



2014-15 Annual Report



President's Message

Heather Gillette



As my two years as the Washington State PTA President comes to an end, it has truly been an honor to work with so many devoted, passionate, and dedicated child advocates. Every day, each of you has inspired me in helping every child reach their potential. And how has this exhibited itself? Through bold leadership, courageous actions, inspiring others, and pioneering new ideas and ways to support our mission.

Our challenge has been to embrace new ideas and make courageous choices. We have supported each other so that the Association grows and adapts to new technologies, embraces innovation, and values the diversity of our membership. Our goals have included increasing membership, retaining local PTAs, reaching out to under-represented communities across the state and, most of all, ensuring that our advocacy encompasses every facet of a child's life: the "whole child."

You inspire your child. When you became engaged with your school you expanded your circle and you began to inspire other children. You

have done amazing things for all kids at your school, through your work and through the Washington State PTA.

I believe we all want to make a difference in the world. A part of that difference is family engagement and how essential engagement is to our communities. PTA is about building communities. One of the important aspects about PTA is the brand: known, trusted and respected. The PTA brand understands that while engagement is important for my child – my first priority – engagement is also important for the other children in my child's classroom and school. The PTA brand says 'if this is good for my child's school, then it is certainly good for the children in the neighboring schools'. If my child has these great benefits now, one day my child will be at another school with other children and I want them to be surrounded by those who had the benefits that my child had. When my child grows up and becomes a part of a new community, I want their community

to be filled with others who had the experiences and access to learning that my child has. Sometime in the future, I want my grandkids to enter into a system better than we have now. It is through leaders like you, advocates like you, that we step up and make it work. Through the connections and partnerships we build through our time in PTA, we affect change.

I encourage each of you, as leaders, to develop one goal to achieve next year on how to increase family engagement at your school. While family engagement can start with PTA, remember it is about helping families understand the small ways they are important and effective in partnering with the school to work towards increased success for their child. Understanding that they are one very important leg of a three legged stool that includes them, the school and their child.

Inspiration is in the quiet moments. It happens every day. Thank you for all that you do: for your dedication to children and for being an inspiration.

Message From Incoming WSPTA President

Barbara Martin

I am honored to be your WSPTA President for 2015-2017.

Our mission statement speaks to advocating for the well-being and education of every child. Rest assured that WSPTA leadership will continue to work to ensure that a climate of engagement and collaboration is fostered for all that serve the spirit of that mission.

With strong leadership and an engaged membership, we can and must ensure that Washington State PTA remains relevant as the state's premier child advocacy association. Let us work together to continue to be courageous and to work most effectively to benefit all children.



About the WSPTA

Founded in 1905, the Washington Congress of Parents and Teachers, better known as the Washington State PTA, is the largest volunteer organization in the state, with more than 132,000 members in more than 900 local PTAs across the state.

When you join your local PTA or PTSA, you become part of our state association and the larger National PTA. Your voice joins tens of thousands across Washington and millions across the United States as advocates for children.

Washington State PTA was founded in 1905 by Abby Williams Hill of Tacoma, an artist who saw the need for an organization to support Washington's children. Thanks to her leadership and vision—and that of thousands of parents and teachers who have carried her vision forward—Washington State PTA has been a leading voice for children in Washington for more than 106 years.

In addition to supporting the work at the national level, here are some specific examples of PTA successes right here in Washington:

- Washington State PTA coined the term “preschool” and mentored parents of toddlers long before early childhood education was accepted and expected.
- Before there was public funding for well-child exams, PTAs hosted back-to-school “round-ups” with medical volunteers.
- When moms went to work during World War II, Washing-



2014-2015 WSPTA Board

- ton PTAs arranged day care.
- When local levies failed in the 1950s and kindergartens went unfunded, Washington State PTA first organized kindergarten “co-ops,” then worked to secure state funding for universal kindergarten.
- As part of a coalition of community and statewide groups, Washington State PTA was instrumental in promoting the use of seat belts to save lives.
- Thousands of volunteers from Washington State PTA helped secure the passage of the “simple majority” for school levies amendment to the state constitution in 2007.
- Working collaboratively with other education and child advocacy groups, Washington State PTA played a leading role in securing the passage of major education reform efforts in Washington: House Bill 2261 (2009), House Bill 2776 and Senate Bill 6696 (2010).

Washington State PTA today is a vibrant active association of people from all walks of life and all backgrounds, working together toward a common vision that every child's potential should become a reality.

The WSPTA provides:

- Leadership training for thou-

sands of local PTA leaders each year, training that helps them address the nuts and bolts of their PTA responsibilities, but also prepares them to assume greater leadership roles in their communities and the state.

- A strong voice advocating for children at the local and state level through a combination of grass roots advocacy and a full-time staff to coordinate those efforts and represent the association in Olympia;
- Family and community outreach efforts at the local and state level to ensure our membership reflects the rich diversity of the children on whose behalf we advocate.

Stand Up, Speak Up, Show Up

*By Scott Allen,
Past WSPTA President*

Encouraging others
With words to convey
Moving us beyond
Where we are today

For all that we do With
children at our core
Our PTA efforts
Should be so much more

More than just fundraising
More than Reflections
More than teacher grants, t-shirts, or
Conventions

Let's gather together The
status quo to disrupt We're
all so much stronger
When upon our convictions we
STAND UP!

Using our voices we risk To
be too abrupt
But as child advocates know
We're compelled to SPEAK UP!

So don't hold back now Let
your enthusiasm erupt
Washington State PTA's great
Because you cared to SHOW UP!

Past Washington State PTA President to be Next National PTA President

Past WSPTA president, Laura Bay, will be installed as the National PTA president for 2015-2017 at the June 2015 National PTA Convention. Prior to being elected as the National PTA president-elect, she served a two- year term as National PTA secretary-treasurer.

“I decided to run for NPTA president because I felt that I had the passion, drive and desire to take one more step in support of my belief of the PTA mission. I never had a goal to attain the next level, but at each step of my involvement I saw a need and felt I had the passion and desire and knew that I would have to do a lot of learning along the way to do a good job,” Bay said. As the Washington State PTA president in 2007–2009, Bay led the Washington State PTA in collaborating with other organizations in the successful passage of Engrossed House Joint Resolution (EHJR) 4204—Simple Majority Initiative. When elected as WSPTA president, Bay’s youngest was in high school and she was employed as a teacher at an elementary school for five years. “Having spent so many years as a parent/community advocate in PTA and then adding in the role of

teacher in PTA made it a natural step to run for WSPTA president and continue my work on behalf of all children. The PTA mission, purpose and values are what continues to inspire me in all my work - at my job and in my volunteer capacity.”

Bay began her PTA experience at the local level, serving in a number of positions, including: secretary, treasurer, vice president, president, legislative chair, membership chair, nominating committee and audit committee, and at the council level as secretary, vice president, president, legislative chair, Founders Day chair, audit and nominating committee.

“Probably the position that is closest to my heart is the legislative chair position – building unit and council capacity to encourage parent/PTA members to advocate for their issues and councils, from playground safety to school closures, re-boundary of schools to curriculum and shared decision making in the buildings,” she said. “This advocacy is what makes PTA



different from other parent organizations and inspired me to attend many legislative conferences, become involved at the region service delivery team level and onto state PTA board.”



Bay teaching a convention class during her term as WSPTA President

WSPTA Board of Directors

Heather Gillette, President
Barbara Martin, Vice President
Leanne Hawkins, Secretary
Karen Albers, Finance Officer
Dori Tate, Leadership Director
Caroline Brown, Membership Director
Michelle Nims, Program Director
Sherry Krainick, Legislative Director
Ray Kusumi, Family and Community Engagement Director
Cindy Kleinfelter, Region 1 Director
Jane Dulski, Region 2 Director
Teri Davis, Region 3 Director
Kristi Shafer, Region 4 Director
Cheryl Child, Acting Region 5 Director
Janice Kutzero, Region 6 Director
Jenny Forbes, Region 7 Director
Barbara Martin, Interim Region 8 Director
Sharon Pfeiffer, Region 9 Director
Patti DeRusha, Acting Region 10 Director
Amanda Shipman, Region 11 Director
Connie Andrews, Region 12 Director
Karen Albers, Interim Region 15 Director

WSPTA Staff

Kathryn Hobbs, Executive Director
Tatia Vasbinder, Local Unit Support
Denise Hines, Corporate Finance Officer
Julie Lichtenberg, Communications and Marketing Specialist
Karen Fisker-Andersen, Communications Coordinator
Amanda Starr-Smith, Executive Assistant
Timothy Farrell, Family and Community Engagement/Advocacy Consultant
Kirk Miller, Consultant

Region Accomplishments

Submitted by Region Directors

PTA is doing great things across the state! Here are some highlights shared by region directors of some of the great things that were accomplished this past school year. Thanks to the grassroots efforts of local PTAs, councils and regions, PTA is making a difference and helping to make every child's potential a reality in many ways across Washington state!

Region 1

Cindy Kleinfelter

Accomplishments:

- The Central Kitsap PTSA Council hosted a Daddy Daughter Dance in February 2015. This is a community event and they had 1,700 participants. This event is a fundraiser for the council, who annually award \$7,500 scholarships to graduating seniors from the three high schools in the district. Their Dorothy Tubberville Memorial scholarship program has been in existence for approximately 15 years.
- A community and county based PTSA was launched in
- The Central Kitsap Council,

the Fall of 2014, operating out of Port Orchard. SODA PTSA's (Support of Different Abilities Parent Teacher Student Association) main goal is to advocate for equal opportunity in education throughout Kitsap County for children of all abilities.



Region 1 -- Daddy Daughter Dance



Region 2 -- Children and PTA members from Region 2 advocate for schools.

the Bremerton Council and the South Kitsap Council all hosted Reflections Ceremonies to celebrate the accomplishments of the students in their districts who participated in this national program. There are three students in the Central Kitsap District (all from Klahowya Secondary School) that were Outstanding Interpretation winners and their entries have moved on to National.

Making a Difference For Kids:

Region 1 has approximately 55 PTAs and councils. On a daily basis, we can count on hundreds of volunteer hours from our members and community leaders in the schools, along with help at events that honor staff, recognize volunteers, help to raise funds through book fairs, auctions, and family fun nights. These events benefit the schools and students with books, grants, field trips, playgrounds, garden projects, outdoor education and volunteers for district taskforces and committees. ALL programs and events benefit the students, staff and families of the communities in which they operate.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region Director:

The past (almost)

two years have been an interesting experience. My goals of helping the units in my region with programs, operation, finances, goal setting and training have been fulfilled. Some months were super busy with running from meeting to meeting. There is a learning experience in everything you encounter. You just have to listen and find a way to do the best you can.

Region 2

Jane Dulski

Accomplishments:

- The three top accomplishments for Region 2 are: providing leadership development (which included two region-wide conferences, multiple council-sponsored training, and many individual PTA hosted training); chartering a new alternative high

school PTSA; and hosting a community outreach/resource fair in multiple councils.

Making a Difference For Kids:

The PTAs and the councils in my region have played an active role in our communities by supporting many of the outreach activities. This has included food drives for weekend backpack programs and connecting parents with community resources. Region 2 has also been active in providing engaging and informative parent education programs.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region Director:

The most rewarding part of being region director is seeing leaders growing in leadership. Having been around for a while in a supportive council and region, I've had the chance to see PTA officers start in positions in their children's schools, advance to council and even a few state-level positions. This gives me the most joy in what I do as a PTA leader (in addition to having an excuse to be an active part of my children's education!).

Region 3

Teri Davis

Accomplishments:

- All PTAs in Region 3 completed the PTA & the Law training and



Region 3 -- Vancouver Council PTA members and their children at Focus Day with Representative Sharon Wylie.

95% of our elected officers completed their training. This year we offered the most Region 3 trainings ever, with 8 local events for our PTA leaders and members; 243 leaders participated in one or more trainings.

- WSPTA Legislative Assembly was held in Vancouver, WA and we were happy to have more attendees from our region than ever before. Members from our region submitted proposals and spoke up at the event sharing ideas for resolutions and were involved in setting our WSPTA legislative priorities.

Making a Difference For Kids:

Our Region 3 PTAs are involved in our southwest Washington community in many different ways. Some PTAs are working to bring families into the schools by working on community gardens or sprucing up the landscaping around the school. Still, others are promoting book exchanges and read-a-thons; others promote fitness by having walk-a-thons or raise funds for walking trails at their schools. We even had a PTA coordinate a Community Health and Safety Fair which drew in 100's of people interacting with our community law enforcement and emergency service providers, as well as a police dog demonstration and a life flight helicopter landing. The common thing is that all PTAs strive to work with their school administrators and families to bridge the connection between home and school, but the way they do that varies greatly.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region Director: I have enjoyed my time as region director and discovered my passion - leadership development. I've loved being able to offer



Region 6 -- Northshore students with Governor Inslee.

free training to our region officers and members and encourage new people to step up to leadership with confidence. At the beginning of my term I made a commitment to communication and reaching out to all of the PTAs in the region. I wanted our leaders to know who the region director was, have a point of contact and a quick response to questions; I'm happy to say that emails from our leaders and members and helping to be a resource to them has been a lot of fun.

Region 4

Kristi Shafer

Accomplishments:

- Membership increased over the last year and met the region membership goal; first region in the state to do so! As a member-driven organization, this increased our voice for all children.
- Clear and continuous two-way communication: hearing the local PTA questions and issues, and reminding them that the region director is there to help, support and find answers for them.
- Three out of five local PTAs that did not have their non-profit status have worked and applied

for their 501c(3). Working with a non-profit status allows a PTA to do much more to support schools and families.

Making a Difference For Kids:

Region 4 is mostly made up of low income areas; some up to 70% with free and reduced lunches. The local PTAs had many free family events to support their families and small fundraisers that meet their financial needs.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region Director:

I find assisting the officers of local PTAs, finding the answers they need and want in order to be successful and meet their goals, to be very rewarding. I love being a teacher, spokesperson, liaison, fact-finder and guide. I feel rewarded every time I can help a PTA or even just one officer.

Region 5

Cheryl Child

Accomplishments:

- Membership growth
- Met region membership goal
- Increased training opportunities which led to the overall increased training of local PTAs

Making a Difference For Kids:

The PTAs and councils in Region 5 continue to strive toward the betterment of our children's lives. We have done this by working with our school districts to help ensure our students have what they need. In Puyallup Council this took the form of partnering with the district to collate packets of flyers from outside organizations four times a year to ensure our students had access to sports, camps, and may other extracurricular activities. Bethel Area Council has a successful Bethel Days and Dreambuilder program.



PTA leaders at the WSPTA Legislative Assembly.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region

Director: One of the most rewarding things I have experienced as a Region Director is getting to meet all the people in my surrounding communities.

Region 6

Janice Kutzera

Accomplishments:

- We've improved communication in Region 6, and are a relevant resource for families, schools and our communities. Last Fall our 130 PTA and council officers received a traditional newsletter with information on how to get their year off to a great start. We then transitioned to an electronic format of communication which is sent every few weeks. The eNews contains timely information, tips, articles and links to help our leaders be even stronger.
- Our PTAs and councils have really worked on the education and the well-being of children and families this year. Northshore Council has dedicated a portion of every meeting to a new program called "EMBRACE" (Empowering Many By Recognizing A Common Endeavor) to hear from other groups in their community who are working to improve the lives of their families. Seattle PTAs work very hard to improve education and had

an amazing showing of support from parents at Focus Day. Shoreline is incredibly connected to their community partners and helps provide consistent and meaningful assistance to their students and families along with other community groups and businesses.

- We've made our voice stronger by educating and communicating with our leaders. Our PTAs have had individual attention from our service delivery team and councils. At least 90% of our PTAs have received important education on non-profit federal and state law. Relationships have been built in these individual connections, which in turn makes our advocacy and leadership development stronger.

Making a Difference For Kids:

We have made the lives of our students and families better in Region 6. Through programs like Northshore Community Kitchen and Shoreline's "The Works", we reduced hunger, provided backpacks and school supplies, haircuts, clothing, and other family resources. Seattle's UFEN (Urban Family Engagement Network) helped parents understand more about their school system and develop advocacy skills to help their children and ALL children.

Rewarding Opportunity as Re-

gion Director: Being a region director has been challenging and rewarding. It has strengthened my PTA knowledge through research done when helping local PTAs and councils. It has been an absolute joy working with parents and teachers who want more for their students, and providing tools for them to accomplish these goals through PTA. I've learned from others and made new friends, and look forward to working with my team to make Region 6 PTAs even stronger next year.

Region 7

Jenny Forbes

Accomplishments:

- Working together - Our area was still reeling from the Oso tragedy, when the shooting at Marysville Pilchuck High School happened. As they did after Oso, PTAs from across the region (and state) offered their support.

Making a Difference For Kids:

The Everett PTSA Council has made a huge difference in our community. They work tirelessly to provide support to the schools in the Everett School District. This school year the district added a part-time position of School District Liaison that particularly focuses on encouraging family engagement in Title I schools.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region

Director: I particularly enjoy being a region director because I get to empower other PTA leaders to be successful. I really enjoy providing support, leadership development, and inspiration to the PTA leaders at the local and council levels.

Whether they have a problem, or just need some encouragement and recognition, I enjoy working with my team to provide it.

Region 8

Barbara Martin

Accomplishments:

- A new PTA was chartered at Kendall Elementary School in Maple Falls, bringing the community PTA's powerful voice, resources and advocacy.
- Region 8 partnered in piloting PTA and the Law training via webinar, for the first time ever. This important training provided leaders resources to bring sound business practices to their individual non-profit corporations.
- A new region director has been identified for 2015-2017. Residency in the region will bring much-needed consistency to support the membership, and training and leadership development for volunteers serving their local PTAs.

Making a Difference For Kids:

Region 8 is diverse in its geography boasting island communities, mountain townships, college towns, and more densely populated urban areas. With all that, the PTA vision and mission is alive and well in the service of the region's PTA leaders as they work everyday to support and engage kids, families and schools, no matter where they are located.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region

Director: With an acting region director living quite a distance from the area being served, the training needs of the region could not have been met without the help of Jenny Forbes, director of adjacent Region 7, and her service delivery team. They made the trip north on more than

one occasion to support Region 8 PTAs in a variety of ways. Their donation of time and service was invaluable.

Region 9

Sharon Pfeiffer

Accomplishments:

- Held several region trainings with the goal of getting all of our local PTAs and councils in compliance with the training requirement.
- Sponsored a Legislative and Common Core Town Hall for Washington State PTA in Auburn.
- Chartered several new local PTAs over the last two years; which include three new special needs PTAs.

Making a Difference For Kids:

- Region 9 has several special needs PTAs and one deaf PTA. Region 9 helps to make a difference by establishing non-traditional PTAs.
- Region 9 is helping to serve groups who may have been under-represented in the past and bring those together whose needs may be different than a traditional PTA and its members. It will be interesting to watch them continue to grow and thrive in the PTA community.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region

Director: Being region director has been a very rewarding experience and being involved at the state level has brought me a greater understanding of this wonderful organization with which we belong. I have learned so much from the leaders at all levels and hope that I have made a difference and contribution to Washington State PTA

and the children in our state.

Region 10

Patti DeRusha

Accomplishments:

Councils and over 65 local PTAs, had numerous outstanding activities and events that enhanced the lives of their families, teachers and schools, the community and most of all the students. Among their accomplishments this year:

- Chartered Meriwether PTA on JBLM
- Partnered with other regions for PTA and the Law presentations
- Tacoma Council Reflections Award Program

Making a Difference for Kids:

Region 10 provided region and local unit training on a variety of topics this year, making training a top priority, local PTAs worked very hard to make sure they were in compliance with training requirements, and focused on ensuring that their resources were used to enhance their goals for supporting children. Additionally, they each worked very hard to ensure that they were in financial compliance.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region

Director: It has been very rewarding this year as acting region director that so many PTAs are finding the value in getting their training completed to ensure that they have information that will enhance their local PTA's ability to make a huge difference to so many families, teachers, and children. Because of their outstanding training accomplishments and support to the community, their outreach has educated many on the value of PTA. For me, it was great to see that many of our units attended convention for the first time.

Region 11

Amanda Shipman

Accomplishments:

- Region 11 had a lot of great and amazing things happen this year; the biggest accomplishment is that Region 11 became whole again. Trust was built between myself and the local PTAs. A lot of one on one training was completed. Our team is working with the dedicated leaders in the Wenatchee school district to start a council. Our hope is that PTAs would be started in the remaining Wenatchee schools. Finding volunteers and even members has been a struggle this year. We are working to find creative ways to build a team spirit so that our PTAs not only feel support but are supported. These plans have us setting goals and following the mission of WSPTA. Our ultimate goal is to see local PTAs gaining strength and becoming a powerful voice for all children.

Making a Difference For Kids:

Council leaders stepped up to make training available at every meeting. Brooke Knobel stepped up as the Reflections “go to” person. She visited local PTAs to help their Reflections campaign and brought in people throughout the community to be a part of a 50 participant Reflections Ceremony, in hope that next year will be even bigger.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region

Director: Being appointed region director this year has opened my heart even more to PTA. I was able to train wonderful people but I also had the opportunity to help local PTAs. I was there, I am there and I will always be there to help. To see the way WSPTA operates made me



Region 15 -- Ashley Amado, a student from Lewis & Clark High School (Spokane), delivered a speech during Focus Day rally on the Capitol steps. Later, Governor Inslee proclaimed her as 'Washingtonian of the Day.' She is seen with President Heather Gillette inside the Governor's conference room.

understand the importance our local PTAs play. If you have a passion for PTA, this position is for you.

Region 12

Connie Andrews

Accomplishments:

- Region 12 has worked on building interpersonal relationships.
- We worked on sharing ideas between local PTAs so PTAs don't have to reinvent the wheel.
- Increased communication was also a big goal this year.

Making a Difference for Kids:

- The council helped local PTAs by offering training at the council meeting. The region had a small service delivery team but we were able to get our local PTAs the training they needed and help them with whatever issues that arose.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region

Director: It's great being a leader in an organization that supports

and empowers volunteers to put all kids first; children not just in their communities but in the state and across the nation.

Region 15

Karen Albers

Accomplishments:

- This year, our focus was to ensure that all Region 15 local PTA and council officers received training. We held a record number of training opportunities, including: 1) fall and spring region conferences; 2) seven webinars; 3) three PTA & the Law workshops; and 4) individualized officer/board training, upon request. Attendees also had opportunities to learn more about the common core state standards and smarter balanced assessments, thanks to a grant from College Spark.
- Advocacy fever is spreading through Region 15. Summer Cline Huber, president of Betz PTA in Cheney, submitted the issue “Increase Playground Safety” for consideration at the 2014 WSPTA Legislative Assembly. The issue was adopted by the delegates and is on the WSPTA 2014-16 platform. In addition, the region was well represented on this year's WSPTA Legislative Committee by Carol Smith. As the region legislative chair, Carol had the opportunity to attend her first Legislative Assembly and Focus Day.
- A special acknowledgment to the Spokane County Special Needs PTA 15.13.200, which serves 14 different school districts surrounding the Spokane area. Under the leadership of Darci Ladwig, the officers have worked hard to ensure that they are well trained, parents of spe-

cial needs children are engaged, and educational opportunities are provided to enable parents to become better advocates for their children.

Making a Difference For Kids:

Our PTAs and council in Region 15 continue to make positive impacts in their schools and community by providing assistance to homeless students, empowering special needs parents, promoting levy and bond campaigns, submitting advocacy issues that can lead to increased playground safety for all students, and by providing activities and programs that enrich the lives of their students and families.

Rewarding Opportunity as Region Director:

It was a pleasure to serve as the acting region 15 director this year. While traveling around the region to conduct training, I enjoyed meeting PTA leaders from Chewelah, Okanogan, Pullman, Cheney, Spokane and Spokane Valley to learn about their passions and the great work they are doing on behalf of their students, families and staff. We conducted seven training and workshop webinars to provide PTAs with additional training opportunities without leaving their homes, published three region newsletters, emailed a bi-monthly region eNewsblast, and maintained the region Facebook page. While I thoroughly enjoy providing training and service to local PTAs, the highlight of my year was chartering a new special needs PTA whose focus has been to empower parents with skills to effectively advocate for their children.

Advocacy Report

Sherry Krainick

Washington State PTA has a long history of effective advocacy on behalf of ALL children in our state. The 2014 – 2015 legislative cycle brought new challenges which resulted in new ideas which were moved forward by our members and fully embraced advocacy of the whole child on our 2015 Top Five issues platform.

The Top Five issues for 2015 are:

- Fully Fund McCleary
- Promoting Social and Emotional Learning
- Increasing Capital Funding
- Increased Access to Higher Education
- Breakfast after the Bell

Washington State PTA continues to be an effective voice for ALL children, advocating for access to health, welfare and education programs which allow every child to reach their potential.

The legislative committee, state leadership and staff led an effort to increase grassroots member en-



Sherry Krainick, WSPTA Legislative Director

gagement in new ways throughout the 2014 -2015 legislative cycle. The strength of Washington State PTA is found in the more than 130,000 grassroots member advocates who raise their voices in a chorus of support for policies and programs that impact every child. The Legislative Committee developed and embraced new processes that included:

- Revised process and review of issue submittals
- Implementation of Engage software web tools including the development of the "Advocacy News" newsletter
- Revised programming and process at Legislative Assembly
- Development of issue teams
- Developed new issues and advocacy classes for convention.

The 2014 issue submittal process was completed digitally through our website for the first time. This allowed for streamlining and ease of access to all issues by the legislative committee. The issues were organized under our long-term platform areas sections called Legislative Principles which are



Member delegation at Focus Day 2015

the broad descriptions of our PTA values. More than 25 issues were submitted by members, researched by staff and region legislative chairs, then vetted by the entire legislative committee in July and reviewed by the board in August. The legislative team then began preparing each issue for Legislative Assembly utilizing our new advocacy web tool called Engage. The Engage tool replaced our former Capwiz system and provides not only the “PTA Takes Action” action alert system but an entire web presence with a communication platform that keeps our grassroots advocates up-to-date; the “Advocacy News” newsletter is sent weekly during the legislative session.

Legislative Assembly also changed in 2014. Our issue submitters had the opportunity to approach their issue education in a new way. We introduced “Issue Speed Geeking”. Yes, speed geeking is a real thing! We set up two of the large rooms with 12 issues in each room. Each issue submitter was charged with preparing a tri-fold presentation board to be on display throughout Legislative Assembly. They utilized the display board to speak about their issue during Speed Geeking sessions that were 10 minutes in length and repeated five times during the hour. Overall, this new

process provided member access to issue education on more issues. In addition to the change in issue education, we also changed the way issues were voted on at Legislative Assembly. The ballots were divided into education issues and health/welfare issues in an effort to reflect whole child advocacy. Members were required to select at least one item from each of the two lists. This resulted in a balanced advocacy platform that truly reflects whole child advocacy efforts of PTA. Washington State PTA has received praise from advocacy partners and legislators throughout the state and at national levels too for the diversity of our legislative platform.

On day seven of the 2015 legislative session, Washington State PTA held its annual Focus Day in Olympia. More than 500 members, children and friends attended and participated in a variety of events. While children attended programming in the Columbia Room, their parents had meetings with their legislators and all attended the noon rally on the Capitol steps, where we heard from legislators about their commitment to support our Top Five platform.

The key priority for Focus Day was to raise our voices in support of action to Fully Fund McCleary. As

the legislative session progressed, the legislative committee continued its work to review legislation impacting children and relating to our legislative platform. The committee met by teleconference weekly and included the platform issue team leads. We planned public testimony each week on key legislation to include our grassroots.

The legislature has seen many new faces testify on behalf of WSPTA, embodying the true nature of grassroots advocacy. The new issue teams are a powerful tool in moving the WSPTA legislative platform forward. Together we are making a difference for ALL children.

Updated content was provided in our advocacy classes at the 2015 Annual Washington State PTA Convention, as well as the introduction of two new classes: Telling your Advocacy Story and Civil Discourse: How We Disagree is Key to Advocacy. The WSPTA can provide you with the tools to be a powerful advocate for children.

As your Washington State legislative director, I am proud of the time, effort, and flexibility of a very talented legislative committee that has worked diligently to engage our grassroots advocates to be the voice of Washington State’s children. Our advocacy program has grown and every member plays a role. Every PTA member can be that powerful voice for all children; can be a relevant resource for families, schools and communities; and be a strong advocate for the well-being and education of every child. Together, we can make every child’s potential a reality.



Members with Governor Inslee

Federal Legislative Update
In March, Washington State PTA

sent a delegation to the National PTA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. They attended workshops and training on federal issues impacting the lives of children. In addition, they met with Washington State's Senators and Representatives to advocate for the National PTA Public Policy Agenda including:

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (reauthorization) & Family Engagement in Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Special Education
- Education Funding
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- School Safety
- Child Nutrition

Our delegation also had the distinct privilege of presenting Senator Patty Murray with the National PTA Congressional Voice for Children Award. Currently the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), Senator Murray is a former PTA member and a longtime champion for the education, health and overall well-being of our children. Last Congress, Senator Murray was the architect of the "Murray-Ryan Budget Agreement," landmark bipartisan legislation that avoided a government shutdown and rolled back harmful cuts to education funding. A former preschool teacher, Senator Murray is one of the strongest advocates in the Senate of increasing access to high-quality early education for every child and was an original cosponsor of the Strong Start for America's Children Act last year. She also supported several other PTA-endorsed bills including the Safe Schools Improvement



WSPTA Members presenting the NPTA Congressional Voice for Children award to Senator Patty Murray

Act and the IDEA Full Funding Act.

This year, she has worked alongside Senator Lamar Alexander on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee to craft the Every Child Achieves Act which is the current option to replace the

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). National PTA and Washington State PTA will be following the progress of this legislation closely. For more information and to take action on federal legislation, please visit the National PTA website at PTA.org.

WSPTA Legislative Testimony Highlights

Total number of bills (26)

Total number of individual PTA members testifying (14)

Total number of times a PTA member has testified this year (39)

Providing testimony on:

- Breakfast after the Bell (HB 1295 and SB 5437)
- Social and Emotional Learning (HB 1760 and SB 5688)
- Financial Literacy (House and Senate Versions)
- Omnibus Opportunity Gap (HB 1541)
- Student Privacy (HB 1495 and SB 5419)
- Foster Care (HB 1999)
- Homeless Students (HB 1682)
- Capital Funding (Pedersen Bill SB 5859)
- Capital Funding (Hill/Keiser Bill SB 6080)
- Governor's Budget (In Senate)
- Lowering Bond Requirements (HB 1941)
- Paraeducators (SB 5179)
- Transition Services for Special Education Students (SB 5679)
- Operating Budget House (HB 1106)
- Operating Budget Senate (SB 5077)
- Capital Gains Bill House (HB 1484)
- Capital Gains Bill Senate (SB 6102)
- Senate Democrats Education Financing Plan (SB 6104)
- Senate Republicans Education Financing Plan (SB 6109)
- House Capital Budget (HB 1115)
- Senate Capital Budget (SB 5442)
- Concerning Extended Foster Care Services (SB 5740)

Leadership Report

Dori Tate

- Committee Chairs
- Organize it! Stop Wasting Your Time



PTA leaders from Region 3 at Legislative Assembly.

Leadership Committee Accomplishments

- New presentations and roundtables implemented based on member feedback
- Outside presenters for convention were closely vetted to give our members more of what they were asking for.
- Secondary PTSA section was built for the online leadership guides
- Growth and Development tools were developed to ensure a successful opening and support for brand new PTAs and councils

The lineup of new classes that were produced by this year's leadership

committee is very impressive:

- Ready, Set, Go!
- The Big Picture: Stepping up to Leadership
- Civil Discourse

Over the past two years, five of the leadership committee members have taken on higher level leadership positions within our association.

The most fulfilling part of my volunteer job for WSPTA is the way the leadership committee works together to find a topic(s) for training, watch the training being built, use the training at leadership conference, convention, region conferences and sees that training makes a difference in the leadership development and growth for the association. It truly takes a village!

Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy program recognizes and acknowledges the leadership skills attained by PTA leaders. The purpose is to build a pool of trained leaders for advancement in WSPTA, to encourage good business practices, and to provide peer recognition for the commit-

ment and gift of volunteer time necessary to achieve leadership status. The application can be downloaded from the Programs section of the WSPTA website. Go to www.wastatepta.org, click on "Leadership Resources" then "Leadership Academy."

Training Opportunities

As board members, it is our fiduciary responsibility to manage the corporation in the best interest of its members as a whole. To run programs and handle budgets responsibly, knowledge of the applicable state and federal regulations is key to operate your non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable corporation.

Training is what helps to give our local PTAs credibility. A well-trained and informed board should be a great selling point to encourage the community to join a local PTA. Trained board members should be proud of stepping up to the responsibility in their local unit.

Training opportunities provided

by the WSPTA include: PTA and the Law workshops, region conferences and classes offered at the WSPTA Convention and Legislative Assembly.

Region conferences and PTA and the Law workshops are a member benefit available at no charge to PTA elected officers.

Membership Report

Caroline Brown



Caroline Brown, WSPTA State Member-ship Director

This year's membership team has focused on communication, sharing ideas and the development of new classes to help PTAs think more globally with strategies to

gain new members and retain existing members. One of our strategies for supporting PTAs in their membership efforts this year was the addition of the seedling and sapling awards which recognized PTAs with at least 50% up to 99% membership coverage within their schools. In 2014-2015, we recognized: 101 - 100% teacher PTAs; 11- 100% membership PTAs; 15 - Sapling PTAs; 21 - Seedling PTAs.

We have worked diligently to meet the wide and varied need of our communities. We have formed



Membership campaign example

PTAs for specific needs, abilities and languages. We have made it a goal to reach out to PTAs in our own regions while partnering with other regions to support their PTAs. Our committee is small but mighty as we work with the state office to help PTAs grow and flourish.

I have enjoyed every moment of being your state membership director. It has been a joy to teach, communicate, and mentor our regions, PTAs and members. PTA is an amazing group.



Membership campaign example

Member Benefits

Great Wolf Lodge
Wild Waves Theme Park
Silverwood Theme Park
Tacoma Rainiers
FedEx Office

Membership Services

Movie Licensing USA (MLUSA)

Fundraisers

Game Time Fundraisers
For the Schools
Pacific Mountain Products
Compassion It
Value Village Donation Drive
Fundraisers
Old Country Buffet

Sponsors

Coca-Cola
AIM Insurance
McDonald's
Lifetouch School Studios
PEMCO
GET
COMCAST Infinity



Program Report

Michelle Nims

Reflections

This year's WSPTA Reflections program was completely revamped, including the Reflections guide, website, supporting materials, and class Powerpoint in an effort to make it clear and easy to understand. With almost 1,100 submissions at the state level, we were still able to significantly decrease the number of formatting disqualifications from over 100 last year to less than 30 this year, while also significantly increasing online participation from less than 50% to over 90% (99% after a second chance). Reflections allows WSPTA to support the arts, which is found to have a direct correlation to student success.

Reflections Special Artist Grants

We were able to utilize grant money to offer Reflections special artist grants to help PTAs start or improve their Reflections Special Artist programs. We were able to fully or partially fund grant requests from nine different PTAs and are excited to expand the Special Artist statewide, allowing even more students to participate.

WSPTA Group Awards

WSPTA's group awards were updated and improved this year. All

awards were updated and opened up to councils; we added e-blasts to the Outstanding Newsletter Award, and we piloted online submission with four of our awards this year. We added an "Award Highlight of the Week" in Leadership News to help increase participation and received over 100 award entries from seven of our thirteen regions! The WSPTA group awards (including the Standards of Excellence, Honor PTA, Outstanding Website, etc.) allow our PTAs to celebrate their accomplishments, successes, and hard work, while also finding out where they can improve service to their membership.

PTA Men's Essay Contest

We received over 50 entries for our essay contest recognizing the important contribution men make in children's lives and their education. A writing contest with a theme about male engagement supports not only student literacy but also reinforces the importance of parent and community engagement and how it improves the "whole child".

Accomplishments

This year's programs committee has been hard at work trying to support the work of the other state direc-

tors and the mission and vision of our entire association! We feel the programs we offer allow our PTAs to be a powerful voice for children, a relevant resource for families, schools and communities, and an advocate for the well-being and education of all children. Advocacy, membership, family and community engagement, and leadership development are seen throughout all of the WSPTA group awards (with new awards focusing on advocacy and engagement to come next year). Family and community engagement is seen in the PTA Men's Essay contest, while Reflections advocates for the whole child by supporting arts in school. These programs are open statewide, regardless of your PTA's demographics, geographic location, or socio-economic resources. The programs committee is striving to offer PTAs and the students of Washington every opportunity to better the life of children!

Being a WSPTA state director has allowed me the privilege to advocate for children on an entirely new level. I am no longer focused on "my child", or "the children of my school or district"...I am now focused on the children in the state of Washington. I appreciate the opportunity for my committee to update and add programs that will allow my fellow PTA leaders to do the same. If my committee sees an area for improvement...I can make improvements. I love the opportunity to take a program, like Reflections or the WSPTA group awards, and try to make it better and encourage more PTAs to participate. What an honor!



Family and Community Engagement Report

Ray Kusumi

Accomplishments:

- Training FACE region chairs and others: They attended the Saturday UFEN class sessions during the Fall of 2014; on February 28th, the Train the Trainer class. The key here is to have FACE chairs become the conduit between the families, schools, and the community to connect with each other and to develop a working relationship to support children success in their public school education and at the same time link families to resources. The FACE chairs would also provide training to parents so they can advocate for themselves and their child, with the hope they will then realize the need to advocate for all children. These parents will be the next generation of leaders in our local PTAs.
- Changed the title of the WSPTA State Outreach Director to WSPTA State Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Director (encompassing a broader, more global perspective on what we want to accomplish and who we need to connect to, as we move forward).
- Expanded into "non-traditional and community local PTAs". At this juncture, a Mandarin Chinese PTA, Special Needs PTAs, a Deaf and Hearing Impaired PTA, a Hispanic and Migrant Worker PTA, etc.
- Developed two new FACE classes and a FACE roundtable at the annual WSPTA Convention.



UFEN Team teaching to a diverse group: African-American, Vietnamese, Somali, Hispanic, and Ethiopian families, mostly pre-K (Headstart) and Kindergarten parents at Dunlap Elementary school library. Dinner, child care and interpreters were provided for the families who came.

- The class material will be incorporated into a new FACE Handbook; which will be complete in Fall 2015 and will focus on best practices for local PTAs and others to enhance their membership drives, including: advocacy, outreach, etc. to all communities that are diversified.
- Develop contacts and relationships towards developing capacity and future expansion of the Urban Family Engagement Network (UFEN) program to go statewide by Region FACE chairs.

Making a Difference For Kids:

The UFEN team worked last summer to plan, modify the UFEN curriculum, and gave classes last fall for two cohorts. After some evaluation and "lessons learned", a Train the Trainer session was provided to the FACE committee members; a 2015 spring cohort began in Early March and ended in late April, where the focus was

Headstart parents.

The Dunlap Elementary School library hosted the UFEN team to teach to a diverse group: African American, Vietnamese, Somali, Hispanic, and Ethiopian families that have children in pre-K and kindergarten; dinner, child care, and interpreters were provided for the families who attended.

"What I find rewarding is that work we are doing and the projects we are accomplishing will have a lasting effect on the climate and culture of Washington State PTA. The hope of the FACE committee and UFEN team is that the work they have begun will be a lasting legacy for future parent leaders to build on to help our PTA membership and leadership be reflective of the communities they represent." - Ray Kusumi

Financial Report

Karen Albers

As the finance officer, I am delighted to report on the financial health of the association. Washington State PTA is thriving because of the generous support from members, sponsors, and member benefits providers. Their contributions sustain and grow the programs and services that assist PTAs and children across the state year-round. The board of directors takes great care in stewarding the funds entrusted to us.

I work with a team of board members known as the Corporate

Finance Committee (CFC). The members include: Jane Dulski, Jenny Forbes, Leanne Hawkins, Janice Kutzera, and Kristi Shafer. The purpose of the CFC is to set financial policies, work with the executive director to develop the budget, and oversee the association's finances. The CFC also reviews monthly financial reports, audit reports, association investments, IRS filings, and the WSPTA employee handbook. The CFC works in concert with the executive director to meet our goal of being a well-managed

and fiscally sound association.

We received a clean audit from the firm of Brantley Janson Yost and Ellison following their review of the association's financial statements and positions as of June 30, 2014 and 2013. The investments and endowment fund continue on a path of steady and stable growth. The 2014 IRS form 990 was completed and filed on time.

We have continued efforts to reduce board and overhead expenses while

WASHINGTON CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

		<u>Supporting Services</u>			
	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Management & General</u>	<u>Membership Recruitment</u>	<u>Total Supporting Services</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
Salaries & wages	\$ 202,741	\$ 146,937	\$ 1,875	\$ 148,812	\$ 351,553
Employee benefits & payroll taxes	<u>30,156</u>	<u>44,351</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>44,747</u>	<u>74,903</u>
Total salaries and related expenses	232,897	191,288	2,271	193,559	426,456
Board expense	13,342	23,656	2,191	25,847	39,189
Computer technology and equipment	193,660	45,049	31	45,080	238,740
Conferences, conventions & committees	94,328	15,386		15,386	109,714
Cost of goods sold	10,183	853		853	11,036
Insurance	710	4,844		4,844	5,554
Miscellaneous	3,863	29,313	2,577	31,890	35,753
Office operations	42,334	35,262	3	35,265	77,599
Postage & shipping	7,345	1,544	258	1,802	9,147
Professional fees	49,530	64,603		64,603	114,133
Program costs	71,221				71,221
Staff expense	3,767	2,871		2,871	6,638
Supplies and other costs	<u>73,635</u>	<u>30,253</u>	<u>1,054</u>	<u>31,307</u>	<u>104,942</u>
Total expenses before depreciation	796,815	444,922	8,385	453,307	1,250,122
Depreciation	<u>8,284</u>	<u>1,901</u>		<u>1,901</u>	<u>10,185</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 805,099</u>	<u>\$ 446,823</u>	<u>\$ 8,385</u>	<u>\$ 455,208</u>	<u>\$ 1,260,307</u>

increasing our services and benefits for our members. In person board meetings are held at the WSPTA office. Conference calls and webinars are utilized when special board meetings were warranted. When we determined that the initial investment into a technology upgrade was not going to meet the association's needs, we discovered a software program, PT Avenue which will benefit both the association and the local PTAs. The adoption of the WSPTA uniform bylaws during the 2015 annual convention will promote efficiency in the operation of the association while reducing expenses. The new five year strategic plan is our roadmap to ensuring the continued sustainability of WSPTA.

As you read this, I am already developing a list of goals for the CFC to accomplish next year. Look for a new Treasurer's Handbook in the 2015 Leadership Packet, along with a new Treasurer's training presentation. Money Matters Handbook, presentation and forms will also be updated. Plans are underway to provide 'treasurer' focused training and workshops using webinars. We will continue to post 'Treasurer Tips' to the listserv. The financial and treasurers resources available on the WSPTA website will be reviewed and updated. New ways to increase non-dues revenue will also be developed.

Washington State PTA's financial outlook remains very positive. I would like to thank my fellow board members for their strategic thinking over financial issues. I would also like to thank our executive director, Kathryn Hobbs, for running an efficient and proactive support office.

WASHINGTON CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES			
Membership dues	\$ 766,300		\$ 766,300
Conventions, workshops, and conferences	175,817		175,817
Awards	82,694		82,694
Other direct support	50,329	\$ 16,158	66,487
Sales of supplies to local units	3,517		3,517
Investment income	48,331		48,331
Net assets released from restrictions	66,037	(66,037)	
Total public support and revenues	1,193,025	(49,879)	1,143,146
EXPENSES			
Program services	805,099		805,099
Supporting services			
Management and general	446,823		446,823
Membership recruitment	8,385		8,385
	<u>1,260,307</u>		<u>1,260,307</u>
OPERATING INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(67,282)	(49,879)	(117,161)
NONOPERATING INCOME			
Gain on sale of assets	383,691		383,691
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	316,409	(49,879)	266,530
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	<u>851,301</u>	<u>118,519</u>	<u>969,820</u>
NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$ 1,167,710</u>	<u>\$ 68,640</u>	<u>\$ 1,236,350</u>

New Membership Database Introduced at the WSPTA Convention

The introduction of PT Avenue at convention drew a lot of interest and generated a great deal of excitement. PT Avenue has been chosen by WSPTA to replace the membership web site used to enter members into the state database.

Unlike the current membership site, PT Avenue is a modern system designed to meet the needs of local PTAs, with three versions from which PTAs can choose depending on which features your PTA wants. The state office

will provide the "membership only" basic version of PT Avenue at no cost to every local PTA in the state as a replacement for the old site.

This will provide local PTAs with 24/7 cloud-based access to their member information, and will also communicate membership and board information to council, region and state officers and staff, as well as providing a separate website for people to join the local PTA online!

We Were All Kids Once

PTAs focus on kids. The work we do today helps children who will grow up to be tomorrow's leaders -- doctors, nurses, teachers, business leaders, politicians and tomorrow's PTA leaders, who continue in our footsteps to advocate for the health, welfare, safety, and education of future generations. To demonstrate this idea, we had a bit of fun and made a 'yearbook' page of today's Washington State PTA Board of Directors in their kindergarten year. Enjoy!



Laura Bay
NPTA President



Heather Gillette
WSPTA President



Barbara Martin
WSPTA Vice President



Karen Albers
WSPTA Finance Officer



Dori Tate
WSPTA Leadership
Director



Caroline Brown
WSPTA Membership
Director



Michelle Nims
WSPTA Program
Director



Sherry Krainick
WSPTA Legislative
Director



Ray Kusumi
WSPTA Family and
Community
Engagement Director



Cindy Kleinfelter
WSPTA Region 1
Director



Jane Dulski
WSPTA Region 2
Director



Teri Davis
WSPTA Region 3
Director



Kristi Shafer
WSPTA Region 4
Director



Cheryl Child
WSPTA Acting
Region 5 Director



Janice Kutzera
WSPTA Region 6
Director



Jenny Forbes
WSPTA Region 7
Director



Sharon Pfeiffer
WSPTA Region 9
Director



Amanda Shipman
WSPTA Region 11
Director



Connie Andrews
WSPTA Region
12 Director

Picture unavailable:

Leanne Hawkins, Secretary
DeMarco Best, Region 5 Director
Patti DeRusha, Acting 10 Director
Marisa Peloquin, Region 10 Director

Grants

Coca Cola Health & Well Being Grants

WSPTA received a grant from Coca-Cola that will provide grant opportunities to local PTAs to provide resources in the areas of physical fitness, health and nutrition, and other healthy areas for before and after school programs. The following grants were awarded:

- **Elementary School PTA** (\$1,000) – Initiate, establish and fund a Family and Community Engagement Outreach Health and Well-Being program to assist students and families after school and at home, by providing training, education, and equipment for a balanced nutritional and physical education component to a family's life.
- **Elementary School PTA** (\$1,000) – Fund the elementary school's After-School Enrichment program, which will provide much needed support for the Running Club, Mountain Bike Club, and other initiatives.
- **Elementary School PTSA** (\$1,000) – Fund the After School Exercise program, focusing on low impact types of exercise for maximum benefit and working with families and kids to provide training and awareness for these types of alternatives.
- **Elementary School PTA** (\$440) – Fund and enhance the Running and Walking Clubs at the school, in order to enhance the physical fitness program.
- **Elementary School PTA** (\$650) - Initiate and fund a vigorous fitness education program using jump ropes that students can use after-school and at home.
- **High School School PTA** (\$1,000) – Fund and enhance the Education Disc Golf experience and training/physical fitness program.
- **Elementary School PTA** (\$997) – Fund and enhance the Rocket Fitness and Health Program, including: Fun Fit Recess, Run N Walk Club, and to launch a new fitness level recognition program, and Nutrition Challenge.
- **Elementary School PTA** (\$1,000) – Fund and enhance the Marathon Club with a reward system and provide funding for additional costs to run the program from March through May.

WSPTA Scholarships

Each year, the Washington State PTA awards a limited number of scholarships to Washington State public high school graduates beginning their freshman year of post-secondary education in the United States. In 2014-2015, we awarded \$16,000 in scholarships to eight Washington State graduating seniors.

Ben Franklin PTA -- The \$650 grant for jump ropes was a huge hit. Jump ropes were handed out to every student at Franklin right after the Hot Dog Jump Rope Assembly, and while the jump rope unit was being taught in PE. We had 10 volunteer parents and some staff at lunch recesses for five days, playing music, encouraging jump rope skills for all kids. Double-dutch ropes that we purchased, have been donated to the school. The older students now use them independently at lunch time.



The \$440 grant for our "Marathon Club" has also been spent. Marathon club is in the fall, ending with the last mile run at the Seattle Marathon in November. We have purchased all kinds of rewards, trackers, cones, megaphone, and even a banner to put up, so kids know when marathon club is happening! "Thanks again for the grants. They have made a difference." Megan Hayton, Franklin PTA Co-President

College Spark Washington

College Spark Washington generously awarded the Washington State PTA and Partnership for Learning, on behalf of the Ready Washington Coalition, a two-year grant to support the delivery of parent training and education throughout Washington State. The focus of the parent training and education is on Common Core Standards and their aligned Smarter Balanced assessments. The grant has allowed each party to build an awareness and understanding of the new standards and high-quality assessments through WSPTA's network. The grant supports the Train the Trainer workshops, travel, webinar and materials development, and project coordination. Training oversight was facilitated by the WSPTA Legislative Director.



Apollo Elementary PTA -- Program flyer: <http://www.wastatepta.org/files/Apollo.pdf>

Convention Highlights

The WSPTA enjoyed a good turnout for the annual convention held on April 17-19, 2015 at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency Hotel. Convention was a time of inspiration and learning, resulting in attendees attaining a better understanding of the power of our association and what it has accomplished for kids.

The proposed resolution on water safety and instruction was adopted and the completely revised bylaws were adopted. The new set of bylaws will be posted on the WSPTA website by July 1, when they take effect.

Thank you to all who attended the WSPTA convention and helped make decisions for the future of our PTA. Thank you to all who volunteer to serve the WSPTA as leaders; we appreciate your dedication and everything you do to help all children's potential become a reality.

Newly Elected State PTA Officers

Elected to the state PTA board at this year's convention are:

Barbara Martin, president
Leanne Hawkins, vice president
Jenny Forbes, membership director
Julie Haase, secretary
Brooke Valentine, legislative director.

In addition, the following individuals were selected as at-large members of the state PTA nominating committee:

Teri Davis
Megan Klein
Virginia Muniz



Dr. Steve Constantino, keynote speaker

Erin Jones Named WSPTA Outstanding Educator

Erin Jones was named Washington State PTA's Outstanding Educator for 2015. Her efforts encourage others to help all children find their gifts and reach their potential.

The Outstanding Educator Award honors outstanding educators who have made significant contributions at a statewide level.

Everett PTSA Council Selected as Outstanding PTA of the Year

Everett PTSA Council 7.3 received the top award as Outstanding PTA of the Year. Everett PTSA Council works to be a meaningful and valuable resource to PTAs and their partners by supporting, empowering, and guiding their PTAs to be successful.

One unique Everett PTSA Council program that supports students in their community is the Shoe Fund. In this program, Everett PTSA Council raises money to purchase Payless Shoes gift cards for PTAs to distribute to students in need of shoes.

Other programs that help further the Everett PTSA Council include training events, co-sponsored by the PTSA council and community partners; topics range from increasing community/PTA connections, educating parents about Common Core, and training local PTA officers.

Congratulations to Everett PTSA Council. We are proud to have you represent the WSPTA at the National PTA Convention in North Carolina the end of June.

Karen Madsen Received WSPTA Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

Karen Madsen, a longtime PTA member in Washington State and former WSPTA board member was recognized with the WSPTA Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.

The purpose of the Honorary Life Membership is to honor an individual who has made significant contributions to the development and growth of PTA on a statewide basis.

Tom Ahearne Awarded WSPTA's Friend of Children

Tom Ahearne, a local attorney and advocate for children, was awarded the prestigious WSPTA Friend of Children award for 2015. The purpose of the Friend of Children award is to recognize and honor an individual or organization whose work on behalf of children has been exemplary.

Ahearne has a rich background in speaking for children in all corners of the state – rural and urban. He believes in equity and fairness no matter the circumstances, that education is a basic right and it is our responsibility to see that all kids get the same opportunities.

Following are some things just a few of Ahearne's colleagues said about him:

"Testified at original trial for two days, former legislator who served on every single education funding work group, task force, committee in recent memory. Now works with state Superintendent Randy Dorn as senior education policy advisor. No one deserves the award more than he does." - Skip Priest

"Tom deserves recognition because he doesn't want it. For years he has done the tireless, selfless work that laid the foundation for the momentum we are seeing today. He has a strong moral center, and on behalf

of his family, community, and school kids everywhere, he strives to make a positive difference. All of us have benefited as a result." - Chris Emch, Attorney at Foster Pepper

"Tom is not only the lawyer for McCleary, he is also the biggest advocate for our kids and their education." - Catherine Ahl, League of Women Voters



Jane Dulski, WSPTA Region 2 Director

Jennifer Karls Received WSPTA Outstanding Service Award

Jennifer Karls, president of Bellevue PTSA Council and vice president of Bellevue Special Needs PTSA, was presented Washington State PTA's Outstanding Service Award.

The Outstanding Service Award is the highest volunteer award given by the Washington State PTA

Board of Directors. It is awarded to someone who has gone beyond his or her own school community, job, or PTA in order to give dedicated volunteer service to children.

Karls' contributions in helping all children's potential become a reality has made a significant impact in Bellevue and across the state.



PTA leaders at the WSPTA Convention



Incoming WSPTA Board of Directors at WSPTA Convention April



2015 Tyrell Banks, NPTA Board of Directors and Heather Gillette, WSPTA State Board President at WSPTA Convention

You Were Represented at...

The following is the grouping of those associations/organizations that we represent our members on/at (reference document – WSPTA Representation Chart 2014 – 2015):

- Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (COPC)
- Children's Alliance
- Health Coalition for Children and Youth
- Children's Land Alliance Supporting Schools
- Department of Early Learning Advisory Council
- Equity in Education Coalition
- Excellent Schools Now (ESN) Coalition
- Learning First Alliance
- Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS) – McCleary Decision
- Ready Washington Executive Advisory Council and Committee
- OSPI – Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Work Group
- OSPI – Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Working Group
- Expanded Learning Opportunities Coalition
- Online Learning Advisory Committee
- OSPI – Quality Education Committee
- OSPI – Ready and Successful Schools Workgroup
- School Safety Advisory Committee
- Special Education Advisory Committee
- State Advisory Committee on Gifted Education
- Safe Kids Advisory Council
- Safe Routes to School
- Schools Out Washington
- State Board of Education Achievement and Accountability Work Group
- Teacher Principal Evaluation Pilot/Steering Committee
- Washington Healthy Youth Coalition
- Washington State Special Education Coalition
- Washington Student Achievement Council
- Washington United for Fair Revenue
- Governor's Council for the Healthiest Next Generation
- WA Poison Center Board of Directors
- Department of Agriculture – Health Farms, Healthy Food Healthy Kids Committee (Farm to Schools)
- Department of Health Advisory Committee

WSPTA's Vision and 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, schools, 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.*