



Region 10

Serving 77 PTA units in Pierce County

Region Director: Kari Wilkinson

Editor:

April/ May 2011

Volume 10, Issue 2

PTA Perspective

2010-11 Region 10 Service Delivery Team

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Every spring I think life is slowing down and then I am jolted into reality that it's all just beginning over again! This is a very busy time for PTAs in many respects, so allow me to touch on a few topics.

Our PTAs are beginning the process of electing nominating committees. Nominating Committees - many of us cringe at this thought! The reality is, this truly is THE most important committee of your PTA and it should be given the consideration it deserves. Your PTA nominating committee will be recommending candidates for all the officers that lead your units and councils. This committee needs to consist of members who can hold one's counsel, be confidential, and have the desire to seek out qualified candidates for each position. The candidates your nominating committee selects will be in leadership roles for twelve months, and although the time may seem to fly by when you are doing it, many decisions affecting each child in your PTA/school community will be made. Please give due consideration to who is elected to your nominating committee. Their decisions will affect the future of your PTA long after their terms are up. As PTAs we need to "walk our talk" and be the voice for every child in our state and there is no doubt that calling our legislators, writing to them, meeting with them in Olympia or at home, will have a positive result. My favorite thing, Convention! I love our trainings and I look forward to seeing all of you at this event you will receive information from State PTA soon. Lots of preparation has gone into planning this training, all with your needs in mind, so please join the fun, network with other passionate PTA leaders, and learn new ways to work for youth in our communities!

Have you thought about the fun you and your volunteers are having? We can attract volunteers until we're glutted with helpers, but they'll only come back if they enjoy themselves. This is GREAT news, actually! Your PTA should be fun and full of smiles. If you're doing terrific work for kids, I hope you're pleased and slapping each other on the back! If you find that volunteers are overwhelmed or anxious, you can make some minor changes to positively affect your volunteers, from delegating more efficiently to pats on the back, from trimming an event to ramping up a program: your PTA's dynamics will change from year to year, and you can help keep the balance. How about facilitating retreats and get-togethers for your volunteers so they build relationships with others whom they will come to trust and rely upon through the years as they all grow in leadership – and even parenting skills.

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Great Reasons to Attend Convention

Not sure if you should go to convention? Take a look at all these benefits. If that's not enough—talk to someone who has been, they'll tell you it's well worth it!

- ∞ An Inspirational three-days for parents, teachers, & administrators to rejuvenate
- ∞ Exhibitor hall featuring great fundraising, cultural arts and educational ideas
- ∞ Don't miss our member's exchange
- ∞ Attend workshops on timely issues and important topics
- ∞ Let your voice be heard and vote for important bylaw changes
- ∞ Elect officers for next year.
- ∞ Make your new, local PTA officers feel special at the Convention banquet.
- ∞ Meet and greet new and old friends
- ∞ Gain valuable leadership skills
- ∞ Meet and talk with state board members
- ∞ Meet and hear from representatives from the National PTA
- ∞ Take home a greater knowledge of PTA and other topics that affect kids and education.
- ∞ The convention will provide an occasion to talk with fellow PTA members, share successes, and come away with an increased enthusiasm for PTA and its message!
- ∞ PTA funds for convention are a legitimate line item in your budget.
- ∞ Receive valuable training to be motivated and prepared to serve your school community
- ∞ Members from across the state are encouraged to attend



April 29—May 1 Doubletree Inn SeaTac, WA

The 2011 WSPTA Convention guide and on-line registration are now available at <http://www.wastatepta.org/meetings/con11>

This is your opportunity to net-work with other PTA leaders from around the state, gain skills and knowledge and be a voice for your unit as we make important decisions that help set the future course for our state PTA .

Courses offering a wide array of topics are available. Choose from parenting, child safety, leadership development, technology, communication & advocacy. There are even classes specifically for individuals brand new to PTA.

Reduce the cost by volunteering.

Give three hours of your time to receive free attendance for that day. Interested volunteers must sign up in advance. Contact Toni Troutner at (253) 951-7765 or btctrout@yahoo.com to receive an assignment. Assignments are limited & will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Note: In accordance with the WSPTA By-laws there can only be one voting volunteer from each Local Unit. (Volunteer hours do not pay for meals, parking or lodging.)

WSPTA Emerging Minority Leaders Conference



The EMLC (Emerging Minority Leadership Conference) will take place on **April 29, 2011**, at the Doubletree Inn in SeaTac. It will coincide with the Washington State PTA Convention. Pay for one, attend both!

The EMLC is designed to develop outreach strategies to help us connect with any minorities that might not other-wise join PTA or get involved in the lives of children through PTA or through the schools in general.

The goal of the EMLC committee when creating this conference was to bring communities together and promote networking with one another through PTA.

Full Conference registrants will be able to attend these classes but, pre-register for EMLC to assure your place. More info at WSPTA website under the "Events" tab. Or register for EMLC only, at the same website. Just remember this will not qualify a voting delegate.



Legislative Update:

We had a wonderful turn-out at Focus Day!!! Thank you to all who went and met with our Legislators. This shows them that we are committed to our kids and their education. Washington State PTA's 1 Top Priority is Basic Education for ALL children. K-12 education would take \$2.2 billion hit. When Gov. Gregoire announced her all-cuts budget for the next 2 years, and the legislature passed the second round of cuts to the current budget, State Superintendent of Public Schools Randy Dorn called the week, —the worst for students in Washington state in the 30 years I've been in education. Since then the House has passed a plan for a third set of cuts – and a fourth round is on the agenda. The Senate has yet to weigh in. Please keep in touch with our Government Representatives to keep them accountable and keep them continuously working for us. I also want to talk about bullying. Being an advocate doesn't mean just helping to pass bills. More and more we hear of children injuring themselves even committing suicide because of bullying. It doesn't just happen in schools. Social network sites are also a prime place to target our kids. We need to monitor their access to these sites and watch for tell tale signs. Keeping an open dialogue with our kids helps them feel safe and more likely to open up when they are experiencing problems.

**IF you have done something as simple as calling or emailing your child's teacher,
YOU ARE AN ADVOCATE!**

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 2003 65th Avenue West
 Tacoma, Washington 98466
 1-800-562-3804
 253-565-2153
 Fax 253-565-7753
 Email: wapta@wastatepta.org

Contact: Help with IRS—Taxes
 Pat Nelson
pnelson@wastatepta.org

Membership and Entering Online Issues
 Melissa Anderson
manderson@wastatepta.org

Nominating Committee Questions & Information

About this time of year the Councils and Region 10 Service Delivery Team receive a lot of calls and email surrounding nominating committees, I have compiled some of those questions below.

Please copy and give to each of your nominating committee persons once elected, the nominating committee packet.

When do we elect a nominating committee? The sooner the nominating committee is elected the better so they can begin their work. A nominating committee must be elected in accordance to your LU/Councils Standing Rules, and 30 days preceding the elections of officers. They must be elected in time to have all elections done by April 30th. The majority of LU/Councils will elect the nominating committee at their January General Membership meetings.

How do we elect a nominating committee? State PTA Bylaws page 9 Article VI Section 1 ~ The nominating committee, with the exception of the WSPTA, shall be elected by ballot at a general membership meeting of the respective local unit/council at least thirty (30) days preceding the elections of officers. The designated number of candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the nominating committee. The person receiving the highest number of votes shall be the chairman. In case of a tie for chairman, the chair shall designate one of the persons receiving the tie vote as temporary chairman and the committee shall select its permanent chairman at its first meeting. In other words: get at least five names to vote from and take the top three with the highest votes. The one with the highest votes is the chairman.

What happens if the nominating committee does not have any nominations for a position? Then the nominating committee will need to get to work to find interested qualified candidates for each elected position. This can be done by phone calls, attending committee meetings, or talking to the volunteer coordinator if your Local Unit has one. Other good ideas are talking to teachers and staff at the school. If you have a sign in sheet for volunteers in your school office take a look and see who is always there helping.

Can persons serving on the Nominating Committee run for an office? YES, YES, YES! But they can **NOT** take part in any discussion about nominees for the position they are interested in. This means that if your committee is made up of three persons and one person is interested in the treasurer position then they must leave the room why the remaining two committee members discuss all the nominees for that position. Then they (the two people) decide whose name goes forward for the nomination for that position.

Can the Nominating Committee interview nominees? Yes, the nominating committee can and should interview nominees as long as everyone is interviewed and everyone receives the same set of questions.

What is a Nominating Committee report? The report is simply the names of the individuals that nominating committee is putting forward. This report must be presented to the Local Unit/Council MEMBERS 15 days prior to the general membership meeting where the elections will happen.

What if a person who wants to be president or any other officer position is not nominated by the Nominating Committee? Every qualified person has the right to be nominated from the floor in the event (s)he wants to run for office and is not on the slate of candidates offered by the nominating committee. This is a protection which assures that if any member feels the Nominating Committee ignored the best qualified candidate for a position, then that person can still be nominated and run for the office. The choice of who is elected rests, as always, with the membership.

The Principal wants to run for PTA president because he wants to force the PTA to raise funds to buy school supplies and other things. What can be done? Interference in the corporate affairs of a private, nonprofit association is serious. However, any member has the right to run for an office. If this individual is the wrong person and will damage the organization, the members will need to elect a better qualified candidate. If this principal is using his position to intimidate members, then contact your region director or the State PTA office for assistance.

If this note brings more questions to mind, then please e-mail me or call and I will help you get the correct answers.

Happy Elections!

Nari L Wilkinson

Membership Benefits

Visit PTA.org/benefits to find out all the special benefits that are available to paid membership holders.

Some of them are listed as follows.

MetLife

Special group discounts are now available for PTA members, this program also offers the following features at no additional costs.

- Deductible Savings Benefit
- Replacement Costs for Total Loss on New Cars
- Replacement Costs for Special Parts
- Enhanced Rental Car Damage Coverage
- Identity Protection Services



The strength of your PTA lies in its membership—the parents, teachers, school administrators, business leaders, and community members who devote themselves to making a positive difference in the lives of children. Every individual who joins PTA is giving something not only to his or her child but to every child. Imagine how much stronger your community could be if every parent, every community member, and every business leader who could be involved in PTA did get involved.

As you continue your membership recruitment efforts this spring, remind your members of the many benefits of their PTA membership.

National PTA Member Benefits Program

Whether you're buying school supplies for the kids,

picking up the latest movie release for your family, or purchasing the latest CD by your favorite recording artist, PTA members can now start saving money thanks to National PTA's Member Benefits Provider Program. For more information on PTA National Member Benefits Providers, visit www.PTA.org/benefit

Your member's only user-name is **Together**; the pass-word is **WeCan**. It is case sensitive.

Numerous other benefits are available to dues-paying members.

These are just a few:

Our Children magazine, PTA's publication with parenting articles by experts on children's health, education, and well-being; the latest news that affects children and youth.

Professionally designed public service announcements (PSAs) to aid in membership recruitment.

Select resources developed in collaboration with PTA's national partners.

National PTA's Membership Achievement Program.

Numerous resources on parent involvement programs, fundraising, working collaboratively, and more.

Individual members have access to a number of exclusive benefits including:

Online parenting resources, including select articles from *Our Children* magazine.

E-newsletters on parenting and legislative issues.

Leadership training opportunities in-person and online.

Discounted member rate for PTA's annual national convention, magazine subscriptions, and more.

The Member-to-Member Network, connecting you to Congress when help is needed on issues important to children, schools, and families.

T-Mobile

They have partnered with PTA to bring the members exclusive discounts on wireless mobile service and equipment. All PTA members receive discounts on selected promotional devices, exclusive discounts on monthly service charges and waived activation fees.

Sharp

Sharp Electronics Corp. is offering PTA members special purchase opportunities on AQUOS liquid crystal televisions and other audio, video, home appliance and office products. Sharp is a world leader in the crystal television category and is pleased to offer these state of the art flat panel TVs and other products at extremely attractive discounts.



Congratulations Region 10 Membership Gold Award Recipients.....

Custer PTSA 10.4.20
 Hillside PTA 10.4.40
 Cherrydale PTA 10.8.5
 Chloe Clark PTA 10.8.8
 Saltar's Point PTSA 10.8.10

Birney PTSA 10.9.40
 Boze PTA 10.9.45
 Geiger PTSA 10.9.90
 Jefferson PTA 10.9.100
 Mann, Horace PTA 10.9.135
 Skyline PTA 10.9.215
 Wainwright PTSA 10.9.220
 Whitman PTSA 10.9.230
 Truman Middle PTSA 10.9.285
 Narrows View Intermediate PTA 10.10.15

Enroll your new 2011-2012 officers ASAP! Please contact Tatia Vasbinder at Washington State PTA so she can enroll your new officers. tvasbinder@wastatepta.org



(continued from page 1) As important as it is to set an example for your fellow members and board members, it's equally important to avoid behaviors that could make their volunteer experience frustrating. Be sure to avoid these "turnoffs" as you work with your colleagues:

- 1. Dates that change.** Once dates for meetings and events have been set, don't change them. People often sacrifice to get volunteer commitments on their calendars.
- 2. Not knowing the purpose and expectation of a project.** When scheduling a meeting or event, be sure everyone knows its purpose and what will be expected of them in advance. No one likes to be ill-prepared for a volunteer project.
- 3. Unorganized meetings.** Keep meetings on track. Begin and end them on time, and follow an agenda closely.
- 4. Individuals who impede progress.** Don't allow one person's behavior to ruin the experience for everyone else.
- 5. Meaningless responsibilities.** Don't call people together to simply inform them or entertain them. Make their time count for something that they find consequential.

Keep up the fun; you want good energy to surround your PTA's work, and you want your experienced volunteers to keep coming back for more! Thank you for letting me share in the good work you do each day on behalf of all children in our state.

Flori L. Wilkinson
 Region 10 Director

Characteristics of a Leader

- * Well organized and prepared
- * Optimistic
- * Knowledgeable about the job to be done
- * Emotionally stable
- * Willing to set goals and priorities
- * Intellectually mature
- * Responsive to group members
- * Willing to delegate
- * Able to handle conflict wisely
- * Dependable

*Reprinted from California PTAs,
 Keys to Leadership"*

Washington State PTA
 everychild.onevoice.

NEW REGION 10 DIRECTOR FOR 2011-2012

Congratulations to Patti DeRusha for being elected as the WSPTA Region 10 Director

WSPTA
2011 Annual Convention
Doubletree Hotel -
SeaTac
April 29—May 1

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WASHINGTON STATE PTA REGION 10
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