

Region 10 PTA Perspective



WSPTA's Region 10 covers a portion of Pierce County. It consists of the Clover Park, Peninsula, Steilacoom Historical, Tacoma, and University Place School Districts

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A note from your Region Director: Kari Wilkinson

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Thank you for all your service!

I am excited to be your Region Director this year. For those of you who do not know me, I served as the Region 10 Director 2007-2008 then was elected to serve as the Washington State PTA Leadership Director 2008-2010. My Husband Matt (Peninsula School Board) and I have 4 children Karissa (20 attends BYU) Kelsey (18attending BSU) Joshua (16 attends PHS) & Karlee (13attends KPMS). I joined PTA when my youngest started school and have been hooked since then. I have had the opportunity to meet and associate with amazing people like you! As I move into my new position this year as Region 10 Director, I am reminded of the first time I stepped up to be president of a local unit (my first year in PTA). I remember the constant level of information overload and a fear that I'm going to forget something vital or miss an important deadline. Whether you're stepping into a president's position or another leadership position, here are some lessons I have learned that might be helpful to you:

1. You don't have to know everything but you do need to know how to find the answers. You can contact your council or non-council representatives with any questions. You can contact me or one of the service delivery team members. All the leadership documents will be given to you at the fall conference or you can access them online this fall at www.wastatepta.org.
2. You don't have to do everything. You have a team - use them. They want to feel relevant and that the work that they do has meaning. A leader is effective, not because of his or her power, but because of his or her ability to empower others.
3. Attend any and all trainings. You will always learn something. Leadership is developed over time, not in a day. It is something that takes work. The more you can network with others, hear new ideas, and keep an open mind to learning new things the more opportunities you open yourself up to for building your leadership skills - skills that go beyond PTA.
4. Share information with your entire leadership group. Whatever level of leadership you are at it is important that you share information with the group. It is easier for the team to be effective when they know all the pieces that go into the bigger picture.
5. You don't have to be perfect. None of us are. The sooner you get over the feeling that everything must be perfect the easier it will be to deal with the glitches that occur along the way. Relax and enjoy the ride.
6. Mentor someone. An important responsibility for any leader is to develop others to do the work. The best legacy you can leave is someone energetic and enthusiastic who feels prepared to take your place.
7. Don't be afraid to ask! We are her to help you with anything you need. You just need to ask. As a team we will be calling you to say hi and see how you are doing and find out if you need anything.

Thank you once again for all you do each and every day for all Children!

I look forward to working with you this year and mentoring next year's Region Director.

Kari L Wilkinson

To Do List:.....

Register for Fall Conference

Register For PTA & The Law

Check standing rules. Make sure they have updated info (Membership dues increase)

Approve Standing Rules

Elect Nominating Committee.

Appoint financial review committee

Increase Membership

Attend Legislative Assembly.

Attend Focus Day!

Attend Convention!

Make sure the state office has all officers listed with correct information.

Membership enrolled at office.

Pay membership dues

DELEGATE!

HAVE FUN!

Service Delivery Team positions available! Have you ever considered serving people outside of your school's PTA? SDT members answer the call for service throughout the region. We provide local contact to our outlying local units and councils throughout the region; help mentor others, start new PTAs and present training classes.

WE NEED A Region Legislation Chair (RLC) - has the responsibility to communicate legislative action/information as needed to local unit and council leaders. The RLC serves as a member of the WSPTA Legislative committee and plays a key role in Legislative Assembly and Focus Day. The RLC is the person who interacts with local unit/council Legislative Chairs and shall create their own regional legislative committee from council and local unit legislative chairs. The RLC provides regular committee meeting updates to the Region Director. Training is provided. Email or call me if you have any questions.



Region 10 Fall Training—Another Innovative Learning Experience

We look forward to seeing you at Region 10's PTA Fall Training!
(Every PTA/PTSA needs to send at least 1 representative to this training)

August 26th 2010 4:30 pm-9:30 pm,

Location: Foss High School, 2112 S. Tyler St. Tacoma, WA 98405

4:30-5:45 Registration/Free Dinner/Vendors—grab dinner and visit vendors!

(Pre-Order Boxed Dinners from Honey Baked Ham Includes Salad or Sandwich, Chips, Drink and cookie)

5:50-6:20 Welcome/Ice Breaker/Election of Nominating Committee

6:30-7:40 Class Session 1

- 101 Presidents and the Team (President/Vice President)
- 102 Money Matters (Treasurer)
- 103 Membership Tips and Strategies
- 104 For the Record (Secretary)
- 105 Beginning Legislation
- 106 The magic of conflict

7:50-9:05 Class Session 2

- 201 Presidents and the Team — continued
- 202 Committee Chairs: Communicate, Collaborate, and Coordinate
- 203 Reflections
- 204 Programs and Awards
- 205 Engaging Volunteers
- 206 Secondary Basics

9:10-9:30 Wrap up Session; Leadership Packet Distribution /Meet with Council President /Region SDT.

Region 10 Leadership Conference-Class descriptions

101 Presidents and the Team(Part 1) -Learn the key elements of leading and being a member of a responsible and professional board of directors. Topics include team dynamics, responsibilities, legal requirements, and best practices for running board meetings. Focuses on roles of president/vice president and all board members.

102 Money Matters-Financial management of the PTA is not just the responsibility of the treasurer. Legal and fiduciary requirements and responsibilities are covered in this workshop. Recommended for Treasures and all elected officers and other interested board members are encouraged to attend.

103 Membership Tips & Strategies-As a membership organization WSPTA members are vital to our success. Learn the components of a membership campaign, how to encourage participation, and ideas to recognize the members who work tirelessly for children. Recommended for membership chairs and interested board members.

104 For the record - Calling all Secretaries! This class will touch on all aspects of being a successful secretary. Learn what, how and why of keeping records, what does and does not go into minutes, and how to assist in preparing meeting agendas. Introduction to elements of minutes and record keeping of a PTA association.

105 Beginning Legislation-This class will emphasize the importance of having a legislative chair in your local unit/Council and help you gain the knowledge and tools you will need to have a successful legislative year. From kid-mail friendly articles to how legislative assembly works and how to rally the troops for Focus Day.

106 The magic of conflict: Passion and love for the work we do in PTA often leads to conflict. Learn new ways to be proactive before conflict rears its head and how to handle once it does. Conflict can truly be magic.

201 Presidents and the Team(Part 2)

202 Committee Chairs: Communicate, Collaborate, Coordinate- Learn how to communicate, train, support and encourage your committee chairs. This class will help your unit or council set a standard of expectation for your committee chairs and help you unit/council reach goals and expectation of your members.

203 Reflections - The nuts and bolt of what Reflections is and how to run the program.

204 Programs & Awards- A brief overview of WSPTA's awards and recognition program. Learn about resources available from Washington State PTA and how to apply them to your local unit's programs. Also, find out how to create and maintain tailor-made programs for your local unit or council. Share your ideas and learn from others.

205 Engaging Volunteers - gain more knowledge on gathering and retaining volunteers for your PTA.

206 Secondary Basics-Secondary involvement is crucial and certainly different from primary school PTA. Give your secondary PTA a jump start with this interactive consideration of what is unique and powerful about secondary PTA.

Region 10 Fall Conference/Dinner Registration Form

Thank you in advance for helping us to better serve your needs by pre-registering your members.

Pre-registration cost per unit: \$45.00 (**Pre-registration envelopes MUST be postmarked by August 20th 2010**)

Pre-order Dinner choices: (1 per person registered, we will have no extras)

Ham Classic: Honey baked ham, Swiss cheese, lettuce and tomato on a bakery roll/ mayo and mustard on the side.

Turkey Classic: Roasted Turkey, Swiss cheese, lettuce and tomato on a bakery roll/ mayo and mustard on the side.

Prime Roast Beef: Roast beef, cheddar cheese, lettuce and tomato on a bakery roll/ / Horseradish sauce and mayo on the side.

Veggie Sandwich: Lettuce, tomato, red onion, cucumber, green bell pepper, Swiss and cheddar cheese with ranch dressing on Honey Grain bread.

Cobb Salad: Honey Baked Ham and Turkey breast, bacon, cheddar and Swiss cheeses, tomatoes on crisp lettuce

Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad: Grilled chicken breast, croutons, parmesan cheese on crisp lettuce, traditional Caesar Dressing.

Registration after August 20th or at the door \$70.00(dinner not included)

You may Register on line at <http://region10fall10.eventbrite.com> OR Send Registration to:

Patti DeRusha 1647 S. Huson Dr, Tacoma WA, 98405.

PTA Region 10 Conference Registration Form

Registration Instructions: List all PTA members from your unit that will be attending the conference along with what class session #'s. All dinners must be pre-ordered. Please put the choice of dinner by each attendee. By pre-registering your members they are guaranteed a handout from each class they attend and dinner.

| | |
|---|--|
| PTA Local Unit Name: | PTA Unit # _____.____._____ |
| PTA Unit President: | Phone #: |
| Pre order Dinner. Fill in quantity per choice. 1 per person. Ham: _____ Turkey: _____ Roast Beef: _____ Veggie: _____ Cobb Salad: _____ Chicken Caesar Salad: _____ Please indicate sandwich or Salad under for each person below. Ham=H, Turkey =T, Beef=B, Veggie=V, Cobb=CB, Chicken Caesar=CC | Registration: \$45.00 Check # _____ Make Checks to: WSPTA (Receipts will be given out at conference. <i>Please have duplicate signatures & unit # a on all PTA checks</i> , personal checks accepted) |

Names/PTA positions & dinner choice of member attending the conference. Session 1&2 Class #'s (Please print clearly)

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Name: | Dinner _____ | Session:1 Class# | Session:2 Class# |
| Position: | | | |
| Name: | Dinner _____ | Session:1 Class# | Session:2 Class# |
| Position: | | | |
| Name: | Dinner _____ | Session:1 Class# | Session:2 Class# |
| Position: | | | |
| Name: | Dinner _____ | Session:1 Class# | Session:2 Class# |
| Position: | | | |
| Name: | Dinner _____ | Session:1 Class# | Session:2 Class# |
| Position: | | | |
| Name: | Dinner _____ | Session:1 Class# | Session: 2 Class# |
| Position: | | | |

PROGRAMS TO GO

Have you thought about putting on different types of programs at your school and don't know where to begin? Washington State PTA has just made things easier for you!

"Programs to Go!" are downloadable instructions on how to put on different programs/events at your school.

These programs can be found on the Washington State PTA website—just click on "Resources" and log into the Leadership Resources and look for "Programs to Go". Choose from Programs such as; Read-a-thons, Auctions, Humanitarian Programs and more.

We are also looking to add programs to this selection and are asking you for help. Do you have a program/event that you have done at your school that has worked well (such as carnivals, bike rodeos, diversity events, teen programs, etc.)? Watch for the forms to be posted to the website then simply fill out a "Programs to Go!" Event form and submit it along with any forms you use! We would like to have a variety of programs to share with local units across the state from programs that work at the elementary level all the way to the secondary level.

Keep checking the website. More "Programs to Go!"

programs will be continually added and updated throughout the year so keep checking back!

For questions about programs or to submit your program/event, contact Pam Deming at ptaprogridir@wastatepta.org.

Bonding Insurance: AIM now requires an annual audit of the books by an Audit Committee or qualified accountant. The bank statement goes to someone who is not a check signer on the bank account. This person does not have to reconcile the bank statement, but needs to look at the checks to be sure that they are not written to unauthorized individuals, and that all checks carry 2 signatures.

Could Your PTA Use A Little Extra Cash?

The State PTA would like to help. Our Applegate Grant Program provides opportunities for supplemental funding to units and councils for community-wide projects. Qualifying projects focus on the health, welfare, safety, education, care, and protection of children. Each year, the Washington State PTA sets aside funds to be awarded to local units and councils for these programs, projects, and activities.

Due date: December 1, 2010. For more information go to <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/applegate/index.html>. Watch for the application form to be posted soon.

Who Do You Call?

"Ghostbusters?"

As a new officer of a PTA, you may think that this would be an appropriate answer to the question. Because, really you don't know who to call!

Do you know who to call if your treasurer has skipped the country?

Do you know who to call if your financial review did not get completed?

Do you know who to call if the secretary lost all of the minutes from last year's board meetings?

Do you know who to call if you have no clue what the president is supposed to do?

Do you know who to call if your board is arguing and cannot resolve an issue?

Do you know who to call when the principal tells the PTA, they have to spend the money raised last year, on new Lazy Boys for the teacher's lounge?

Well, you are not alone. Here are some answers.

If your PTA belongs to a PTA Council, you should FIRST call your Council Rep.

Next in line would be your Service Delivery Team Rep, then your REGION Director, and then finally if the question is unresolved you would call the Washington State PTA office.

If your PTA does not belong to a Council, you should FIRST call your Service Delivery Team Specialist, then the REGION Director, and then finally if the question is unresolved you would call the Washington State PTA office. We are here to support and help you in any way!

PTA Vision:

Making every child's potential a reality.

PTA Mission is:

A powerful voice for all children,
A relevant resource for families and communities, and
A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child

The Washington State PTA accomplishes the mission of PTA 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.



Who Should Attend PTA & the Law? *The name of this class throws people off. The law? No, that's not for me. I'm no lawyer!! But PTA & The Law is for you. Did you know your PTA is a non-profit corporation? You'll learn what you need to do to maintain your PTA's non-profit status. You'll learn the legal duties of all Board Members (yes, each member of the Board has legal obligations!) and you'll learn how to protect your nonprofit from being sued. This workshop is the place where you can receive valuable training and send as many PTA elected officers, PTA members and your school principal for one low price! And if that isn't enough to persuade you to attend, you'll learn how to maintain you're corporate and tax exempt status. You'll get the lowdown on Washington State's strict laws on gambling – did you know that raffles are a form of gambling here in Washington?? In short, you'll get a crash course on some very important information. It is your legal and fiduciary responsibility to your members and the PTA organizations to remain up-to-date on the corporate laws and IRS rules, which change each year. What about the Auction Chair who plans to serve alcohol and hold a raffle? What about the Grad night chair who is planning to hold a raffle and run multiple fundraisers? What about the Student Store chair that needs to understand how to properly record the various types of expenses and income associated with the store.....not to mention the many opportunities to pay taxes? We are fortunate to have the ability to offer two classes. One weekday evening in Clover Park area and one Saturday class in Tacoma. There's sure to be a class that fits your schedule, at a location that works for you. You and your Board Members and chairs can attend all together or attend separate sessions. Everyone learns a little something new at each one. If you aren't able to attend a PTA & the Law workshop offered in our region, you are encouraged to attend the training in a neighboring region. We hope to see you there!!*

PTA & the Law Workshop

- PTA & The Law September 25th Tacoma 8:30am-12:00pm
TBA (Check website for location)
- PTA & The Law October 28th Clover Park 6:00pm-9:30pm
Clover Park District Office 10903 Gravelly Lake Drive SW Lakewood 98499(Next to Clover Park High School)

\$45 fee allows your unit to attend and includes 2 PTA & The Law books-2010/2011 Edition.

Don't miss this vital training for your officers and board. This is one of the most important workshops offered by Washington State PTA! PTA & the Law deals with state and federal rules and regulations for running a charitable, tax-exempt non-profit corporation (your PTA) in the state of Washington. This workshop will explain how these rules can and do affect your PTA's activities. (Do you host basket raffles, bingo, carnivals, or auctions to raise money for your PTA fund raisers?)

Yearly attendance to this training is highly recommended for your entire board!

PTA & the Law is open to all interested PTA members. Bring your principal! Seating is limited, and therefore advanced registration is strongly recommended.

Deadline for pre-registration is **by September 19th for Tacoma & October 20th for Clover Park** *. **Make checks payable to WSPTA.** Please remember to include **two signatures** and your **PTA unit number** as required on the check.

Send a copy of this registration form (make one for your records) or register online. See the www.wastatepta.org web site—Region 10 for more information and to register or **Contact Kari with questions** PTAreg10@wastatepta.org or 253-884-1128.



Region 10 PTA & The Law Registration form



Unit/Council _____ Number _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Number of extra PTA & the Law books (\$15.00 each) _____

Please check which class you will be attending. (If your PTA group needs to attend at different times, please put how many will attend in each slot.)

- PTA & The Law September 25th Tacoma 8:30am-12:00pm How many PTA members will be attending? _____
- PTA & The Law October 28th Clover Park 6:00pm-9:30pm How many PTA members will be attending? _____

Mail registration forms and check for \$45.00 or register online (by September 19th for Tacoma & October 20th for Clover Park)

Make checks payable to: **Washington State PTA** Two signatures are required on PTA checks & Unit #.

SEND TO: Patti DeRusha, 1647 S. Huson Dr, Tacoma WA, 98405.



National PTA Reflections Program

"Together we can...", the 2010-2011 Reflections theme, marks the 41st year for the National PTA Reflections Program. Reflections Chairs and committees should be in place by August. WSPTA has revised the Reflections User's Guide to create a guide that is user friendly. It will provide reproduce-able checklists that can be passed on to students and parents, along with better explanations about how to submit entries and fill out forms. Forms and other documents will be online for download by Reflections Chairs, students or parents from the WSPTA website. The Reflections User's Guide is provided to local unit and council Presidents in the Leadership Packet distributed in August. It will also be available online at the WSPTA website in September.

There are some changes to the Reflections Program this year that will affect both local units and councils. Please note the deadline for councils and non-council local units to submit entries to WSPTA - January 15th is the postmark date. The number of entries in each arts category that can be submitted is also changing to a percentage factor. Even if you are an experienced Reflections leader, please review the new User's Guide and check for new rules and deadlines. Of course, the best way to stay up-to-date on Reflections matters and exchange information and ideas about the Reflections Program is to join the Reflections Listserv. All Reflections leaders should contact the WSPTA office to join this important network. We strongly encourage all Reflections leaders to attend the Reflections class at the Region 10 Fall Conference on August 26th. The class will provide pertinent information about the Reflections Program and up-to-date information about rules and guidelines. It is also a good opportunity to ask questions and exchange ideas about running a Reflections Program in your school or council. Just a reminder that all councils are required to provide a Reflections Program to their local units. Local units within a council cannot send entries directly to WSPTA, the entries must go through your council. Although many councils provide a ceremony or reception, the only requirement of a council is to accept entries from local units, have the entries judged, forward winning entries to WSPTA, notify local units of entries being sent on and return non-winning entries to the local unit. The WSPTA Reflections Gallery, featuring winning entries from 2009-2010 is now on the WSPTA website. Also check out the National PTA Reflections Gallery. Washington State is well represented in the National Gallery. For more information, check out the "What's New?" section of the WSPTA home page, and then click on the Reflections web page.

OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIP by Karen Albers, WSPTA Membership Director

Inclusion is a commitment to involve the entire school community in planning, as well as enjoying, PTA programs and activities. Bringing in many different views is the key to building a robust and meaningful PTA presence in your community. Members come with their own views, experiences, cultural heritage and traditions, skills and abilities, values and preferences. Your PTA can reach out to cultural and ethnic groups, non-English speakers, single parents, working parents, stepparents, foster parents, grandparents, students, teachers, school staff, school administrators, peace officers, government agencies, and businesses. Include everyone and invite them to join PTA!

When all aspects of the community are represented, all voices will be heard, and PTA will be an effective voice for ALL children. Build a Diverse & Inclusive PTA: 1. Define Diversity · Diversity may have different meanings for different individuals. · Diversity can mean identifying, valuing and enlisting the unique characteristics and abilities of all families. 2. Gather Information · Identify the groups in your community who should be invited and included to participate. · Ask leaders of other groups how you can cooperate with them, or ask them to serve as advisors (on your board, for a joint project, etc). 3. Understand the Issues · Invite speakers to hold workshops about cultural, ethnic, or religious issues for the PTA board, your membership, parents, and students. · Include current and emerging issues from all communities on your agenda and in your plans. 4. Build Awareness · Be responsive to the language needs of others; provide assistance as needed. · Remove physical barriers that discourage participation by those with disabilities. 5. Make Changes · Plan meetings and activities that avoid conflicts with ethnic and religious holidays and observances or that make it difficult for working or single parents to attend. · Work to understand and promote respect for the unique contributions of every family. Together they make your PTA an effective voice for all children. *Excerpt reprinted in part from "Respecting Differences Resource Guide", National PTA*



The slogan for this year in PTA is "Every Member Matters".

A Membership Chair Can Lead the Way to a Great Start As the membership chair you have been picked as an energetic, outgoing person ready to market, advertise, and create the strategic plan for the membership of your local unit. Don't panic, there are a lot of resources to make your job easy! The first place to begin is the Washington State PTA Membership handbook and the Membership Resources on the website <http://www.wastatepta.org/resources/index.html>. You should also attend the Region 10 Fall Conference to take the membership classes. The leadership packet given at the conference contains your membership cards and the handbook and you may contact Sue Linden Region 10 Membership Chair with any question about membership. Share special benefits offered through your PTA, State PTA and National PTA with your membership. Members will need the login as password printed on the back of the membership card to access those benefits. National PTA offer discounts such as 5% off of vacation packages to over 40 destination or Barnes and Noble has an online bookstore for PTA members. Take a look at these opportunities and market the benefits and rewards as an incentive to increase your membership. Remember you are not alone. Work with your Board to establish goals and strategies to build your membership. Look to the various events and program in integrate your membership drive. Remember the campaign lasts all year and just because someone didn't sign up in the fall doesn't mean they won't sign up later in the year if asked. New students arrive during the year and those parents need to be asked. Once you have your action plan in place, it's time to make a difference one member at a time!

Membership matters to all ~ not just the chair Ask yourself the following questions: •Do you send your forms in the school registration packet? •Does your school give you a prime place at "back to school days" or are you stuck in the corner away from the action? •Are you represented at school events and offer the option to find out about and join PTA in your school? •Do you have a welcome pack for new families? A "Yes" answer to all or some is a great start to a great membership campaign!

Membership Facts: Are you covering the costs for fee increases? Remember state fees are \$5.50 this year and rising to \$5.75 next year plus National \$1.75? The total per member fee for 2010-11 will be \$7.25, plus any applicable council fee. ~ Staff membership at 100%? Would the cost of their membership be covered by all the goodies ~ surely a staff membership is worth all those staff treats ~ Use "Every Member Matters" to revamp your membership form ~ make it personal to your local unit. Why does it matter to join PTA? Sing your successes on what a great part you play in the education of your student. Just think what your school would be like without PTA. ~ Could you make the cost of joining balance the benefits you would receive via PTA promotions!

Outreach: PTA Addresses A Global Reality

According to a 2006 Congressional Research Service Report, "The United States, the third most populous country globally, accounts for about 4.6% of the world's population. Within the next few years, the U.S. population — currently estimated at 299 million persons — is expected to reach twice its 1950 level of 152 million. More than just being double in size, the population has become qualitatively different from what it was in 1950. As noted by the Population Reference Bureau, "The U.S. is getting bigger, older, and more diverse." These trends have already reshaped the nation. They are now reshaping the PTA. The Region 10 Service Delivery Team is dedicated to bringing you the resources and information you need to equip your members for success, now and in the future. We're confident you will want to support the Outreach Plan because in the end it means your local PTA/PTSA will be stronger and more effective. When PTAs/ PTSA's represent (and reflect) their communities they also benefit from increased volunteer and resource support. Local units are encouraged to identify those members of their local community who are not represented among membership or on PTA/PTSA boards, then reach out and invite them to join. The Region 10 Outreach Chair will assist local units in developing and implementing appropriate strategies to accomplish this. Feel free to contact Janet Stewart Region 10 outreach chair with your questions, ideas and/or suggestions regarding Outreach. Every member matters!



The Official PTA Kit Online

All local, council, district, and region PTAs must register to receive their *Official PTA® Kit*. The incoming 2010–2011 PTA president or other authorized PTA leader must fill out the registration form to select the preferred shipping address and date for the kit. The order form will be available through September 17, and kits will start shipping weekly in late June. **The Official PTA Kit is available exclusively to PTAs in good standing.** When you register for your free Official NPTA Kit, you will be asked to provide your PTA Unit ID. The NPTA ID Number can be found by: Log into your Council **Membership Enrollment** page (on WSPTA website) Click on **Membership Reports** (top red menu) On left side of page, under Membership Reports, click on **Legal Information** Your **six-digit NPTA ID Number** will be displayed directly under Misc PTA Information. The *Official PTA Kit* contains the *PTA Quick-Reference Guides*, membership posters, male involvement materials, program and advocacy resources, and special offers from national partners—the tools your units need for a successful PTA year. The kit registration form is at PTA.org/OfficialKit. The incoming 2010–2011 PTA president or other authorized leader will need to specify the unit's preferred shipping address and date. Each unit will receive only one free kit, so emphasize that the kit must go to the *incoming* PTA leadership team. Kits will ship weekly June 18 to September 17, based on unit orders.

A Bit About Budgets: *At your first general meeting of the year, your membership should approve your Standing Rules and your Budget. The Standing Rules define who you are. They tell who can vote, how certain committees are managed, what restrictions there are on money, etc. The Budget defines what you will do for the year. Does your unit have the treasurer write a budget, give it a cursory once-over, and then effectively put it in the drawer? Please reconsider as this is a recipe for endless discussions at Board Meetings about how the directories were supposed to be paid for, how many members were assumed, what the dues amount is, how much is available for each classroom, etc. Before the school year starts, the Executive Committee should go through the budget line by line. Every officer should understand what each line is for, where the funds are coming from, and who will be in charge of it. If you do this, your committee will have an in-depth discussion about what your goals are for the year. This is a good thing. Then, at your first General Membership meeting, you will be able to stand with confidence and recommend the approval of your unit's plan for the year. It is recommended you approve the budget, even if you voted on a preliminary budget in the spring. The current members have the right to vote for themselves what will happen in the year. The vote in May was what the outgoing gang wanted to do. Things change, people come and go. Your budget needs to reflect who you are now. Which means you need to plan for the unexpected. Every budget should have a contingency line. It might be the funds that were raised last year, but not spent or earmarked. These dollars should be there, for the membership to allocate if they have a need. Then, write in bold letters at the top of the budget: "With Approval by the Board to Reallocate." This gives the Board of Directors the authority to move dollars from one category to another, as needed, without a vote of the general membership. Try this. Your meetings will go more smoothly, with fewer disagreements and disgruntled members. Heck, you might even develop a fondness for those monthly financial reports.*

*You will be Electing a Region Director to serve for 1 year. We will have nominations and elect a nominating committee at the Fall Training. Please have at least one board member present.
~Thank you~*

REGION DIRECTOR Basic Functions

Serves as an elected member of the Board of Directors representing the entire membership and the best interests of the association; coordinating delivery of association's programs/services within the region. Maintains open communication with and exercises personal leadership in the motivation of board members and the membership-at-large. Takes part in monitoring and evaluating organizational performance and effectiveness.

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

Within the limits of the articles of incorporation, uniform bylaws, and policies, the region director:

- Attends all meetings of the Board of Directors, Convention, Board Retreat, Board education workshops, and the Service Delivery Conference.
- Presides at the portion(s) of the region fall leadership conference(s) set aside for the election of a nominating committee and determines the method for the election of a region director.
- Identifies and appoints (with the approval of the Executive Committee) Region Legislation, Membership and Outreach chairs and service specialists after soliciting input from units and councils in the region. Notifies State PTA office of appointments.
- Directs and coordinates the activities of Service Delivery Team members.
- Provides ongoing leadership education to Service Delivery Team members.
- Helps plan and coordinate (with Service Delivery Team members) region leadership education conferences for the delivery of the programs, products, and services of the association to local units and councils.
- Provides an annual evaluation of the delivery of services within the region.
- Has the primary, but not the sole, responsibility for the organization of new units and councils.
- Supports policies, programs, projects, and activities adopted by the Board of Directors.
- Provides leadership education as requested and authorized.
- Represents the association to other organizations as requested by the president.
- Provides written and oral reports to the Board.
- Coordinates Service Delivery Team to provide services as needed throughout the year to local units and councils in region.

Relationships

- Responsible to the Board of Directors and to the membership for seeing that programs and policies of the association reflect the needs and aspirations of the membership.
- Consults, meets, and plans regularly with the service specialists, region legislation chairs, region membership chairs, region outreach chairs and council representatives.
- Consults regularly with the President, Executive Director, members of the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors.

Elect Your Nominating Committee - Sooner Rather Than Later!

The charge of the Nominating Committee is to recognize and recruit the most qualified people for the positions available. It is the most important committee in PTA. Having qualified people step into leadership positions in a local unit, council, region or at the state level will ensure success for many years into the future. The work of this committee is paramount to fulfilling our mission as PTAs. Therefore, the sooner the nominating committee is elected the better so they can begin their work. Consider electing your nominating committee at the first general meeting in the fall. Some may say "Why so early? We just began our elected term in July." It is really very simple. You need to give this committee time to observe the needs of their organization and the leaders who serve the members. This will offer enough time to interview those who serve currently, and those who may be potential candidates down the road. But, most importantly, it gives this new group time to attend a nominating committee workshop and get to know one another.

LEGISLATIVE

Summer time is when the state PTA begins planning and preparing for the next Legislative Session. It starts in July when we go over any issues that have been proposed for our State wide Legislative Platform and continues with training and planning for Washington state PTA's own Legislative Assembly (October 8-9)and Focus Day (February 21 2011) Speaking of training there is a great opportunity for all of you to get some great training at our Region 10 Conference on Aug 26th and I would love to see you there. This upcoming school year is expected to be a very busy year legislatively, for many reasons and it's the perfect time to make sure each local unit has a legislative chair to help members stay on top of everything going on locally as well as the action in Olympia. I would like to remind all of you that this is a major Election year for our legislators! Which makes now a perfect time to remind all of our members to make sure that their voter registration is up to date. Here is a great link to include in all your email and newsletters

<http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/osos/en/voterinformation/Pages/RegistertoVote.aspx> . It also a good time to refresh our memory regarding PTA Nonprofit status and make sure we comply with all the rules regarding candidates and elections. Don't forget to Vote!!! Primary Election Aug 17th 2010

Each Voice Matters When Speaking on Behalf of Our Children

*Summer, early fall is an exciting time for PTA. We are all busy putting our boards together, finding committee chairs for our Walkathons, Auctions, Safety Improvement committees, figuring out our goals for the coming year. We do really good, important work in our local schools. We have become a necessary and integral part of our local school environment. But we have another role, equally important, and that is to speak up in defense of children. Sometimes we are so busy helping our own kids in our own schools it's easy to forget our **advocacy** role. This is why your legislation chair is so important. This chair connects the voices in your local unit, with other voices from across the state in defense and support of children. There is tremendous power in numbers. Each and every voice matters. The PTA has a unique role to play as advocates. There is no other organization in this state that speaks solely for children. So what can you do?*

- 1. Help find a legislation chair for your local unit. All they need is good communication skills and an interest in advocacy. We will train and provide all of the resources the chair will need.*
- 2. Give your legislation chair 5-10 minutes at the beginning of every PTA meeting. This is difficult, there are lots to talk about, there are fundraisers, and committees, and board work, but we have to be diligent. To truly implement "Every child one voice", it has to be a priority. Prioritize 5-10 minutes for your legislation chair.*
- 3. Sign up for action alerts and ask every member who attends PTA meetings to sign up for action alerts (sign up at www.wastatepta.org/legislation.) Use your email lists to encourage people to sign up for action alerts.*
- 4. Place legislative articles in your PTA newsletters – these are provided by the state and region and simply need to be placed into the newsletters. 5. Start small and recognize the essential advocacy work you do at your own school working with your principal and within your district by working with your School Board and Superintendent. Just taking the above simple steps help you and your local unit to represent Every Child with One Voice.*

Leg Conference will be held October 8-9 at the SeaTac Marriott, and the registration rate will be \$140 for the early bird registration and \$185 for late registration or \$110 and \$135 respectively for student registration. These rates do NOT include hotel accommodations or meals, but the Marriott will offer a discounted rate of \$119 (plus tax) for a single or double room. Classes and interactive trainings appeal to both new and seasoned advocates.

Focus Day will be in Olympia on February 21, 2011. It's President's Day so the kids don't have school and are encouraged to attend as well. There is no registration fee associated with this event & as the date approaches more information will be available.

~Upcoming events SAVE THE DATES:

- Region 10 Fall Training August 26, Foss High School
- Legislative Assembly October 8&9th 2010 SeaTac Marriott
- PTA & The Law September 25th (Tacoma)
- PTA & The Law October 28th Clover Park
- Focus Day February 21, 2011 (Presidents Day) Olympia
- WSPTA Convention SeaTac Double Tree April 29-May 1 2011

Stay Connected

The Washington State PTA is the largest child advocacy organization in the State. To keep connected to the advocacy topics, subscribing to the listservs is a great way. Some listservs are informational, some ask you to take action and others are used as communication tools.

Grassroots Connection Listserv: (weekly when the Legislature is in session) This is an electronic update of legislative matters, including hearing schedule and bill updates.

Action Alert Listserv (periodic) These emails alert you to fast breaking happenings in Olympia and request you to contact your legislator on specific issues that relate to the WSPTA legislative platform.

Legislation listserv (real time) Two way communication between members on topics impacting Children and Youth. This listserv can be very busy at times.

Participation is a valuable tool for all members in your PTA. Be sure to share this information in your newsletters. To subscribe go to the Advocacy page on the WSPTA website and under Legislative Basics click the Online listerv signup form or use the link below.
www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/leg_basics/Get_Connected_Legislative_Listserv.doc

WSPTA Region 10
Newsletter August 2010
information Enclosed

PLEASE READ!

REMINDER Membership
Service Fees for 2010-2011:
WSPTA \$5.50 per
member NPTA
\$1.75 per member

Washington Congress PTA

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