

Approved Amendments to WSPTA Uniform Bylaws 2019

Amendments to the *WSPTA Uniform Bylaws* were proposed and brought to the floor of the WSPTA Convention (April 26-28, 2019). Those amendments approved by the attending delegates are listed here and will take effect on July 1, 2019, per Article 12, Section 2 of the current *WSPTA Uniform Bylaws*:

#1	Summary/Purpose: Clarifies the requirement to stop using PTA name and service mark after disaffiliation and no longer requires the surrender of property.
2019 new bylaw will state:	Article 3, Section 3 Disaffiliation of a local PTA or Council D. Each local PTA and council is obligated, upon becoming disaffiliated with WSPTA, to cease and desist the use of the service mark “PTA/PTSA,” and all other branded property as prescribed by WSPTA policy.
2018 bylaw states: (include Art, Sect)	Article 3, Section 3 Disaffiliation of a local PTA or Council D. Each local PTA and council shall, upon disaffiliation, surrender to the WSPTA office all PTA-branded property along with documents pertaining to the legal status of the disaffiliated local PTA or council.
Rationale for proposed change:	Helps make it clear that once a PTA chooses to disaffiliate, they are no longer a PTA and must stop using the PTA service mark and name. Also changes the practice so that WSPTA no longer receives their PTA branded property and documents.
Effect on your PTA or council if adopted:	None

#2	Summary/Purpose: Option to use electronic voting.
2019 new bylaw will state:	Article 5, Section 4, Voting by mail or electronic transmission – local PTA and council The standing rules of a local PTA or council may provide that voting by the membership be by mail or by electronic transmission if the name of each candidate and/or the content of each proposal is contained in the notice of meeting. Electronic voting best practices can be found in current WSPTA policy.
2018 bylaw states: (include Art, Sect)	Article 5, Section 4 Absentee, mail or electronic voting – local PTA and council Absentee, mail or electronic ballots are prohibited with two exceptions: election of local PTA or council officers and nominating committee positions. The standing rules of a local PTA council may provide that voting for officers or nominating committee positions be

	by mail or by electronic transmission if the name of each candidate is contained in the notice of meeting.
Rationale for proposed change:	While in-person voting and participation in meetings is preferable, there can be situations (weather, distance) that can make in-person meetings a formidable challenge and keep a PTA from conducting essential business. This amendment would allow a PTA to develop standing rules to allow for mail or electronic voting in accordance with WSPTA policy. Standing Rules could specify whether voting by mail or electronic transmission is a regular practice, or only to be used in certain circumstances. This is an OPTION and local PTAs and councils would not need to institute this change unless they feel it is in the best interest of their particular PTA.
Effect on your PTA or council if adopted:	Local PTAs and councils would need to discuss this option to determine if they feel it is in the best interest of their particular PTA. If they choose to institute this change, they would need to update their standing rules accordingly. If they choose not to institute this change, no action is needed.

#3	Summary/Purpose: Standardizes the membership requirement to 15 days for local PTA and council officers and nominating committee members.
2019 new bylaw will state:	Article 5, Section 5 Nominating Committee – local PTA and council B. Eligibility requirements for local PTA or council nominating committee members are as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The members of the nominating committee shall have been members of the local PTA or a local PTA in the council for at least 15 days preceding their election. 2. The local PTA or council president may not serve on the nominating committee. 3. A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms on the nominating committee. 4. For a local PTA, the school principal may not serve on the nominating committee. 5. For a council, a school or district administrator may not serve on the nominating committee within the district where he or she is employed.
2018 bylaw states: (include Art, Sect)	Article 5, Section 5 Nominating Committee – local PTA and council B. Eligibility requirements for local PTA or council nominating committee members are as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The members of the nominating committee shall have been members of the local PTA or a local PTA in the council for at least 30 days preceding their election.

	<p>2. The local PTA or council president may not serve on the nominating committee.</p> <p>3. A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms on the nominating committee.</p> <p>4. For a local PTA, the school principal may not serve on the nominating committee.</p> <p>5. For a council, a school or district administrator may not serve on the nominating committee within the district where he or she is employed.</p>
Rationale for proposed change:	Current bylaws require an individual to have been a PTA member for 30 days to serve on the Nominating Committee, while the requirement to be nominated to serve as an officer is only 15 days membership. This amendment would make the membership requirement consistent for serving in any role at 15 days. Additionally, this can remove a hurdle for rebuilding PTAs by expediting the election of a Nominating Committee.
Effect on your PTA or council if adopted:	Local PTAs and councils should review their standing rules and update as needed.

#4	Summary/Purpose: Clarifies that a local PTA or council nominating committee may present a slate with open/vacant offices if no qualified candidates are identified.
2019 new bylaw will state:	Article 5, Section 5 Nominating Committee – local PTA and council C. The local PTA or council nominating committee shall submit to the members a signed report at least 15 days prior to the election stating the name of one or more candidates for each office to be elected. A position may be listed as “open” if the committee is unable to find a qualified candidate. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee only when the election is held during a meeting.
2018 bylaw states: (include Art, Sect)	Article 5, Section 5 Nominating Committee – local PTA and council C. The local PTA or council nominating committee shall submit to the members a signed report at least 15 days prior to the election stating the name of one or more candidates for each office to be elected. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee only when the election is held during a meeting.
Rationale for proposed change:	Current language implies that there must be a nominee for each office, while current practice is that it is acceptable for the nominating committee to leave an office “open” with no qualified nominee. This amendment would clarify acceptable practice.

Effect on your PTA or council if adopted:	None
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#5	Summary/Purpose: Eliminates the requirement that the WSPTA nominating committee present its report at the first general session of business meetings at convention.
2019 new bylaw will state:	Article 7, Section 2 Nominating Committee - WSPTA C. The WSPTA nominating committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each office to be elected. The WSPTA nominating committee shall submit a report to the WSPTA board of directors and to the membership by deadlines as prescribed by WSPTA policy.
2018 bylaw states: (include Art, Sect)	Article 7, Section 2 Nominating Committee - WSPTA C. The WSPTA nominating committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each office to be elected. The WSPTA nominating committee shall submit a report to the WSPTA board of directors by a deadline as prescribed by WSPTA policy and shall report at the first business meeting of the WSPTA convention.
Rationale for proposed change:	Planning the agenda for convention is complicated and having the flexibility to schedule all necessary business items is important. Often, the first business session is on Friday of convention and that is when attendance is lowest. Adopting this amendment allows for the report to be presented at the business session where it is most appropriate prior to the election of officers. Additionally, the nominating committee report is due and published 60 days prior to convention, so the report at convention is a formality and not the first time membership has access to the report.
Effect on your PTA or council if adopted:	None

#6	Summary/Purpose: Adjusts the guidelines for assigning regions represented by area vice presidents.
2019 new bylaw will state:	Article 7, Section 3 Officers and their Election - WSPTA C. The area vice presidents shall represent geographic areas prescribed by WSPTA policy. All WSPTA board of directors members shall be elected by all voting delegates.
2018 bylaw states: (include Art, Sect)	Article 7, Section 3 Officers and their Election - WSPTA C. The area vice presidents shall represent geographic areas prescribed by WSPTA policy with two of the area vice presidents representing PTAs east of the Cascade Mountains. All WSPTA board of directors members shall be elected by all voting delegates.

Rationale for proposed change:	In assigning the regions to the five AVPs, it is important to balance the number of PTAs each AVP is representing as well as consider geographic proximity so that the AVP can be available to the regions in their area. Removing the requirement that two areas include eastern Washington regions gives more flexibility to the WSPTA Board to define the area representation to best serve all members.
Effect on your PTA or council if adopted:	None

#7	Summary/Purpose: Clarifies the process to consider emergency or substitute legislative proposals.
2019 new bylaw will state:	<p>Article 9, Section 5 Legislative issues, legislative positions, legislative principles, and resolutions – legislative assembly</p> <p>A. Legislative issues, legislative principles, and resolutions submitted by PTA members, local PTAs or councils in good standing, or WSPTA committees may be considered providing the following criteria have been met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shall be submitted to the advocacy or resolutions committee by the deadline date as prescribed by WSPTA policy. 2. Shall be statewide in scope. 3. Shall supplement but not conflict with the WSPTA legislative platform or with National PTA resolutions or position statements. <p>B. The legislative assembly shall not consider emergency or substitute legislative issues, legislative positions, legislative principles, or resolutions, other than those originally presented to the delegates, without prior approval of the WSPTA board of directors as prescribed by WSPTA policy.</p> <p>C. Any legislative position taken by the WSPTA board of directors shall be submitted as a resolution at the WSPTA convention or legislative assembly within one year of adoption or may no longer be a position of WSPTA.</p> <p>Article 10, Section 5 Legislative positions and resolutions – convention</p> <p>A. Resolutions submitted by PTA members, local PTAs or councils in good standing, or WSPTA committees may be considered providing the following criteria have been met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shall be submitted to the resolutions committee by the deadline date as prescribed by WSPTA policy.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Shall be statewide in scope. 3. Shall supplement but not conflict with the WSPTA legislative platform or with National PTA resolutions or position statements. <p>B. The convention shall not consider emergency or substitute legislative positions or resolutions, other than those originally presented to the delegates, without prior approval of the WSPTA board of directors as prescribed by WSPTA policy.</p> <p>C. Any legislative position taken by the WSPTA board of directors shall be submitted as a resolution at the WSPTA convention or legislative assembly within one year of adoption or may no longer be a position of the WSPTA.</p>
<p>2018 bylaw states: (include Art, Sect)</p>	<p>Article 9, Section 5 Resolutions – legislative assembly</p> <p>A. Resolutions submitted by PTA members, local PTAs or councils, in good standing, or WSPTA committees may be considered providing the following criteria have been met. Resolutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shall be submitted to the resolutions committee by the deadline date as prescribed by WSPTA policy. 2. Shall be statewide in scope. 3. Shall supplement but not conflict with the WSPTA legislative platform or with National PTA resolutions or position statements. <p>B. Resolutions addressing issues emerging after the deadline for submittal may be considered at the legislative assembly only with approval of the WSPTA board of directors.</p> <p>C. Any legislative position taken by the WSPTA board of directors shall be submitted as a resolution at the WSPTA convention or legislative assembly within one year of adoption or may no longer be a position of WSPTA.</p> <p>Article 10, Section 5 Resolutions – convention</p> <p>A. Resolutions submitted by PTA members, local PTAs or councils in good standing, or WSPTA committees may be considered providing the following criteria have been met. Resolutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shall be submitted to the resolutions committee by the deadline date as prescribed by WSPTA policy. 2. Shall be statewide in scope. 3. Shall supplement but not conflict with the WSPTA legislative platform or with National PTA resolutions or position statements <p>B. Resolutions addressing issues emerging after the deadline for submittal may be considered by the convention only with approval of the WSPTA board of directors.</p>

	C. Any legislative position taken by the WSPTA board of directors shall be submitted as a resolution at the WSPTA convention or legislative assembly within one year of adoption or may no longer be a position of the WSPTA.
Rationale for proposed change:	Proposed changes to the Articles 9 and 10, Section 5 titles and Article 9, Section 5A expand the application of these bylaws to all topics that come before legislative assembly and convention. Proposed changes to Articles 9 and 10, Sections 5B give more clarification to the process for emergency or substitute proposals.
Effect on your PTA or council if adopted:	None