

The Purpose of the Nominating Committee

The charge of the Nominating Committee is to recognize and recruit the most qualified people available for the PTA positions. It is the most important committee in PTA. Having qualified people step into leadership positions in a local unit, council, region or at the state level will ensure success for many years into the future. The work of this committee is paramount to fulfilling our mission as PTAs.

Members of the Nominating Committee must be elected by the general membership. Committee work includes holding confidential meetings, reviewing nominations, and searching for the best qualified candidates for leadership roles in your PTA.

When selecting good candidates for your nominating committee, look for people with tact, integrity, discretion, and someone who is capable of standing up for what they believe in. Sound judgment, familiarity with the needs of your PTA and skill in evaluating possible nominees are essential. Confidentiality is a must, as committee members will hold extremely honest discussions and must agree to only announce the names of the nominees, not the conversation around those choices or the names that were not submitted for nomination.

Early election of the Nominating Committee is ideal so the committee can begin its work. Consider electing your Nominating Committee at the first general meeting in the fall so they can keep their eyes open for candidates all year long. To plan backwards from deadlines, keep in mind officers must be elected before April 30th to be in compliance with the WSPTA Bylaws. The Nominating Committee also must make its report to the general membership 15 days prior to the election, and all candidates nominated must be PTA members. Elected officers must be PTA members for 30 days before being elected.

Being a member of this committee is an honor given by your membership because they believe in your judgment and have confidence you will keep the best interest of your association at the forefront. Celebrate this committee and continue the great work you all do each day for children and youth.

This booklet provides detailed information on how to elect a Nominating Committee, how the Nominating Committee seeks and selects qualified nominees for PTA leadership, and answers the frequently asked questions regarding the duties of the Nominating Committee.

Build a Nominating Committee Notebook

Each unit/council should build a Nominating Committee Notebook that can be used by the committee and will include necessary information. Below is a list of suggested items to include in the notebook:

- Date the Nominating Committee Report is due to the board of directors. (Report must be given to all members 15 days prior to the general membership meeting at which elections will be held.)
- Dates of PTA events for the year.
- List of active PTA members. (A membership roster can be



downloaded from the WSPTA membership site.)

■ A sample “Recommendation for Nomination form.” This is the form that will be sent out to the members for recommending someone to the Nominating Committee. (A sample form is in this section.)

■ Contact information for the Council Officer, Service Delivery Team member or Region Director.

Electing a Nominating Committee

The “Uniform Bylaws of the Washington State PTA” [Article 5, Section 5(a) Local Unit and Article 6, Section 5(a) Council] **REQUIRE that the Nominating Committee be elected at a general membership meeting at least thirty (30) days preceding the election of officers. This committee should never be appointed by the president nor be selected by asking for volunteers.** No member should serve on this committee unless elected as specified in the Bylaws. The president and principal are not eligible to be elected to, or serve on the Nominating Committee and may have no part in their deliberations.

The standing rules of the local unit may provide that voting for officer or Nominating Committee positions be by mail or by electronic transmission if the name of each candidate is contained in the notice of meeting or set forth in a record accompanying the notice. Any vote cast by electronic transmission must be received no later than the date set forth in the notice of the meeting. The local unit standing rules may provide that members voting by mail or electronic transmission are deemed present for all purposes of quorum, count of votes, and percentages of total voting power present, or only for the purposes of the election(s) conducted at the meeting. (From “Uniform Bylaws of the Washington State PTA” [Article 5 Local Unit, Section 3 Membership and Voting and Article 6 Council, Section 3 Membership and Voting.])

The members of the Nominating Committee have a tremendous influence on the future of your PTA unit/council and should themselves be very carefully selected. This is an elected committee, not

one appointed by the president or selected by asking for volunteers.

Nominating Committee members are viewed as wise, tactful, circumspect, persuasive, and as having broad acquaintance with the membership. Members of the Nominating Committee should be elected on merit and ability -- never on popularity.

Members of the Nominating Committee are not barred from becoming nominees for elected office. Thus, committee members cannot be deprived of the right to hold office by being elected to the Nominating Committee. No person may serve on this committee for two consecutive years.

Candidates for the Nominating Committee must have been a member of the PTA unit for at least 30 days prior to the election of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee is to consist of at least three (3) members and two alternates.

Nominating Committee Meeting with President

After the election of the Nominating Committee, the committee should meet with the PTA President. This meeting should address the following topics:

- The president can't be involved in the Nominating Committee process or selection of officers.
- Give the committee this section of the Leadership Packet as well as the you units/councils Nominating Committee Notebook.
- The importance of this committee's ability to hold one's own council and have open and frank discussions about individuals that they are considering for nomination.
- Importance of confidentiality.
- Committee calendar. Go over dates, it is best to work backwards from the General Membership meeting date. Example:
 - April 16th General Membership meeting where elections will be held;
 - April 1st Nominating Committee Report sent to members;
 - March 29th Nominating Committee Report is due to Board of Directors;
 - March 10th Recommendation for Nominations forms due to the Nominating Committee)

Personal and General Qualifications

Nominating Committee members should possess the following characteristics (Not in order of ranking importance).

- Interest in and enthusiasm for the purposes and programs of the PTA unit/council.
- Willingness to work and devote considerable time to furthering the purposes and programs of the PTA unit/council.
- Tact, integrity and discretion; ability to hold one's own counsel.
- Courage to express ideas and to defend one's convictions.
- Sound judgment and skill in evaluating possible nominees.

- Knowledge of the PTA unit/council goals.
- General knowledge of potential candidates' qualifications and abilities.
- Be a member in good standing for at least thirty (30) days prior to the election of the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee First Meeting

After the election of the Nominating Committee, the committee should set a time and place for an initial meeting to establish a timetable and to begin the consideration of PTA members as potential nominees. An early first meeting will help ensure that sufficient time is given to consideration of all recommendations and suggestions.

The Nominating Committee needs the following information from the Board of Directors:

- Date of the general membership meeting where elections will be held
- Date the Nominating Committee Report is due to the members
- Nominating Committee Handbook
- Membership roster

At its first meeting, the Nominating Committee should:

- Set dates for meetings
- Change/format/build a Recommendation for Nomination form to be sent to the members with a due date on it. For sample Recommendation for Nomination form see page 7 of this publication.
- Make sure everyone understand that no one can contact a potential nominee unless everyone on the committee has directed this person to do so.

Selecting the Nominees

The committee's major role and responsibility is to nominate the best qualified candidate(s) for each office to give careful consideration, both as an individual and as a committee, to the requirements and scope of the offices to be filled as well as to the qualifications and abilities needed to fill them, and to match these requirements to the qualifications of the members.

The committee should ask for recommendations from PTA board members and from the PTA membership and consider the vision and mission of the organization as well. Regardless of the num-





Criteria for Selecting Nominees

It is important that the Nominating Committee carefully consider each potential nominee. The well-being of the PTA unit/council must be the top priority. The following criteria should be considered and evaluated.

The potential nominee:

- Must be a PTA member 30 days preceding the election. It is very important that this is confirmed.
- Must be willing to receive and attend PTA training for the position to which they will be elected.
- Must be enthusiastic and supportive of the PTA unit/council.
- Must believe in the objects and purposes of PTA and believe that PTA is the best organization for working for children and youth.
- Should have previous experience in PTA, though other organization work may also be considered.
- Should have knowledge of the PTA organization and its role in the school and community.
- Should be relied upon to give PTA a satisfactory level of priority and commitment.
- Should have good relationships with people.
- Must be fair and objective and able to subordinate personal interests to the interests and well-being of the PTA unit/council.
- Should have vision and be innovative.
- Must be at least 18 years old to be elected as a PTA officer.

ber of times a name is recommended, that individual must be evaluated equally and by the same criteria as all other possible nominees. The committee is not required to select nominees only from the recommendations it receives. The committee is obligated to seek out all people who would best serve the PTA unit/council in a particular office.

Secure a copy of the current membership list so due consideration can be given to all qualified members.

A presidential nominee should not be asked whom he/she would like for running mates. This decision rests with the Nominating Committee. Nominees for vice president, secretary, or treasurer should be selected with the same care as a presidential nominee.

Selection of nominees should be an orderly process. Open and frank discussions about potential nominees must be held between members of the Nominating Committee.

These discussions must be kept strictly confidential, and no information, including the reasons for accepting or rejecting a recommendation, should ever leave the committee meeting.

The Nominating Committee should not meet to consider any potential nominee unless all committee members have been notified of the meeting.

NOTE: Article 5, Section 6 of the Uniform Bylaws of the Washington State PTA outline the eligibility requirements for a nominee for a PTA unit office, and Article 6, Section 6 outlines the requirements for a nominee for a PTA council office.

Nominating Committee Report

A written and signed report of the Nominating Committee must be submitted to the PTA unit/council membership at least fifteen (15) days prior to the election *WSPTA Uniform Bylaws, Local Unit Article 5, Section 5(b) and Council Article 6, Section 5(b)*.

The written report of the nominees should be signed by all the Nominating Committee members.

The report is read to the PTA membership, by the Nominating Committee chair, just prior to the election. After the report is read, additional nominations may be made from the floor of the meeting by any PTA member. The Nominating Committee is automatically discharged when its report is presented to the membership.

Sample Nominating Committee Report

The _____ (insert year) _____ (insert local unit name) Nominating Committee places the following names in nomination:

For Office of _____ (insert office); _____ (insert nominee); membership number _____

For Office of _____ (insert office); _____ (insert nominee); membership number _____

For Office of _____ (insert office); _____ (insert nominee); membership number _____

For Office of _____ (insert office); _____ (insert nominee); membership number _____

Respectfully Submitted,

_____ Signature of Nominating Committee Member

_____ Signature of Nominating Committee Member

_____ Signature of Nominating Committee Member

Sample Wording For Local Unit Elections

(NOTE: This is sample wording; individual situations may vary. This example assumes that electronic voting has not been authorized. For more information on electronic voting, go to the Washington State PTA website: www.wastatepta.org.)

Individuals may join your PTA/PTSA upon arrival at any meeting and be able to vote at that meeting. However they can't run for office unless they have been a PTA/PTSA member in good standing for at least 30 days.

If you are voting by ballot it is critical that no one leave the meeting until the voting results are read. If an election is contested there **may** be a need to revote **in case no one candidate receives a majority**.

PRESIDENT:

"The next business before the unit is the election of officers. The Secretary will please read that section of the bylaws pertaining to the election of officers." (The secretary would then read, from the WSPTA Uniform Bylaws, articles related to elections: Article 5, Section 6 for local PTA units; or Article 6, Section 6 for PTA councils). "In accordance with the WSPTA Uniform Bylaws, we will proceed with the election of officers."

PRESIDENT:

"We will now hear the report of the Nominating Committee."

CHAIRMAN of the NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

"Madam/Mr. President, (pause for recognition), the nominating committee places in nomination the following:

For president: _____

For vice president: _____

For secretary: _____

For treasurer: _____."

Signed _____, Chairman

The chairman then hands the written report to the president and retires to her/his seat.

PRESIDENT:

"The Nominating Committee has named the following persons as candidates for offices of the PTA/PTSA for the coming year:

For president: _____

For vice president: _____

For secretary: _____

For treasurer: _____."

"_____’s name has been placed in nomination for the office of president. Are there further nominations from the floor?" (Always allow plenty of time.)

Note: A person does not have to be present to be nominated from the floor. However, they must give their permission to be nominated.

If, after waiting a reasonable time, and no other nomination is forthcoming, the president may close nominations by a general consent motion, in the following manner:

PRESIDENT:

"Hearing no further nominations for president, if there are no objections, (pause) the chair declares the nominations for president closed."

This procedure is followed for each office in sequence in which the nominations were made.

Candidates should be introduced and names listed on a flip chart or other visual aid. The vote is then taken. The Bylaws provide that when there is but one candidate for each office the vote may be by voice, but in the event that someone is nominated from the floor or a double slate is presented by the nominating committee, it becomes necessary for the chair to appoint tellers who are instructed to take a count of those members eligible to vote (those whose membership service fees have been paid for the current year). They also distribute, collect and count the ballots and report to the unit the results of the vote. A majority of those voting is necessary to elect.

The following example illustrates the form in which tellers' reports should be made:

Members present eligible to vote 42
Number of votes cast 40
Necessary to elect 21

(More than half the legal votes cast)

NOTE, if no one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for a particular position, then a run-off election should be conducted, limited to the two candidates who received the most votes in the initial election.

For president:
Mrs. B. received 26
Mr. A. received 12
Mrs. C. received 2

This process is followed for each office.

Signed: _____

(Tellers) _____

Every name for which a vote has been cast must be reported, the one receiving the largest vote for each office being stated first. The tellers never announce who is elected. Their report is given to the president who makes the announcement.

The president declares who is elected as follows:

PRESIDENT:

"The officers you have elected for the _____ PTA for 20____ to 20____ are:

President: _____,

Vice President: _____,

Secretary: _____,

Treasurer: _____."

The votes cast for each office must be preserved until it is apparent the results will not be challenged, so that if the election is questioned, the vote may be verified by a recount.

NOTE: Now that your officers are elected they must be logged into WSPTA's online enrollment system.

Frequently Asked Questions

Nominations from the Floor

Q: What if a person who wants to be president is not nominated by the Nominating Committee?

A: Every qualified person has the right to be nominated from the floor in the event (s)he wants to run for an office and is not on the slate of candidates offered by the Nominating Committee. This is a protection which assures that if any member feels the Nominating Committee ignored the best qualified candidate for a position, that person can still be nominated and run for the office. The choice of who is elected rests, as always, with the membership. In order to run for election a person must be a PTA/PTSA member for 30 days prior to the elections.

Purpose of the Nominating Committee

Q: Why is the Nominating Committee elected?

A: This committee is elected to give the membership the choice on who it believes is best qualified as future leaders of the PTA. Election by the membership to the nominating committee is a very high honor. This is the one committee on which the president is not an ex-officio member.

Q: What is the duty of the Nominating Committee?

A: The responsibility of the committee is to identify, recruit and nominate the best qualified candidate for each elected position. To do this, the committee members must be committed to PTA; be willing to invest time into making it the best possible organization; and, be capable of holding frank, honest, candid discussions about the potential nominees knowing that all conversations are confidential.

Qualifications of Nominees

Q: One of the children of the individual who has been nominated for office was just convicted of armed robbery. Should that nominee be asked to step aside so someone else can be nominated?

A: No. The crimes of one individual are not the crimes of another. The crimes of the child are not the crimes of the parent.

Q: If a member of the Nominating Committee has knowledge of theft by a nominee — should they share that information with the committee? (For example, they were in Scouts together and the person running for office was convicted of embezzlement of Scout funds.)

A: Absolutely. The committee needs this information to determine the best qualified candidates for the PTA. However, if there are only suspicions or if there was no conviction, then it would not be appropriate to share this information

Principal's Role

Q: The principal wants to run for PTA president because he wants to force the PTA to raise funds to buy school supplies and other things. What can be done?

A: Interference in the corporate affairs of a private, nonprofit association is serious. However, any member has the right to run for an office. If this individual is the wrong person and will damage the organization, the members will need to elect a better qualified candidate. If this principal is using his position to intimidate members, then contact your region director or the State PTA office for assistance. It is also a conflict of interest for the principal to be elected president of the PTA.

Timeline for Nominating Committee

Q: When is the Nominating Committee elected?

A: The Nominating Committee should be elected at the first general membership meeting in the fall.

Nominating Committee Members Being Nominated for Office

Q: Can you be a nominee for office if you are on the Nominating Committee?

A: Being a member of the Nominating Committee does not mean you may not be considered as a nominee for office. Individuals being considered for a position should be excused from any discussion regarding that position, and the remaining Nominating Committee members will decide whose name to put forward.

Nominee's PTA Membership Requirements

Q: How many days does a candidate for office need to be a PTA member before being selected for nomination by the Nominating Committee?

A: The WSPTA Uniform Bylaws does not specify how many days an individual must be a member before being selected for nomination by the Nominating Committee; however an individual must have been a PTA member for 30 days prior to being elected as a PTA officer.

Electronic Voting

Q: For what purposes can electronic voting be used?

A: Electronic voting can only be used to elect the nominating committee and officers, and then only if specifically authorized in the local unit or council standing rules.

Q: What is the recommended way to conduct an election using electronic voting?

A: WSPTA does not recommend electronic voting; however, there are some suggested guidelines available on the WSPTA website, www.wastatepta.org. Click on the Leadership Resources link, and scroll down to "Elections."

(insert PTA name here)



**Recommendations for Nomination
for the _____ (insert PTA name here) _____
Board of Directors**

At the (insert date of general membership meeting), (insert name of PTA) will be electing officers for the following positions: (insert all positions to be elected here) for the 2011-12 PTA year. To be eligible for election to any of the above positions, candidates must have been a member of a PTA at least 30 days prior to being elected.

Recommendation for the office of

Please Print

Name: _____ Phone _____
E-mail _____
Address _____

- **Qualifications for this office:**

- **PTA/PTSA service and experience:**

- **Community Service/Other Activities:**

Submitted by: Name _____ Phone _____

Individuals are welcome to recommend ones self. For information about a position, or to request PTA job descriptions please contact any of the following committee members.
(insert names of nominating committee here and contact information)

(insert PTA name) Standing Rules:

The Executive Committee (insert directly from your standing rules what it says about the executive committee)

Deadline: (insert date here)
Please send SEALED recommendations to the attention of:
(insert how they will get them to the committee)