular communication leads to a more successful year.
- Ask questions. Always be curious and see how you can help/be helped.
- Get educated: take advantage of in-person and online training opportunities
- Be familiar with your responsibilities and fulfill them
- Review and ask questions about the monthly financial report
- Actively engage in a plan for membership growth
- Participate, help, and communicate



Kristina Schweizer
ptareg7@wastatepta.org



This month's checklist

- Create your calendar of events for the year.** Get it approved by your principal /school admin so you won't have any scheduling conflicts later this year.
- Schedule your events now.** You can connect with your school's office staff on how to do this within your district. Enter anything and everything you will be hosting on district property. Even tentative dates. School districts are happy to remove you from the schedule when an event needs to be canceled. They tend to get frustrated with last minute requests coming in. Sports teams will be putting in their requests soon, so get your spaces secured ASAP.
- Schedule a Membership meeting if you have not done this yet.** Make sure you announce it at least 10 days ahead of time.
- Update all the paperwork for the year.** Standing Rules, Social Media Policy, Money Handling Policy, Log-ins and Password Policies, Contract to keep PTA items on school property, Reimbursement forms, Grant requests, Membership forms, etc.
- Get those yearbook contracts signed and start building your yearbooks now.** It is easier to build pages as you go throughout the year than to scramble last minute to create the yearbook. Depending on your yearbook company, you can offer a discount for the yearbook with your memberships!
- Send out a survey to see what your membership wants for the year.** This allows your members to have input when they can't make it to the meeting. It also lets you, as a board, navigate the year ahead.
- File your 990/990EZ tax forms.** You can file your IRS taxes at any point up until Nov. 15th.
- Update your social media accounts.** Facebook, Instagram, website, etc. Make sure everything reflects this year's PTA.
- Has someone on your board taken PTA and the Law yet?** If not, sign up and take the class ASAP. It is required.
- Go over the SOA with your board.** Decide who is responsible for doing what tasks for the year.
- Log on to the WSPTA website.** Look at all the amazing resources available to you. www.wastatepta.org
- Start your membership drive.** If you haven't started asking members to join, now is the time to do it. You must have 25 members by October 31st to remain in good standing.
- Connect with your Council or Region Director.** This is a great time to establish a relationship with the PTA helpers in your area. Don't have a council? I am here as your next level of support. Let's connect!

For a complete list of things to do, visit:

Local PTAs: <https://www.wastatepta.org/september-checklist-running-pta-2/>

Council PTAs: <https://www.wastatepta.org/september-checklist-for-councils-supporting-local-ptas/>





Upcoming Events

Upcoming WSPTA Events - Mark Your Calendars

SEPT

September 11th

- WSPTA Programs Kickoff Event -

Come to our kickoff event to learn all the things you need to know to run successful WSPTA programs in your PTA. Learn about the different student programs and hear about the awards that your PTA can apply for. We will also hear from past winners and our new awards! There will also be lots of tips and tricks for running successful programs!

September 15th

- Reflections Training 2025-26

Come learn how to run a successful Reflections program at the local or council level. Learn the new updates from National PTA.

September 17th



- PTA and the Law

This is the most important and useful class of them all, as it will prepare you and your fellow officers to run your PTA with an eye toward the important legal and fiscal requirements in running a nonprofit. PTA and the Law deals with state and federal rules and regulations relevant to running a charitable, tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation in the state of Washington and will explain how these rules impact your PTA. PTA and the Law is a required class for at least one PTA officer each year.

OCT

October 4th

- Reflections 2025-26 Training

Come learn how to run a successful Reflections program at the local or council level. Learn the new updates from National PTA.

October 18th - 19th



- Legislative Assembly

Legislative Assembly is where delegates from local PTAs across Washington state gather to learn about, debate, and vote on the organization's public policy positions. This year will include voting on legislative principles, a legislative issue, and resolutions. Step up to the plate and let your voice be heard!



Advocacy

Advocacy is the foundation of PTA.

Advocacy means to actively support, speak up, plead a cause, or make a case for something or someone.

National PTA is the oldest and largest child advocacy organization in America, and by being a part of your local PTA, you are automatically a part of the council, Washington State, and National PTA.

Each one of us is an advocate!

You are an advocate by being part of your local PTA! As a volunteer, you are already actively engaged in shaping policies, decisions, and initiatives that impact your school and students. Whether you assist in fundraising, organizing events, or lending a helping hand in classrooms, your efforts directly contribute to enhancing the learning environment and opportunities for all.

You are ALREADY advocating when you:

- Speak up for your child when communicating with staff.
- Ask questions about student safety and offer suggestions on how to make improvements.
- When you encourage your student to speak up for themselves or have them participate in school leadership programs.

As an advocacy chair in your PTA, here are some things you might be involved in:

- Sharing WSPTA advocacy news and keeping members informed on WSPTA's legislative platform.
- Encourage members to sign up for Action Alerts, read the WSPTA blog, and encourage participation during Focus Week.
- Be the voice of caregivers, teachers, and students ensuring their concerns and needs are heard and acted upon.
- Seek feedback and input from your school community to determine their needs and to advocate for those needs.

PTA Advocacy success (National and State levels):

- Universal Kindergarten
- Hot lunch program
- Public health service
- Special education funding
- Arts in Education
- School safety

What does an Advocacy Chair do at the local level?

Local PTA advocacy chairs help keep PTAs connected to the state and national PTAs' legislative actions and goals through sharing information. In addition, advocacy chairs can help identify issues in the community that affect PTA members and their families.

Does your PTA have an advocacy chair?

If you know someone who stays active in their school, stays informed about community issues, someone who feels strongly about a cause, or someone who is passionate about voting, they may be a good fit for an advocacy chair position for your PTA! You DON'T need to have any experience to hold this position.

WSPTA encourages you to incorporate formal advocacy efforts into your PTA activities!

Important Advocacy Links:

WSPTA Advocacy page: www.wastatepta.org/focus-areas/advocacy
National PTA Advocacy page: www.pta.org/home/advocacy



Staying connected!



YOU HAVE A TEAM BEHIND YOU,
ROOTING FOR YOUR SUCCESS.

Region 7 Director

Kristina Schweizer
ptareg7@wastatepta.org

WSPTA Support

support@wastatepta.org

- Contact a WSPTA board member about Washington State PTA governance and oversight.
- Contact a WSPTA staff member about specific business, operational items, and Washington state or IRS filing and reporting matters.
- Contact a region director or service delivery team member, a volunteer who provides support to PTA leaders in your region, about leadership training, and about managing your PTA.

Not sure who to contact? Email
support@wastatepta.org

Does your PTA need to file a new IRS Form 8822-B?

The IRS requires that an updated form be filed within 60 days of a change in "responsible party". Check your old form (a copy should be in your legal documents binder) and if the person listed is no longer an officer, you'll need to file a new form as soon as possible. Can't find a current form? File a new one and you'll be set (keep a copy of that one!).

<https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-8822-b>

Givebacks

If you haven't yet, you'll want to log in and update this year's officers.

It is important to keep updating the membership database system with your officers' and board member information. This will ensure that your PTA remains in compliance and that your PTA leaders receive timely and relevant leader emails and newsletters.

WSPTA dues must be paid by the 1st of every month.

Every month, your PTA's president or treasurer needs to log in to Givebacks and submit the payments to WSPTA. As of right now, they are not automatically being taken out.

Region 7 Service Committee

Region service committee members are volunteers who provide support to PTA leaders in our region. I am currently looking to add volunteers to this committee.

 **If you would like to sign up, please reach out to me at ptareg7@wastatepta.org** 