

# MEMBER CONNECTION

Washington State  
**PTA**  
everychild.one voice.®

September 6, 2011

In this Issue

[Take the Legislative Survey here.](#)

## Important Dates:

**October 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**

Legislative Assembly  
SeaTac, WA

**February 20<sup>th</sup>**

Focus Day  
Olympia, WA

**May 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>**

Convention 2012  
SeaTac, WA

## Get Connected:

Washington State PTA offers a number of interactive listservs on topics including Legislation, Membership, Councils, and the Reflections Program. These are open to any interested member. If you are interested in participating in any of these listservs please contact the WSPTA office at 1-800-562-3804 or by email at [adminstaff@wastatepta.org](mailto:adminstaff@wastatepta.org).

-----  
*Founded in 1905, the Washington State PTA is the largest volunteer organization in Washington, with more than 140,000 members in 920 local units across the state. In addition to providing training and assistance to local units, WSPTA is an active voice for children in pursuit of PTA's vision that every child's potential becomes a reality. More information about WSPTA can be found on our website at*

## GET THE NEW PTA YEAR OFF TO A GREAT START BY TAKING OUR [LEGISLATIVE ISSUES SURVEY](#)

Hello, and welcome to the 2011-12 PTA Year. On behalf of the leadership, staff and members I want to thank you for joining with more than 143,000 members statewide in support of our most important resource—our children.

Each new school year brings with it the promise of exciting new opportunities and, of course, challenges. The latter is especially true this year as our schools re-open with fewer resources, which typically means larger class sizes and less individualized attention for our students. However, let's remember this sage advice from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Don't be pushed by your problems. Be led by your dreams."

Often in PTA we spend a lot of time being pushed by the problems our children face, and conversely we spend too little time celebrating our successes. Here are just a few of the things that support from you and many thousands like you enabled Washington State PTA to accomplish over the past five years:

- Led efforts to improve education for all children with the passage of House Bill 2261 in 2009 and Senate Bill 6696 in 2010;
- Helped pass the Simple Majority Amendment to the state constitution in 2006;
- Awarded approximately \$300,000 in college scholarships to graduates of Washington public schools;
- Encouraged thousands of children to express themselves artistically through the Reflections Program;
- Trained more than ten thousand volunteer PTA leaders to enhance their leadership and advocacy skills;

These represent the latest in a long list of successes that PTA has enjoyed here in Washington and across the country over the past century, but none of them would be possible without support and active participation by you and millions more like you.

So how do we build on the legacy of the past and continue toward our shared vision that every child's potential becomes a reality? You have taken the first step by joining your local PTA or PTSA last year, and while your 2010-11 membership is good through October 31st I encourage you to renew your membership now for 2011-12 if you haven't done so already. Remember that you can still join PTA even if your children are no longer in school!

More important than joining your local PTA is to stay involved in your

[www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org).

President  
Novella Fraser

Executive Director  
Bill Williams

children's lives—parent engagement is one of the keys to every student's success. Of course you can help even more children by becoming active in the school community, through volunteering in the classroom, helping out at events, and yes, being active in the PTA.

**WHAT DO KIDS NEED?** Another easy way to get involved is to help shape our legislative priorities over the next year. Washington State PTA lobbies on behalf of all members for the well-being and education of Washington youth. Delegates will be meeting this October to adjust our 2-year platform and your feedback will be important to them. Please click [here](#) and give us your perspective on the issues that representatives from all over the state of Washington will be considering. The results will be shared with the delegates to help guide their voting at Legislative Assembly.

Thanks again for your membership and for working with us on behalf of all children, and best wishes for a successful 2011-12 school and PTA year.

Yours in PTA.

Novella Fraser,  
President

