

Message from our Region 7 Director!

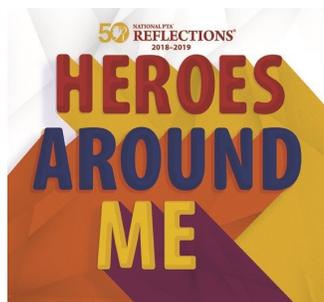
I always "forget" how FULL October can be! Having kids in multiple schools adds to the fun.

Our PTAs were so busy in October! Many had information tables out at Curriculum Night events. Most PTAs have had a big fundraising event or program by the end of October. Staff Appreciation Events, Fall Book Fairs, movie events, Parent education events, and Parent-Teacher Conferences filled the days with lots of work for our PTA volunteers. All that happens before we even get to the Pumpkin/Harvest/Monster/Fall events that many PTAs have hosted in the past week!

As you relax with your Pumpkin Spice Latte (or other warm beverage) this week, take a few minutes to make sure your PTA has finished the Standards of Affiliation duties, or making good progress. Enjoy Thanksgiving with your family!

**Reflections 2018-2019**

Hopefully by now you have launched your Reflections program. This includes deciding what categories you are offering and when entries are due and then promoting the program. Make sure you have the top part of the entry form all filled in with your PTA information before you make copies of the forms to distribute. This will save you a lot of time later. Resources can be found <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/reflections> If you are expecting a lot of entries, you might want to recruit judges now. If you have questions you can contact the WSPTA Reflections Chair Lindsey Yost at reflections@wastatepta.org or your Region 7 Chair Laura Peterson at Lkpete@mac.com. Don't forget to join the WSPTA Reflections group on Facebook, it's a great place to ask your questions.

**Membership Thermometer**

goal: 12,000
total to date: 10611

Upcoming Trainings**In-Person Trainings:**

Everett PTSA Council will hold a series of leadership classes following their November 28th Membership meeting. PTA leaders from outside of Everett are welcome to attend!

President's Class: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/presidents-101-training-tickets-50229720446>

Effective VP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-effective-vice-president-tickets-50314994503>

Local PTA Treasurer: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/local-pta-treasurer-tickets-50231177805>

Local PTA Secretary: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/local-pta-secretary-tickets-50230365375>

How to be a Membership Chair: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-be-a-membership-chair-tickets-51526120012>

WSPTA Webinars:

November 8, 7-8:30pm **Managing Your Non-Profit:** <https://www.wastatepta.org/event/managing-nonprofit-pta-webinar-2/>

November 13, 6-9pm **PTA & the Law:** <https://www.wastatepta.org/event/pta-law-webinar-9/>

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>

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Advocacy News- Legislative Assembly Wrap-Up

Civil Discourse: *The engagement of conversation to enhance understanding.*

There was plenty of Civil Discourse at Legislative Assembly on October 20-21! There needed to be in order to get thru the education, caucusing, debate and vote on each proposed Principle, Issue, and Resolution.

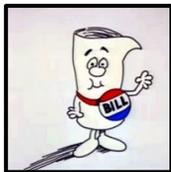
Over 200 PTA members from across the state came together for the event. There were many first-time attendees! The 2 proposed Principles, 12 proposed Issues, and 5 proposed Resolutions were each given 5 minutes of education, at least 30 minutes of caucusing (members could attend 3 entire caucus sessions or multiple partial sessions), and a 10 minute debate/amendment session. The debate/amendment session could be extended by 2/3 approval. The only real surprise was the number of total motions to amend or extend debate time for the entire weekend. The most intense debate was around amending the Gun Violence Issue. That Issue took a full hour!

All of the lively (and civil) debate means that the proposed Principles, Issues, and Resolutions have been modified from what you may have read before Legislative Assembly. It is recommended that each leader at least be aware of the new Principles and Resolutions and the new 2-year Platform. Local PTAs can use all of the Principles, Resolutions, and Issues to advocate locally.

During debate, there were questions raised about the voting delegate-approved changes. Additionally, members questioned if the Prevent Gun Violence issue would remain on the platform if Initiative 1639 passes in November. Yes, it would remain on the platform.

The new Top 5 Issues are: 1) Social & Emotional Learning, 2) School Construction & Simple Majority for Bonds, 3) Prevent Gun Violence, 4) Strategies to Address the Teacher Shortage, 5) Strategic K-12 Investments to Close the Gap.

For all the details on each issue in the WSPTA's Advocacy Platform, go to: <https://www.wastatepta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/> and click on the down arrow next to each issue. You can also [subscribe here](#) to receive emails about action on each of these issues. If you would like to actively work on any of these issues, including giving testimony in Olympia, please contact Nancy Chamberlain at ptalegdir@wastatepta.org



New Member Benefits!

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](#)

Nutcracker Tickets! WSPTA members get 10% off the purchase of the PNB production of "The Nutcracker" by following this link: <https://www.pnb.org/mypromo/?promo=WSPTA>

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](#)

NEW from Office Depot/Office Max! The WSPTA is pleased to introduce an exciting new member program through a partnership with Office Depot / Office Max. This program will provide you with substantial year-round savings on all things Office Depot, School Supplies, Office Products, Technology, Furniture, and Print. This program is open to all PTA members and their families. Check out the [flyer here!](#) 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.

Region 7 Contact Information

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Deadline for the December Region 7 newsletter will be November 25th. Information on Winning Ideas and December Celebrations are appreciated! Please mail to: PTAKim.Kuhne@outlook.com



Fall Celebrations

By: Jennifer Hirman, FACE/Programs Chair for Everett PTSA Council

Thank You to all of our PTAs who hosted fall celebrations of all kinds including pumpkin carving nights, costume dances and harvest parties! These fun events offer opportunities for parents, grandparents, caregivers and siblings to all be a part of your school community. Nurturing the community and fostering relationships among your families can help create that support network which can last through the years of schooling. It might be the chance to meet the parent of the classmate your child has been playing with at recess, or perhaps you end up getting advice from another family on how their older child balances their homework and extracurricular activities.

Research shows the positive impact that engaged families can have on various aspects of student achievement, and PTA social functions offer those extra opportunities for making positive school-family connections. Community-building happens one experience at a time!

Need ideas for other family nights? Visit the National PTA website at: <https://www.pta.org/home/events/PTA-Take-Your-Family-to-School-Week> to find toolkits with plans and templates for hosting a family night around Health & Safety, Literacy, Digital Learning or STEM.

PTAs can play a vital part in building that positive, family-centered school culture. Thank you for all your work making these events happen!

Photos from Jefferson PTA, Salem Woods PTA, Woodside PTA, and Mukilteo Elementary PTA.

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

Local Membership Benefits are a HUGE draw for some of our local PTAs! In some cases, community members seek out PTA leaders in September just to sign up and get their local benefit punch card! What's a punch card?? Some PTAs create a business card with 2-for-1 deals from local vendors. The member gets their card punched when they redeem it. Other PTAs have simply set up deals with local businesses to get discounts on goods or services just for showing their PTA card.

The best 2-for-1 deals are typically from independent coffee shops and restaurants. Forest View PTA in Everett has a program with Barre3 Mill Creek, Yoga in the Center, Sound Storage in Mill Creek, and Creative Hands Art Studio, to name a few, giving % discounts on services.

Setting up discounts with local vendors takes time and a lot of effort the first year and has better pay-off a few years later. Asking the PTAs that do special programs, they are worth the effort!

Recognizing Volunteers! Way to Go, Brier Terrace Middle School! They had a live drawing for 2 prizes to recognize all the lovely people that have volunteered so far this year! <https://www.facebook.com/btmsptsa/videos/283487272502242/> What a great idea!

