

JOHN STOKES
For WSPTA FINANCE OFFICER

In times of change, leaders with both experience and vision are a necessity. Change is staring the WSPTA head on, and the key to its future success depends on how it deals with this change. The association is in a transition period with a new Executive Director hopefully coming on board sometime in the near future. Indicators such as declining convention and conference attendance, along with increasing financial demands, raise flags of concern. The position of Finance Officer is very important to this change, and to the overall health of the organization. That is why a number of friends and PTA leaders encouraged me to step up and apply my talents, skills and experience on the WSPTA Board of Directors and the Executive Committee this coming year.

Many of you know me from my long years of work in PTA at all levels: local, council, region, state and national. I have been a leading advocate for children and the programs that help them grow to be happy, productive and successful in life, such as ample education funding, stronger math and science programs, alternative assessments so that all students show their learning and skills according to their abilities, and sound programs for health care and services for all children in this State. So why would I take a step out of my work as a child advocate on these issues to be the treasurer of the WSPTA and spend time serving on the board and all the meetings and behind the scenes work that will entail?

The answer is that unless this association and this board have leaders with the breadth and depth of experience and the understanding of the world around us as I have, we will not be the strong and successful child advocacy organization to which we aspire. Without a strong dose of realism and vision, nothing will change and the organization will continue to slumber and face potential marginalization in the future. A strong financial footing and a more open and transparent budget process and outcomes are essential to deal with the challenges of the future, and the members deserve no less. I bring to this job these very skills and aspirations.

My resume is rich in experience from National and State PTA positions, Council and Local Unit president, to Local Unit treasurer. I bring an intimate knowledge of the inner workings of the PTA and more importantly, have a tremendous understanding of how to make things happen. I can work with people, motivate, encourage, and build bridges to bring the very best out of this organization. No status quo for me, I want us to be the best organization we can be.

So what about me that you might like? I have been told that I have a zest to get things done and yet keep a sense of humor about me, especially when things get tough. When I make mistakes, I learn from them, and I take adversity in stride. These are qualities that help me accomplish much and keep things in perspective. With me you get the very best effort one can give, and you get the experience, the knowledge and the skills this association needs right now.

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"I can't imagine your finding anyone who will serve better, anyone with less self-interest, with more knowledge, more commitment, more experience. Absolutely a first rate choice for WSPTA." *Mike Riley, Former superintendent, Bellevue SD and National Education Leader.*

John Stokes Qualifications and Experience

12456 SE 26th Pl. Bellevue, Washington 98005

ggstokes@msn.com 425 644-5987

PTA Service and Experience

National PTA Leadership

- NPTA Field Service Committee 2003-2007
- NPTA National Trainer 2003-2006
- NPTA Legislation Committee 2001-2003

State PTA Leadership

- WSPTA Finance Officer 2004-05
- WSPTA Corporate Finance Committee Chair 2004-05
- WSPTA Legislative Director 2001-2003
- WSPTA Legislation Committee Chair 2001-2003

Regional PTA Leadership

- WSPTA Region Service Delivery Team Member 1998-2006, Region 2 and Region 6.

PTA Council Leadership

- Bellevue PTSA Council President 1998-2000
- Bellevue PTSA Council Executive Vice President 2006-2008
- Bellevue PTSA Council Leadership Vice President 2005-2006
- Bellevue PTSA Council Board Member at Large 2000-2002, 2003-2005
- Bellevue PTSA Council Legislative Director 2000-2001

Local Unit PTA Leadership

- Woodridge Elementary PTSA President 1993-1994
- Woodridge Elementary PTSA Legislation and Levy Chair 1992-1993
- Chinook MS PTSA Treasurer and Legislation Chair 1996-1998
- Chinook MS PTSA Legislation and Levy Chair 1995-1996
- Bellevue High School Legislation and Levy Chair 1998-2001

Community Service

- Bellevue Schools Foundation Trustee 2001-2008
- BSF Bridging The Achievement Gap Grant Committee Chair 2005-2008
- Member Bellevue School District Program Delivery Council Support Team 2000-2007
- Bellevue Schools Foundation, PTSA Council Representative 1998-2001
- Member, State K-12 I-728 Initiative Steering Committee 1999-2000
- Bellevue Quality Schools, Levy Committee Steering Committee member since 1999

Awards and Recognition

- WSPTA Leadership Academy Crystal Award in 2004
- WSPTA Golden Acorn Award from Bellevue Council in 2000
- WSPTA Outstanding Service Award from Bellevue Council in 2004
- Washington Association of School Administrators Community Service Award 2000

Education & Professional Background

- Attorney Advisor with the Seattle Hearing Office of the Social Security Administration
- Former Regional Counsel, U.S. Health and Human Services Department
- Graduate of the George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.
- Graduate of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

Personal

- Happily married for 26 years to Bettina who is an accountant with EPA
- Proud father of two children; a daughter attending UW and a son who is a business owner in Texas
- Gardener, Mystery Reader, Railfan