

How does this affect your local unit and council?

The Region Directors along with their Service Delivery Team (SDT) will provide the training opportunities.

Make sure you check the Region websites: www.wastatepta.org/regions/ AND new this year every region has a Facebook page (e.g., Washington State PTA Region 4). Trainings will be listed on both sites.

If your local unit is not able to attend your Region training, check regions that are close in proximity.

What does it mean if a unit is not in good standing?

A unit in “good standing” is defined in the *WSPTA Uniform Bylaws* Article 5 Section 2(a) for local units and Article 6 Section 2(a) for councils. If a unit is not in good standing the unit will be removed from the WSPTA mailing list, and all WSPTA services to the unit will be discontinued. Also, units in this status will not be able to purchase insurance from AIM at the discounted PTA rates.

If you have questions please contact your Region Director. Contact information for your Region Director is available on the Washington State PTA website www.wastatepta.org or by calling the WSPTA office (253) 565-2153.



WSPTA Vision & Mission

WSPTA Vision

Making every child’s potential a reality.

WSPTA Mission

- PTA is a powerful voice for all children.
- PTA is a relevant resource for families and communities.
- PTA is a strong advocate for the well-being and education of every child.

The WSPTA accomplishes this mission by:

- Speaking on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- Supporting parents* in developing skills to raise, protect and advocate for their children;
- Encouraging parent*, teacher, student and community involvement;
- Promoting opportunities for positive outcomes for children; and
- Being a financially stable, well-managed organization that promotes diversity, provides quality service, models best practices and values its members and employees.

**Parent may include adults who play an important role in a child’s family life since other adults (grandparents, aunts, uncles, or guardians) may carry the primary responsibility for a child’s health, welfare, education and safety.*

Washington State
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Council and Local Unit Bylaw Change

During the 2011 Washington State PTA Convention, a new bylaw was approved by delegates requiring that all executive committee members of a local unit or council receive yearly state-PTA-approved training in order to remain in good standing.

Why the emphasis on training?

Well, think about other volunteer organizations, such as the Boy or Girl Scouts. Do you think someone can start a Boy Scout troop without having been trained first? No way! What about a business without a plan, does it flourish or flounder?

When we remember – or learn – that PTAs are usually non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable corporations – small businesses run by volunteers – then it’s clear why training is crucial. All PTA leaders should know about the applicable state and federal regulations; all PTA leaders must understand basic fiduciary responsibilities; all PTA leaders need to know how to work together as a board in order to realize the PTA’s vision of “Making every child’s potential a reality.”

Bylaw Change...

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The Region trainings and PTA & the Law generally last 3-5 hours: the equivalent of one working day. The fee of \$40-50 per training pays for as many PTA board members to attend as the local unit or council wants to send.

As a PTA leader, you can't afford to miss these opportunities. After all, PTA is a lot more than just popcorn and carnivals.

Current Bylaw

Article 5 Section 2(a)

(5) During the PTA year, at least one member of the executive committee attend PTA & the Law, and all elected executive committee members attend at least one training which could include, but not be limited to, WSPTA Spring or Fall Region Conference, PTA & the Law, WSPTA Convention, WSPTA Leadership Conference, or WSPTA Legislative Assembly, WSPTA Emerging Minority Leaders Conference, or onsite training provided by a region service delivery team member. Convention training counts towards the next year's executive committee members' training for the next year's requirements.

[Editorial Note: This means that training received at the WSPTA Convention shall be counted toward the training requirement for the PTA year following the Convention.]

FAQs

- **Who must attend PTA & the Law?**
One member of the local unit's executive committee must attend PTA & the Law.
- **What training must the elected officers attend?**
All elected officers must attend at least one training which could include, but not be limited to, WSPTA Region Conference, PTA & the Law, WSPTA Convention, WSPTA Leadership Conference, or WSPTA Legislative Assembly.
- **Who will provide the training?**
Training will be conducted by the Region SDT or WSPTA. Council trainings do not comply with the bylaw.
- **During what time frame must training occur?**
Training(s) must be attended during the fiscal year, July 1 - June 30, including Convention from previous year.

The executive committee of the local unit will be contacted by the Region Director or Service Delivery Team member if they have not attended a WSPTA-approved training before the last conference in the region.
- **How does a unit regain good standing if its officers have not attended the required training?**
The unit would contact the Region Director to obtain "on-site" training.

Standing Rules

Each council and local unit should add wording to their standing rules to explain the emphasis on training.

Below are some examples:

1. Our PTA will comply with the training requirements necessary to remain in good standing, as specified in the most current WSPTA Bylaws.
2. Our PTA will make sure that each executive committee member attends a minimum of one WSPTA-approved training during the PTA year. Further, at least one member of the executive committee will attend PTA & the Law during the PTA year.
3. The president, vice president, treasurer and secretary will be expected to attend either the Fall Conference, Spring/Winter Conference, PTA & the Law or Convention during their one-year term.

