

WHY JOIN STILLWATER PTSA?

Because PTSA members approve the PTSA budget.

While the PTSA solicits everyone's input when formulating the budget each year, only members can vote on the budget.

"I don't have any spare time for volunteering at the school."

PTSA is not only about volunteering. Yes, we need volunteers, but even if you can't, we still need your opinions and support for the overall effort and goals of the PTSA. Strength is in numbers and diversity. YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

"I like helping in the classroom, but I don't go to PTSA meetings."

PTSA members are not required to go to meetings. Your input is welcomed by any means: in person, phone, e-mail, or suggestion box. You do not have to attend a meeting to be heard or to be a member.

"If I join PTSA, you'll call me to help with everything."

Actually, we rarely call members to solicit help. We rely on sign up sheets and we request volunteers at events and meetings. We occasionally call on members for help when there is a need, but only if those members have previously expressed a willingness to lend a hand.

"You just want my money."

Yes, we do need your financial support. But the membership dues you pay are actually a very small part of PTSA's overall operating budget. Most of your membership fee is paid to the Washington State PTA. Membership dues account for about \$1,000 in income to Stillwater PTSA annually. Stillwater PTSA Membership is not about fundraising. Stillwater PTSA Membership is about a strong network of families who wish to be actively involved in what is happening here at Stillwater.

"What does the Washington State PTA do for us?"

The membership fees we remit to WSPTA mostly provide us with liability insurance for PTSA activities and some procedural structure for our program. In addition it helps pay for leadership training, legislative lobbying, scholarships, programs, publications, and more. Detailed information is available.

"What does the PTSA do with all the money it raises?"

Did you know that our PTA budget in recent years (\$60,000+) is larger than Amy Wright's (Stillwater Principal) annual budget? We make a significant contribution to the overall quality of our children's education each year. Some major budget items for us are Assemblies, Art, Field Trips, Emergency Preparedness, Library, Music, PE, Teacher Grants, Technology, Playground and many more important areas. The PTSA board proposes a budget each year based on parent and teacher responses to the "Tootsie Roll" survey taken in the Spring. PTSA members review and approve the budget each year. More information about each of these budget items can be found on our website at www.stillwaterptsa.org.