

October 2019



With just one look, or even one step outside, it becomes obvious that the changing seasons are happening all around us - from Summer to Autumn, Autumn to Winter, and each recurring season after. I have always been a fan of the changing seasons, and anticipate each one as its time comes during the year. However, I also know that not everyone embraces the seasons, and the changes that come with them, quite so willingly.

Change means that things are no longer going to continue in the way that we know them to be. Friends and family may move, jobs can change, the group One Direction breaks up (much to my daughter's dismay), we find new ways of doing business, and so much more. In its very own ironic way, "change" is a constant in life.

What do we do, in our PTA units, when change is on the horizon? How do we incorporate new PTA plans when the phrase "*We've always done it this way!*" comes into play? How do we move our units from being change resisters to change makers?

Often with PTA, when we begin to look at changing the way of doing things - whether an event, a fundraiser, or something else entirely - it is because a challenge has presented itself. Whether the attendance was not what it once was, or your anticipated income has dropped over the years, inquiring minds can help to identify new opportunities and fresh possibilities. We must ask ourselves, "*Why are we doing this particular thing in this particular way?*"

In the book, *A More Beautiful Question*, author Warren Berger writes:

When we want to shake things up and instigate change, it's necessary to break free of familiar thought patterns and easy assumptions. We have to veer off the beaten neural path. And we do this, in large part, by questioning...

A beautiful question is an ambitious yet actionable question that can begin to shift the way we perceive or think about something - and that might serve as a catalyst to bring about change...

Certainly, change that goes against our unit bylaws and best practices for our units, is not the standard of change that I'm writing about. We have governing documents and a PTA Resource Guide in place to govern our units, and to help keep our elected boards functioning in an orderly manner.

As PTA leaders, however, let us encourage new ideas from our members and realize that those new ideas are a possibility for change! Encourage the beautiful questions that can cause us to adapt and look at re-creating what we do, and in seeking new ways to be creative to help our units as we move through the school year.

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