



WSPTA Region 7

Upcoming Dates:

Make sure your School District Administration has PTA representation on their decision-making boards for Fall!

Talks with Tori:

Thursday, June 4th, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 11th, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 18th, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 25th, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 2nd, 6:30 p.m.

Interested in joining? Send an email to ptareg7@wastatepta.org at least a half hour before the meeting for the link!

National PTA Grant for Covid-19 Relief

Update from Tori Emerson

Hello my intrepid leaders!

Here are some items for you as we enter these weird and unprecedented end-of-the year elections and summer transition planning. You all rock by the way! Thank you for staying the course and thank you to all of you who have been reaching out to me and/or your Council leaders for help and advice!

MAIN TOPIC: What in the world is going to happen in the Fall?

The short answer to that is, we don't know exactly. Another answer is that believe it or not, you may be able to have a say in some of what happens in your local school district. PTA is foremost the largest advocacy organization in the state; *every* child. *one* voice.

Applications for Phase 2 applicants **due June 1st - July 12th**. Your PTA can be granted up to \$5000 if selected for specific projects. Councils can be granted up to \$15,000 to help with specific projects. Check out the link for more details!

<https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/Awards-Grants/covid-19-relief>

More, now than ever, your PTA voices need to be heard to advocate for our children and families. Soon, OSPI will be sending some recommendations to the Governor for options on how schools may start up in the Fall. There will probably be some requirements districts will have to follow, but it appears there may be some options as to which model(s) districts choose for their communities. Most school districts across the state are already beginning discussions as to the feasibility of, and drawbacks for, some of the options. This is a great time for our Council Leaders (we have Councils in Marysville, Everett, Edmonds, and Arlington/Lakewood) to connect with your District administrators and let it be known you would like to have your local PTAs represented on these decision making groups. Most likely they will even have a requirement that they involve parent representatives. So, local PTAs, check with your Council leaders to see if they need help. For our non-Council areas, like Snohomish, Lake Stevens, Granite Falls, Monroe, Mukilteo, Stanwood/Camano, Whidbey Island, Sultan, contact me if you'd like to get together with other PTA leaders in your area to form a coalition with which to approach your District leaders.

Key things to remember:

- PTAs with Councils, please go through your Council leaders for this – we want to present a unified front and that is what they are there to do for you. We don't want to have our efforts scattered. There is more power to be had when someone makes this ask representing 20 PTAs and over 1,000 members, rather than one PTA with 40 members.
- Non-Council leaders, please contact me so I can help you present a unified front to your District.
- This is *not* a confrontational thing at all! We want to be there at the table to make sure our students' and families' needs are being taken into account. We want to work *with* our school district partners to help advise them and be a voice for our children. Often, district leaders have many things to take into account

when making decisions: unions to work with, schedules, maintenance, legal requirements, budgets, etc. We need to help them keep kids at the forefront.

If you're not sure how to contact your Council leaders, how to figure out who to contact at your School District, an email/letter template to use, or ideas, please email me. I'll be happy to help as well as our Region 7 Advocacy Director, Lizzy Sebring.

REMAINING ITEMS:

- If you need guidance with your end-of-year elections, budgets, planning, or officer transitions, reach out to me or your council leaders. We're happy to assist you! Don't forget to email your new officers to your council leaders/Region Director and support@wastatepta.org so they can enter them into Memberplanet for the July transition.
- I will be holding weekly Zoom "Talks with Tori" meetings most every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. starting next week on June 4th. If you'd like to join us to discuss ideas for next year, advice for the end of year this year, questions you have, or just want to talk with other adults, email me at: ptareg7@wastatepta.org for the link. As I have guest speakers on certain topics, I'll let it be known. Check your emails and the WSPTA Region 7 Facebook page for updates!
- If you've read all the way to the end of this newsletter and would like to be entered into a drawing for an Amazon gift card, send me an email with the subject title, "I Read to the End!" Yes, shameless bribery... ;)

Thank you all again for your selfless volunteerism and have a good week,

Tori Emerson
Region 7 Director

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