

## Interview with Alisa Ellis, wife, mother and education activist

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As WFWP USA is expanding its network of women leaders, we would also like to highlight some of these remarkable ladies in our newsletter. In this issue, we interviewed Alisa Ellis, former member of the State Board of Education in Utah, who was one of the panel speakers at Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN) conference in Las Vegas this past June. A recipient of the 2019 National Parents of the Year award, Alisa also shares about her personal experiences as a parent.



*Question: To start things off, could you tell us a little bit about yourself?*

I am a wife and a mother of seven kids. My husband and I raised our kids in a small town in Utah and we recently moved to Arizona (in July). We have a cute little grandbaby. My husband was raised in Arizona and I grew up in Texas, and we met in college.

*Question: How did you become active in the field of education?*

In 2012, I started listening to education policy and became a citizen activist. I traveled around and saw the dangers in education reform. I founded a group called Gathering Families because we see an attack by outside forces to replace the family with artificial institutions, when really the lifeblood of our society is the family unit. We empower people to be engaged in the community and let their voices be heard. Parents need to be in control and in a lot of regards have abdicated their control to outside sources. They should not have other people tell them how to raise their kids. That led me to run for the state board of education in Utah. During my time on the board (from 2017 to 2019), I chaired several committees. I really enjoyed that experience.