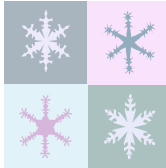


# Southwest Sage



NEWSLETTER FOR WSPTA REGION 12

January 2010

## Region Director Message

Talking to local unit leaders around the region this year, one common issue seems to be coming up – How do we get not only new members, but new leaders?

Everyone feels that they are being welcoming, that they are not that dreaded “PTA clique” but are we really? How are we being viewed from the outside? It is hard not to appear to be a close knit group when we work together so much. How can we overcome this and truly become welcoming to all?

Try personally inviting new people to your meetings. If they say they aren’t a member, ask them to come and see what you are about.

Have your board sit all around the room. Not only does this force you to sit with new people, our might get talking and make new friends.

Greet people as they come into the meeting or event and when they leave, thank them for their time and invite them to the next one.

Survey your members and heed the results. None of us like to give our input only to have it ignored without any thought.

Don’t be afraid to try new things! If you can’t find anyone to help with an event that has been held for generations, it is probably because it is no longer relevant. Also, don’t be afraid to cancel something if no one steps forward to run it.

Know your school community! It is constantly changing and our PTAs need to change with it. Remember – Change is Good!

Brag about your accomplishments! Let people know what your PTA does and how they can help.

Most importantly – Ask! Most of us became involved in PTA because someone asked.

If you have any other ideas for getting people involved send them to me to share in future newsletters.

Lynne

## WSPTA Focus Day 2010

Start off the New Year with Advocacy for Our Kids by joining other PTA activists from across the state in Olympia for the Annual Legislative Focus Day. This year we are meeting on January 18, 2010, Martin Luther King’s Birthday, a school Holiday, so we are planning to celebrate

this as a Family Event to make our voices heard. Go to [www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org) and click on the Focus Day button for more information, including a registration form. This is a free event, unless you choose to reserve a box lunch, but they need to know how many people plan on at-

tending in order to have enough materials on hand. You will also need to register in advance if you plan on taking one of the capitol tours. There will be activities for kids of all ages!

I hope to see you there!!

### Important Dates:

- JANUARY 15— REFLECTION ENTRIES DUE TO STATE OFFICE
- JANUARY 18— FOCUS DAY IN OLYMPIA!!
- JANUARY 25— MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE. NON-COUNCIL UNITS MAIL TO STATE OFFICE, COUNCIL UNITS MAIL TO YOUR COUNCIL TREASURER.

### Service Delivery Team

Region Director:  
Lynne McAdoo

Legislation Chair:  
Rebecca Petersen

Membership Chair:  
Kerrilynn Robinson

Outreach Chair:  
Robert McAdoo

Council Representative:  
Lani Whitlock

Service Specialist:  
Amanda Djang

## Membership Awards

Congratulations to the following Region 12 local units for achieving the **Bronze** and **Silver** level membership awards this year!

### Bronze:

Clarkston Heights PTA  
Lutacaga PTA  
Longview PTA  
Cascade PTA  
Jefferson PTA

Jason Lee PTA  
Lewis & Clark PTA  
Tapteal PTA  
Marcus Whitman PTA  
Chief Joseph Middle PTA

Carmichael Middle PTA  
Enterprise Middle PTA  
Hanford Secondary PTSA  
Richland High PTSA

### Silver:

Prosser Combined PTSA  
Middle PTA

Lewis & Clark PTA

Chief Joseph

SIGN UP FOR  
THE NPTA  
PARENT  
NEWSLETTER—  
'PTA PARENT' AT  
[WWW.PTA.ORG](http://WWW.PTA.ORG)

## Membership Tips from your RMC

Remember that your membership campaigns are a year-long activity. It is the responsibility of the entire board and the membership chair to continue to recruit new members. Here are a few tips when making contact with potential members.

**“Listen.** Instead of just “selling” PTA, take the time to ask what people’s interests and needs are.

**Personalize.** It’s important to make a personal connection. Find out what may motivate the potential member to join, and share personal stories about how PTA has helped you and your child.

**Ask.** Don’t wait for the other person to take the initiative to volunteer: Just ask! Ask for a very specific commitment on a certain project that the person may be interested in. Most people – especially men – will not join if they are not specifically asked to do so.

**Record.** Keep a contact log of when you talked to people and what they said so you can follow up with them later.”

(National PTA Membership Outreach Guide)

## WSPTA 2010 Convention & Annual Meeting!!

**Shaping a Brighter Future - 2010 WSPTA Annual Convention and General Meeting  
Mark your Calendars!**

Make sure you to add next years Convention dates your PTA Calendars, April 30th - May 2nd 2010. Keep checking the WSPTA website for more information on the 97th Annual Convention. Also look for information on this important event in the mail in early 2010. Please try to send at least one person to this event. Not only are there great training available, chocolate, fundraising and activity ideas, chocolate – it is the association’s annual meeting. This year we will be electing a Secretary, Finance Officer, Leadership Director and Program Director, along with a new nominating committee. Did I mention chocolate?

Hope to see you there!

# January 2010

## **Election Updates!**

### **Levy Elections coming in February**

Many school districts will be having Levy Elections in February 2010. I encourage all of you to check with your local school district, educate yourself and vote! If you are not registered to vote, please do so. Most schools and post offices have the paperwork to register – do so today!

### **Region Director Elections**

Elections for the new Region 12 Director will be happening in January of 2010. A ballot will be mailed to all local unit presidents – please vote according to your Standing Rules and return the ballot. As with all other elections, it is important to have a quorum vote in order to ratify the election.

Visit the Region 12 website for more information.

### **Voter Registration**

If you, or someone you know, is not registered to vote, please do so! You can register to vote at your county offices, most schools and some post offices. If you have a child turning 18, have them register also. This is an important civic duty that is our way to have a say in our government.

**Every Vote Counts!**

## **Top 5 Legislative Issues**

The new legislative session is just around the corner—do you remember the WSPTA’s Top 5 Legislative issues for 2009 & 2010? If not, here is a quick refresher:

1. Basic Education Funding
2. Strengthening Math & Science Curriculum and Education
3. Washington State Assessment System Improvements
4. Support State Board of Education CORE 24 Framework
5. Support Rational Approaches to Teacher Compensation

For more information on these issues, as well as the supported issues, please go to [wastatepta.org](http://wastatepta.org) and click on the Advocacy Button.

## **Nominating Committee**

Happy New Year! If you haven’t done so already, it’s time to start getting a nominating committee together.

The Nominating Committee is one of the most important committees a PTA/PTSA has. Their selections will influence the future of your PTA/PTSA. The Nominating Committee is charged with recruiting the most qualified people for the available positions

and should also be qualified for this position. It is helpful if they have a broad knowledge of the membership.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least 3 members, with 2 alternates, must be elected at a General Membership meeting at least 30 days prior to the election of officers and must have been a member of the PTA/PTSA for at least 30 days. An individ-

ual cannot serve on the committee for 2 consecutive years. This committee is not to be appointed by the President and neither the President nor the school Principal shall sit on the committee.

For more information consult your leadership packet, WSPTA Bylaws, a service delivery team member, or the WSPTA website.

**YOU CAN NOW FILE YOUR NON PROFIT ANNUAL CORPORATION REPORT ONLINE! LOOK FOR A POSTCARD TO BE COMING IN THE MAIL, ALONG WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM WSPTA ON HOW TO DO THIS. YOU WILL NEED A CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD TO COMPLETE THE TRANSACTION.**

**GREAT DISCOUNTS FROM NATIONAL COMPANIES WITH YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIP:**  
[BARNESANDNOBLE.COM](http://BARNESANDNOBLE.COM)  
 HP ACEDEMY STORE  
 MEDICALERT  
 METLIFE AUTO & HOME  
 ONECAUSE CREDIT CARD  
 PTA AWARDS CARD  
 SHARP ELECTRONICS  
 SOUTHWEST AIRLINE  
 VACATIONS  
 T-MOBILE

**FOR MORE INFO GO TO [WWW.PTA.ORG](http://WWW.PTA.ORG)!**

# January 2010

## Free E-Learning Courses Offered by National PTA

The National PTA website is a valuable resource for PTA leaders and members. There are money saving benefits for all members and articles that can be used for your newsletters.

One of the resources available is the free E-learning. This training allows you to hone your PTA leadership skills at your own pace at home. Your Council Board of Directors can pick/choose which e-lessons they would like to review together.

To find the E-learning on the website go to the "Running a PTA" tab then "Leadership Training." Once there you will see E-Learning in the middle of the page. Current courses include; Cultural Competency, PTA Basics, Parliamentary Procedures, Reflections 101, Running a Successful PTA Program, Planning your year and Grant writing to name a few.

You will be asked to log in and the username and password are found on the back of your PTA membership card. For the 09-10 year the username is Parents and the password is TakeAction.

That login and password will browse the website to find other treasurers. Look for the Idea Bank to see what other PTA's are doing.

These resources are available to you to help you become effective leaders!

## Outreach News

CISL Center for Improvement of Student learning a part of OSPI.

[www.yourlearningcenter.org](http://www.yourlearningcenter.org)

Resources like this one and many more can be found through their website

Tips for building learning skills for young children

**Let them choose** – Give kids a chance to make simple choices, such as what to wear or what to eat for snack

**Help them finish what they start** – Children experience great satisfaction when they try and finish new things. Give them a bit of support when they need it, but be careful not to take over completely

**Nurture creativity** – Encourage children to ask questions, try different ways of using materials, or offer them a wide range of new experiences

**Don't rush activities** – Whether at home or in preschool, children need extended periods of time to really get involved in activities and to experience the "engagement" that is such an important foundation for learning

**Provide encouragement** – All children start life eager to learn, but if adults are critical, that eagerness may disappear by the elementary grades. Look for achievements to praise and acknowledge your child's progress whenever possible

This information was found at <http://www.pbs.org>

Many of the resources have been translated into many languages spoken here in Washington State. Check out the website:

[www.yourlearningcenter.org](http://www.yourlearningcenter.org)

WSPTA CONVENTION

APRIL 30—MAY 2, 2010

DOUBLETREE HOTEL, SEATAC, WA

Washington State PTA  
2003 65<sup>th</sup> Ave West  
Tacoma, WA 98466

Non-Profit. Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Tacoma, WA  
Permit No. 474

**Every Child, One Voice**

***PTA Vision:** Making Every Child's Potential a Reality.*

***PTA Mission:** PTA 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 school, 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; and encouraging parent and community involvement.*

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**We're on the Web:**  
**[www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org)**

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