

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



Andrew Estep, CAE  
Executive Director  
Washington State PTA  
(253) 214-7410  
[www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org)

### **Virtual Convention a Success for Washington State PTA**

**Tacoma, WA (May 22, 2020):** Sue Freeman, a satisfied attendee from the Northshore area, shared, “A quick note to thank you for all your hard work making the WSPTA 2020 Virtual Convention such a success! Keeping things running smoothly over the almost two-week event is definitely something to be celebrated ... great job!”

In late February, Washington State PTA was humming along with preparations of the 107<sup>th</sup> annual convention to take place over three days at the Lynnwood Convention Center. And then they hit the pause button in early March as the news of the pandemic and restrictions to gatherings began. The board of directors reached the difficult conclusion that, although they hoped things would be okay by May, it was too important to hold this preeminent training and business event for the association and its members, and so they pivoted. Engaging one of the core values of being pioneering, they gave direction to the staff and convention committee of volunteers to move to a virtual event.

Within eight weeks, WSPTA did just that pivoting to an online platform but still delivering all of the content and opportunities provided in the annual onsite event.

The event spanned eleven days, May 11 – May 21, and accommodated over 900 attendees with participants covering all regions in the state as well as participants from across the country. Each day attendees could attend professional development webinars using the Zoom platform to learn about position-based skills, managing a nonprofit business, diversity and inclusion, advocacy and so much more. In total, a participant had the opportunity to attend all 25 professional development options, eight panels with subject experts, and four business and general sessions. In addition, attendees could sign up for one-on-one coaching sessions to help them with specific issues and participate in two separate social networking game nights.

The business of the association was conducted on Saturday, May 16, revealing the results of the voting ballots on three key items. The delegates approved six amendments to the *WSPTA Uniform Bylaws*, one new resolution and amendments to three other resolutions, and the elections of four board members to serve the remaining year of the 2019-2021 term as well as three members to serve on the WSPTA Nominating Committee.

Each general session included highlights from our student programs: Reflections, WSPTA Essay Contest, and the WSPTA//Game Development Competition. Also featured were keynote and inspirational speeches by leaders in the field sharing messages about diversity and inclusion. Awards for local PTAs, councils, and individuals were presented. WSPTA awarded their prestigious honors to individuals for Outstanding Advocate, Nancy Chamberlain; Outstanding Service, Kerrilynn Robinson; and the Friend of Children to Representative Pat Sullivan.

---

**About Washington State PTA:** Washington State PTA is the state's oldest and largest child advocacy organization 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 current members who continue to carry her vision forward—Washington State PTA has been a leading voice for children in Washington for more than 110 years. To learn more about the Washington State PTA, please visit [www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org).

15 Oregon Avenue, Suite 202, Tacoma, WA 98409-7463 (253) 214-7410

###