

I joke that I made eye contact with too many people. This is how my PTA life began in earnest. I kept asking questions. Why do the bonds fail? How is education funded in WA? How do we retain teachers? How do we support diversity in education? Why PTA? I still have so many questions. I continue to grow and learn and hope to the rest of my life. A good PTA leader will channel this enthusiasm. I have benefitted greatly from knowing and being mentored by many over my years in PTA. "You sound like you'd like to be more involved in the bond and levy effort. We could really use someone to help educate our members on what's going on and organize activities for our community to help," the leader said. "Yes," I replied excitedly. The rest is history.

Being involved in PTA started with supporting my children's local school PTA and classrooms. I found a calling in education advocacy. Over the years, my PTA work has expanded beyond the local level to include serving on the LWPTSA Council, Region 2 Service Delivery Team, and Washington State PTA committees. Puzzling through how to best support PTAs and students keeps me up at night...in a good way.

I am honored to be nominated for the office of Area B VP for the Washington State PTA Board of Directors. I would serve Regions 2 and 5 by reaching out to listen and learn, partner, and support leaders and members to the best of my ability. Strong local PTAs mean our kids, schools, families and communities feel the power of PTA. For this to happen, leaders need support, training and communication to develop leaders, support students, and engage the community. I am committed to being a resource to the Region Directors and Service Delivery Teams because we can achieve more together.

We walk in the footsteps of strong and influential leaders of the over 100-year-old National PTA. There is still work to be done for PTA to better support social and emotional learning, grow membership and heal post-pandemic, and create a more inclusive organization. I am excited at the prospect of working alongside our members to amplify our voice and to further the PTA mission.