

Best Practices and Tip Sheet

WSPTA Standards of Affiliation Requirements

To provide support and guidance to our local PTAs and councils, Washington State PTA (WSPTA) provides a Standards of Affiliation (SOA) Agreement Checklist to help navigate legal requirements. Here are some best practices and tips for each requirement.

The WSPTA has a variety of information to support you:

- We encourage you to read and share Leadership News (weekly newsletter for WSPTA leaders).
- WSPTA website:
 - Leader resources can be found at <https://www.wastatepta.org/pta-leaders/leader-resources/>. Log-in and password needed. (Current log-in: Every, password: Child, subject to change, check Leadership News or contact your Region Director for updates if needed.)
 - Governance resources (*WSPTA Uniform Bylaws* and *WSPTA Policy Manual*) can be found on the WSPTA website at <https://www.wastatepta.org/pta-leaders/governance/>.
 - SOA resources can be found at <https://www.wastatepta.org/pta-leaders/governance/>.

SOA Requirements:

1. Officers elected (applies to local PTAs and councils)

- **Relevant information:**
 - Officers must be elected at a membership meeting (*WSPTA Uniform Bylaws* Article 5, Section 6).
 - Per the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 24.03.125, the officers of the corporation consist of a president, one or more vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer. <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=24.03.125>
- **Best practice:**
 - Elect a nominating committee early in the year to seek out candidates to be officers the next year.
 - Elect your officers before end of the fiscal year.
- **Questions:**
 - **What if we don't have all officer positions filled?** Continue to seek candidates until positions are filled.
 - **What if we don't have president?** In absence of President, the Vice President will serve as President (*WSPTA Uniform Bylaws* Article 5, Section 7).
- **Additional information:**
 - Nominating committee and elections information can be found on our website in leader resources (link above). Log in, go to Leadership Guides, scroll down to "Nominating Committee and Elections".

2. Corporate renewal filed (applies to local PTAs and councils)

- **Relevant information:**
 - Annual report is due by the end of the month the PTA was incorporated but may be renewed up to six months early.
 - Instructions available at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/corps/OnlineRenewal.aspx>.

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- **Questions:**
 - **How do we find out what month our PTA was incorporated so we can file our renewal?**
You can find this information on the PT Avenue Membership Database in the 'Legal' section for your PTA.
 - **Additional information:**
 - *PTA and the Law* class and handbook
 - Contact Tatia Vasbinder at tvasbinder@wastatepta.org if you have further questions.
- 3. Charitable solicitations filed** (applies to local PTAs and councils)
- **Relevant information:**
 - Your PTA **must register** with the Secretary of State prior to conducting charitable solicitations if you intend to raise more than \$50,000 annually (including WSPTA and NPTA portions of dues), are planning on using commercial fundraisers, or if your PTA intends to use non-volunteers to raise funds. If your PTA is required to file, it must be **received** by May 31.
 - Your PTA **may choose** to do the optional filing, which allows more grants to be available for your PTA. Optional registration is free, as is its annual update. Once you are registered with the Secretary of State's office, you must renew your registration annually.
 - **Additional information:**
 - <https://www.sos.wa.gov/charities/Charitable-Organizations.aspx>
 - *PTA and the Law* class and handbook
 - Contact Tatia Vasbinder at tvasbinder@wastatepta.org if you have further questions.
- 4. 990 form filed** (applies to local PTAs and councils)
- **Relevant information:**
 - Which form do we file?
 - 990-N (e-postcard) – if your PTA “normally” has gross receipts of less than \$50,000.
 - 990-EZ – if your PTA’s gross receipts “normally” exceed \$50,000, but less than \$200,000.
 - 990 – if your PTA’s gross receipts are over \$200,000.
 - Returns for the prior fiscal year are due November 15 of current year.
 - **Questions:**
 - **What if we need an extension?** There is no extension for the 990-N. Requests for an extension for 990-EZ or 990 must be made November 15 of current year. File IRS Form 8868 (can file online) giving you until February 15 of current year. You can request a further extension until May 15 of current year, but it is not automatic (use same form to apply).
 - **What if we forgot to file taxes or the IRS contacts our PTA?** Contact Tatia Vasbinder at tvasbinder@wastatepta.org if you have tax questions.
 - **Additional information:**
 - <https://www.irs.gov/uac/about-form-990>
 - <https://www.irs.gov/uac/e-file-for-charities-and-non-profits>
 - *PTA and the Law* class and handbook
 - Contact Tatia Vasbinder at tvasbinder@wastatepta.org if you have further questions.

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5. **Year-end financial review** (applies to local PTAs and councils)
 - **Relevant information:**
 - Year-end financial review is required, and best practice is to have it completed by August 31.
 - Per AIM Insurance (you may have another carrier, so check their requirements), for bond coverage to apply, an annual financial review must be completed (other insurance requirements may apply).
 - **Best practice:**
 - Do both a mid-year financial review (January/February covering approximately July 1 – December 31) and an end of the year financial review (that would cover from January 1 – June 30). If no mid-year review is done, the year-end review would cover July 1 – June 30.
 - Appoint a committee to perform the review before you need the review and to report out the financial review findings to the membership.
 - **Questions:**
 - **What if we didn't get our financial review completed by August 31?** Complete it as soon as you can!
 - **Additional information:**
 - *Financial Review Checklist* can be found on our website in leader resources (link above). Log in, go to Leadership Guides, scroll down to “Treasurer/Board Finance Resources” and select “Treasurer Resources”.
6. **Officer names/contact info** (applies to local PTAs and councils)
 - **Relevant information:**
 - Enter the names and contact information for all elected officers (and key non-elected positions such as membership, advocacy/legislative, Reflections, programs, and family & community engagement) in the PT Avenue membership database (recommended before previous fiscal year-end, update as needed).
 - When officers are elected the information can be entered into PT Avenue for ‘Next Year’s Officers’.
 - **Best practice:**
 - Include email, phone number, and address.
 - **Questions:**
 - **Why is this important?** WSPTA communicates important information to the elected officers and committee chairs to share with members so it is important we have emails. Our email list is not shared with outside interests.
 - **Additional information:**
 - PT Avenue resources are available on the WSPTA website in leader resources (link above). Log in, go to Leadership Guides, scroll down to “Membership Database”.
 - A document about entering officers is available at <https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/How-to-Enter-PTA-Officers-in-PT-Avenue-4-2017.pdf>
<https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/How-to-Enter-PTA-Officers-in-PT-Avenue-9-25-2017.pdf>.
 - Contact support@wastatepta.org if you have questions.

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7. Budget approved (applies to local PTAs and councils)

- **Relevant information:**
 - Budget must be adopted by the members at a membership meeting (*WSPTA Uniform Bylaws* Article 5, Section 10).
- **Best practice:**
 - Budget for the next fiscal year should be approved before the end of the current fiscal year to give the board the authority to spend and receive funds.
- **Questions:**
 - **What if we didn't get our budget approved in the spring?** A budget should be approved at the end of the school year so there is a working budget over the summer. At a membership meeting early in the year, you should reaffirm the budget with any changes/actuals as needed.
 - **What if we need to change the budget?** Budgets can be amended as needed throughout the year by a vote at a membership meeting.
- **Additional information:**
 - Budget and financial resources are available on the WSPTA website in leader resources (link above). Log in, go to Leadership Guides, scroll down to "Finance" and/or "Treasurer/Board Finance Resources" as needed.

8. Standing rules approved (applies to local PTAs and councils)

- **Relevant information:**
 - Standing rules must be approved by the members at a membership meeting (*WSPTA Uniform Bylaws* Article 5, Section 10).
- **Best practice:**
 - Standing rules are reviewed, updated as needed, and approved annually.
- **Additional information:**
 - Standing rules resources are available on the WSPTA website in leader resources (link above). Log in, go to Leadership Guides, scroll down to "Standing Rules".

9. Insurance (applies to local PTAs and councils)

- **Relevant information:**
 - Renew before November 30 to prevent a lapse in coverage, if you have AIM insurance. For other insurance providers, contact them for their renewal dates.
- **Best practice:**
 - Review the type and amount of coverage you have on an annual basis.
 - Do not simply purchase what you had last year, as your financial picture and needs may have changed.
- **Questions:**
 - **How do we know if we have the right level of insurance?** If you have AIM insurance, visit their website for their FAQs and resources <https://www.aim-companies.com/pta-coverage/>. If you have a different insurance provider, contact them with your questions.

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10. Training requirement (applies to local PTAs and councils)

- **Relevant information:**
 - The annual training requirement flyer can be found on the WSPTA website at <https://www.wastatepta.org/pta-leaders/governance/>.
 - Per the *WSPTA Standards of Affiliation* agreement, the annual training requirement states that at least one elected officer must attend PTA and the Law, and all other elected officers must attend at least one WSPTA-approved training before this year's WSPTA convention.
 - Your elected officers may attend any of the following: WSPTA convention, PTA and the Law, WSPTA leadership conference, WSPTA region conferences, WSPTA webinars, any other WSPTA event where training is provided, region training (must be advertised as a WSPTA-approved training), council training (must be advertised as a WSPTA-approved training), and National PTA e-learning training.
- **Best practice:**
 - Attend a leadership development opportunity early in your term of office so you can apply what you learn in training to your position.
- **Questions:**
 - **Why do we have an annual training requirement?** The members of the association feel leadership development is so important, that they proposed and voted in an annual training requirement years ago. Your local PTA and our entire association are stronger when we have leaders who are trained in running their nonprofit business.
 - **Our officers are busy and cannot attend a training, what do we do?** There are online scheduled webinars you can attend from the comfort of your home, as well as pre-recorded webinars you can take at your convenience. National PTA also offers online trainings. With so many options, there is a way for every officer to complete the training each year.
 - **Not all officers went to training, what do we do?** Contact your region director to work out a plan.
- **Additional information:**
 - Training requirement resources are available on the WSPTA website in SOA resources and can be found at <https://www.wastatepta.org/pta-leaders/governance/>.

11. 25-member minimum (applies to local PTAs)

- **Relevant information:**
 - 25 members were determined to be a reasonable minimum membership for a local PTA to be able to thrive.
- **Best practice:**
 - Membership is year-round, so people can join your PTA in September and in May.
- **Questions:**
 - **What if we don't have 25 members?** Keep seeking members! Get creative and try new things. Ask parents, teachers and staff at your school, and community members. Have members from last year joined again this year? Have you encouraged grandparents and other extended family to join?

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- **What if we face an extreme circumstance that prohibits us from getting 25 members?** For extreme circumstances, you may request a membership waiver. More information regarding membership waivers is available in the *WSPTA Policy Manual* (see link above).
- **Additional information:**
 - Contact support@wastatepta.org if you have questions.

12. Membership invoices paid (applies to local PTAs)

- **Relevant information:**
 - Membership invoices are sent out mid-month following each month that your PTA enrolled members.
 - Invoice payments are due at the end of the month.
 - You can reprint copies of your invoices from the PT Avenue website.
- **Best practice:**
 - Direct debit for your membership invoices is encouraged. To sign up, the Direct Debit Authorization form can be found at <https://goo.gl/P1dfH0>.
- **Additional information:**
 - Contact support@wastatepta.org if you have questions.

13. Council Reflections program (applies to councils)

- **Relevant information:**
 - Per the standards of affiliation agreement, Councils must offer a Reflections program for the PTAs in their council.
- **Additional information:**
 - Reflections information can be found on the website at <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/reflections/>.
 - Further questions can be addressed to reflections@wastatepta.org.

For additional support or further questions about the SOA requirements: Please contact your council (if applicable), region director, or service delivery team members as your closest level of service.