

Message from our Region 7 Director!

Thank you all for your hard work! Make sure that you are signed up for our Leadership news. There are great monthly check list items for our board members, as well as valuable information for your local members.

Do you have Convention in your PTA budget? Do you have any PTA members that would like to attend our amazing Focus Day in Olympia on February 11th? Still need training? Please look at our Wa State PTA website for more information.

If your PTA needs any assistance with a mid-year financial review, or help with your nominating committee, please let us know. There are great regional service delivery team members that are able to walk you through the process. You are not alone. Keep up the great work!

-Jessica Giffin, Region 7 Director

Focus Day 2019***HOW do members advocate on our priorities?***

WSPTA members can send a strong message by showing up in Olympia on Focus Day, February 11, 2019, for a day of talking to legislators. Members should consult with their local PTA, council or region legislative/advocacy chair for assistance in making legislator appointments for Focus Day.

The most important tip for those leaders is to **make appointments with the legislators as far in advance as possible!** Input addresses [here](#) to get the names of the Representatives and Senator(s) for your school district and their contact information.

WSPTA will be asking members to send prewritten emails each day during **Advocacy Week – February 11 – 15, 2019**. All the information on Focus Day and Advocacy Week logistics can be found here: <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/focus-day/> Subscribe to the [WSPTA Action Network](#) to stay informed.

We KNOW you care about kids – that's why you are a PTA member! Imagine if legislators heard from all 130,000+ members about how much we care about kids! *Every Child, One Voice!*

By: Nancy Chamberlain, WSPTA Advocacy Director
ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org

Upcoming Trainings**WSPTA Webinars:**

Volunteer Appreciation Webinar, February 2, 10am -11:30am <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/volunteer-appreciation-webinar-tickets-49116202885>

WSPTA eLearning Options:

Check out the PTA Leaders: Training webpage for a growing list of eLearning options for all members! As of 9/26/18, options included: Nominating Committee, Effective Meetings, Secretary: More than Just Minutes, Treasurer Basics, and Bank Statement Review. [WSPTA Training webpage](#)

National PTA eLearning Options:

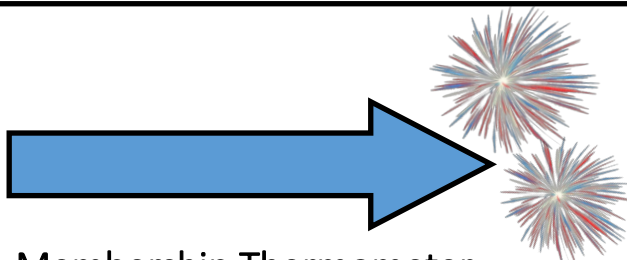
National PTA offers a wide variety of eLearning options for local PTA leaders and all active members. They are FREE and a great supplement to our local offerings! Go to: <https://member.pta.org/Shop/Local-Leader-eLearning-Courses>

eLearning Options in Spanish! National PTA also offers 5 eLearning options for our Spanish-speaking leaders. Check them out at: <https://member.pta.org/Shop/eLearning-Courses-En-Espanol>

National PTA Resources for YOUR PTA!

Part of your membership dues each month goes to support the work of PTA at the national level. The www.PTA.org website has resources for everyone from parents to leaders. For just one example, go to this page: <https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/local-leader-kit> and register to access the PTA Local Leader Kit. The tools available right away include resources in Spanish! Registering now will allow a DIY Kit for Membership Growth to be mailed to your home. While the region is doing great at membership growth, no PTA is at 100%.

The March Region Newsletter will be out the first week of March. If you have PTA news items to share, please send them by 2/25/19 to : PTAKim.Kuhne@outlook.com



Membership Thermometer
goal: 12,000
total to date: 12,036

PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]

Nominating Committee: Finding PTA Leaders of the Future

If your PTA hasn't got one already, it should elect a Nominating Committee in February. Having a team in place now gives them time to seek out candidates for officer elections before the end of the school year. It's a good idea for the existing officers and the elected Nominating Committee members to read thru the Nominating Committee Handbook: https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/NomComElections_Handbook_2018-19-FINAL-rev10-18.pdf in addition to the Standing Rules for your PTA to make sure all requirements are met ahead of election.

Have you seen the slate of officers currently up for election at Convention? Three of the candidates are currently on the Region 7 Service Delivery Team! <https://www.wastatepta.org/pta-leaders/governance/> Assuming those people are elected, the Service Delivery Team will be looking for additional team members next year. Those members must have experience as local and/or council level officers. Contact the Region 7 director, Jessica Giffin at ptareg7@wastatepta.org to find out more!

Students needed to participate in the WSPTA Men's Essay Contest

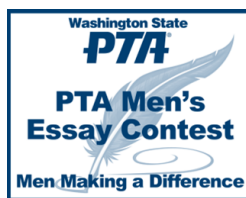
The objective of this contest is for students of all ages to write an essay about a male role model that has had a profound impact on their life. All men involved in a child's life (fathers, uncles, grandpas, brothers, step-fathers, mentors, coaches and friends) impact the children they care about. WSPTA want to promote this positive male involvement. When writing their essays, students can consider many questions including (but not limited to):

- Why is this male role model important in your life?
- What life lessons, ethics, or skills have they taught you?
- Why do you look up to him and appreciate having him in your life?
- How would your life be different without this person?
- How would other kids benefit from having a similar role model in their life?

Entries are due March 1st at the WSPTA Office (not a post-marked by date) There are grade divisions for kindergarten, 1-2nd, 3-5th, 6-8th, 9-12th, and Special Author category. Details and promotional ideas can be found on the WSPTA website.

Volunteers needed for Men's Essay Committee

If are you interested in helping judge the essays or helping with other committee duties, please contact Laure at mensesay@wastatepta.org. All judging is done online and time commitment varies depending on number of entries and divisions being judged.



Share Member Benefits with the Members!

LEGO Bags discount is here! Members shopping at www.LEGObags.com will have a 50% discount for online purchases. Great source for LEGO themed backpacks, lunch bags, accessories, AND LEGO storage bags! Purchase will also give a discount to the LEGO parks! [LEGO flyer](#)

Ticket Monster Now Tickets at Work! Use your Ticket Monster log in or start a new account. Company Code for new accounts: WSPTATickets [Tickets at Work website](#) Members can use this benefit to get discounted tickets to Volta at Marymoor park. [Volta flyer](#)

Be sure to use your card to get the best discounts. For a full list of benefits, go to : <https://www.wastatepta.org/pta-leaders/benefits-discount-codes/> and access using Every Child.

Celebrate your PTA's success by participating in the Local PTA and Council Awards of Excellence and other programs!

The purpose of the Washington State PTA (WSPTA) awards and recognition program is to celebrate the work PTAs and councils do to make a difference for their communities. Awards and programs also help build awareness of the WSPTA mission and focus. When PTAs and councils are recognized for the work they are doing, it builds pride in the community and helps people connect with PTA! Gold, Silver, and Bronze for all awards. PTAs and councils compete against a set of standards from WSPTA.

Must be in good standing with WSPTA to apply. All awards are open to local PTAs, community PTAs (e.g. Special Ed PTA, Mandarin Dual Language PTA) and councils. Updated award application forms will be available at <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/awards/>. All of the information on the Awards of Excellence can be found here: <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/awards/excellence/>

Information on all of the Membership awards can be found here: <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/awards/membership/>

And while your local PTA honors specific individuals for their service, individuals can also be honored at the state level: <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/awards/individual-awards/>

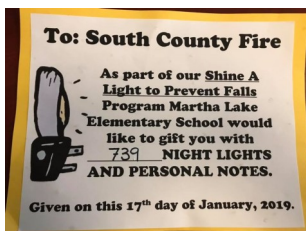
Do not wait until the last minute to review!

For information on honoring your PTAs local volunteers and outstanding educators, go here: <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/awards/volunteer-recognition-awards/>

Winning Ideas

Each month we will highlight programs from local PTAs that have gone above and beyond to do something special for their school community. Do you have something to share? Send your story to Kim at kimkuhne@hotmail.com

Follow Up on Martha Lake Elementary PTA’s “Shine a Light for Safety Nightlight Drive” On January 7, Martha Lake Elementary PTA kicked off their annual Shine a Light for Safety Nightlight drive! They collected new nightlights from the school community and delivered them to a local fire station to deliver to area Seniors. This was the 3rd year of the program. Last year they collected 560 nightlights! (This program has won an award for a PTA ‘Taking Significant Action’.) This year they collected 739 night lights! Wow!



Challenger Elementary PTA hosted their first Family Game Night in January! Challenger PTA got the games from Gamewright Games, <https://gamewright.com/> which sent a large variety of demo games for all ages to play, for a flat fee of \$50. Gamewright also sent matching, brand new games that PTA could sell and keep 50% of the profit. Alfys provided some free and some discounted pizzas that were sold by the slice. Challenger PTA also asked for donations from Jersey Mike’s (donated free kids meal cards) and Half-Price Books (donated 10 boxes of books!). About 70 people attended this very successful event! While the main goal of the event was to build family and community engagement, the event also raised over \$75 for the PTA!



Some of the Game Night participants!

5th Grade Camp! Not every school has a program for 5th Grade camp. Those that do, recognize the value of getting kids outdoors, trying new things, and pushing their comfort level with an unfamiliar setting. PTA leaders in the region have heard from some schools that would like to start sending their 5th graders to camp, but aren’t sure how to fund the program. **Whittier Elementary PTA** in Everett has a population with 44% free and reduced lunch. Their PTA goes above and beyond to raise the camp costs for all 5th graders (excluding transportation!). By the end of the school year, they will have had 2 textile drives, a Holiday Greens sale, sold mini-photo sessions, and had 2 fundraisers at Silvertips events. Check out the [Whittier PTA Face-book page](#) to see details on these events that started in the early Fall.



Region 7 Contact Information

Jessica Giffin, Region 7 Director: ptareg7@wastatepta.org
 Kim Kuhne, Region 7 Membership & Newsletter: kimkuhne@hotmail.com
 Laura Peterson, Region 7 Programs: lkpete@mac.com
 Tori Emerson, Arlington Council Rep: emerson_erikntori@msn.com
 Shelby Reynolds, Edmonds Council Rep: sreynolds3po@gmail.com
 Angela Steck, Everett Council Rep: angelasteck@live.com
 Sophia Woodland, Mukilteo Rep: thewoodlands4@outlook.com
 Lizzy Sebring: SDT: rungal20@msn.com
 Candace Pruet, SDT: ptacandace@gmail.com