

Washington State

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.

Region 3

Region Director: Vicki Sparks

December 2002

Region 3 News

Region 3 Service Delivery Team

Vicki Sparks
Region 3 Director
360-574-7822
sparks@wa-net.com

Patrick Pickett
Service Specialist
360-577-3955
Longview, WA
Pickview@aol.com

Danielle R. Winton
Service Specialist
Newsletter
360-887-3512
redcaddi@hotmail.com

Joanne Boyd
Council Representative
360-573-0777
JojoBoyd@aol.com

Suzanne Nichols
Council Representative
360-574-8204
snichols@pacifier.com

Anne Woods
Region Legislative Chair
360-573-7785
cetawoods@earthlink.net

Do you know what you are worth? Your local PTA unit, I mean. As I've traveled around our region to visit local units, I've been asked to help them in a variety of ways. More often than not, we end up taking a look at their financial report or operating budget. I am astonished at the great sums of money that PTA local units raise on behalf of students and staff.

Not only are large sums of money dedicated to programs and enrichment at each site, the dollars donated in the form of volunteer hours are incredible. Even if you calculated the value of those volunteer hours at minimum wage, I think you'd be surprised at the total of the gift you give to your school community.

So, I would like you to undertake a little exercise in financial worth. I would like every unit to take a look at the money they pour into their school in a year and email me with the total. I would also be interested in what types of programs, grants and activities are supported by your efforts.

Another piece of information I think would be interesting would be to add up all those volunteer hours and figure out the value of the time donated by your parent community. Please email me with that information as well.

Finances are tight in public education these days. As our legislators head to Olympia to go to work on the state budget for the next two years, the financial picture is looking pretty grim. The services and goods that you provide do more than enrich. Many times they are needed to fill gaps in basic needs.

The gifts that you provide for children are tremendous. Those that we can attach a price tag to, as well as those that are more difficult to quantify. Either way, they are all from your heart and I thank you as you continue to work for children.

Vicki

every child . one voice

WASHINGTON STATE PTA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2003

By Anne Woods, Region 3 Legislative Chair

Delegates to the Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly met October 18th and 19th and voted on our legislative platform for 2003. The delegates debated and considered 13 issues and then voted to prioritize their top 10 issues. The vote came out as follows:

To support policies or initiate legislation that:

1. Protect I-728 and existing K-12 funding was the top priority.
2. Establish a task force of parents, educators, and public policy makers to review the Basic Education Act and evaluate its relevance to a performance-based education.
3. Design and enact a tax system for Washington State that is fair, equitable, stable, straightforward, easily complied with and administered, and provides ample revenue to meet the needs of all children for education, health, and human services; and, promotes a healthy economy.
4. Allow the people to vote on Simple Majority for school funding measures.
5. Maintain the funding of established, data-driven prevention and early intervention health and human service programs for all children and youth.
6. Create flexible compensation packages, including performance-based pay and additional enhancements to attract and retain high quality educators.
7. Design and enact a school funding system that is ample, flexible, equitable, straightforward, and accountable.
8. Create safe and healthy schools by reducing environmental hazards.
9. Fund a study by a recognized research organization on the costs of fully funding a performance-based public school system.
10. Provide adequate funding for family support services for children with developmental disabilities.

Thanks to Vicki Sparks, Pleasant Valley PTA, Jeanette Muck, Sacajawea PTA and Tina Pederson, Salmon Creek PTA for attending from Region 3.

In addition, the Legislative Assembly delegates reaffirmed the Legislative Guiding Principles. The Guiding Principles are issues that come up year

after year and are long term goals. They fall into three main categories;

- Support for Public Education - Policy
 - Alternative Programs for All Schools
 - Class Size
 - Education Reform
 - Redefining Basic Education
- Support for Public Education - Funding
 - Early Childhood Programs
 - Education Funding
 - Levy/Bond Election Reform
 - School Facilities
 - Transportation Funding
- Support for Public Health and Welfare Services for Children and Youth
 - Healthy Children
 - Homeless Youth and Children in Foster Care
 - Juvenile Justice

For a more detailed description of the Principles please refer to the state PTA website (www.wastatepta.org) and click on Legislation.

2002 ELECTION RESULTS

US CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3

Brian Baird (D)**

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

15th DISTRICT

Senator Jim Honeyford (R)

Representative Bruce Chandler (R)**

Representative Dan Newhouse (R)**

17th DISTRICT

Senator Don Benton (R)

Representative Marc Boldt (R)**

Representative Deb Wallace (D)**

18th DISTRICT

Senator Joseph Zarelli (R)

Representative Tom Mielke (R)**

Representative Ed Orcutt (R)**

19th DISTRICT

Senator Sid Snyder (D)

Representative Brian Hatfield (D)**

Representative Mark Doumit (D)**

49th DISTRICT

Senator Don Carlson (R)

Representative Bill Fromhold (D)**

Representative Jim Moeller (D)**

Legislators' names marked with ** were elected on November 5th, 2002. These results were as of press time and were not yet certified. All results are unofficial until certified.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE

By Vicki Sparks

Due to a scheduling change, this year, for the first time in a few years, I was able to attend the WSPTA Legislative Assembly. It was an energizing experience. I'd like each of our local units to be represented at future assemblies.

WSPTA is one of the few groups that truly lives up to the definition of a "grass roots" organization. Our Legislative Committee consists of members from around our state that work to put on a first-rate gathering for delegates from local units such as yours. These local unit delegates work tirelessly throughout the weekend in caucus meetings around specific topics that have been suggested from our membership all over this state. Then they debate the issues and vote to build the legislative platform for the WSPTA.

We had a tremendous number of 'first-timers' at the 2002 assembly and they received training tailored just for them prior to the opening session. This training prepared them to participate fully alongside delegates that have been attending legislative assembly for many years. And participate they did. I served as a microphone monitor throughout the weekend and was impressed by the number of delegates sporting 'first-timer' ribbons approaching the microphones and speaking to the issues before the delegates.

Being involved in legislation is particularly important to those of us from southwest Washington. Because we are in the Portland media market, we learn precious little from the news about decisions being made in Olympia that impact us as residents of Washington State.

We have a hard working, knowledgeable, friendly Region Legislative Chair in Anne Woods. She is anxious to identify at least one person from every local unit in our region to serve as the legislative contact person. Please be sure you are represented. Call Anne and tell her the name of one of your members that might be interested in being your contact person.

Pay special attention to the information in this newsletter regarding the Forum on December 12 and Focus Day in February. Working together, we can make a positive impact in the lives of kids.

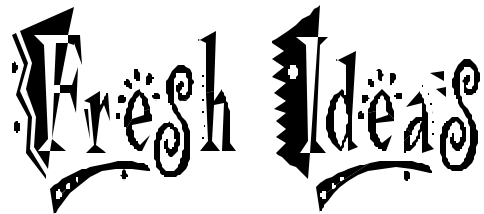
WSPTA FOCUS DAY IN OLYMPIA

WHEN: February 12, 2003
WHERE: Olympia
TIME: 10am - 3pm

Washington State is facing more than a \$2 billion budget shortfall. It is now more important than ever that legislators understand what is important to PTA members on issues that effect kids during the 2003 Legislative Session.

JOIN the Washington State PTA as we speak with one voice for all children and take this opportunity to talk with legislators. Remember that the only way they know what is important to their constituents is by hearing from us.

We will be carpooling or taking buses up so please RSVP to Anne Woods, 360-573-7785 or cetawoods@earthlink.net



A SHARING NETWORK OF LOCAL PTA COMMUNITY EVENTS

By Joanne Boyd

By now, all of your events are probably on your calendars and you are looking forward to enjoying them as they come up.

We would ask all of you to let us know when your events, such as dances, carnivals, etc. are coming up so that we could publish them in our newsletter. Then perhaps some of the other local units in the area could check out your events.

Sometimes we just need a new, fresh idea for our own unit to get started on. A **Sharing Network** such as this would give us all some new great ideas, we're sure! If you are interested in having your events published in our newsletter please either call Joanne Boyd at 573-0777 or e-mail at JojoBoyd@aol.com, and we will get a **Sharing Network** up and running.

INVITE US... AND WE WILL COME!

By Vicki Sparks, Region Director

Several local units have requested that I, or a member of the Service Delivery Team, attend meetings at their school site. Feedback from the local units that have requested our attendance tells us that these meetings have proven to be quite helpful for those that we have visited. Sometimes, it is a casual meeting with just the elected officers, often it is with the entire board of directors, and for some units, it is a special session where their entire general membership is welcomed. We have discussed topics on everything from goal setting and fund raising to conflict management and the various aspects of organizational effectiveness.

These meetings are just an extension of the training that is offered by the Service Delivery Team on an ongoing basis. We would be thrilled to come to a meeting at your site to answer general questions or provide specific training on any number of topics. Call me at 574-7822 to talk about questions you may have or discuss the needs of your local unit.

PLAN NOW TO SEND YOUR 2003–2004 OFFICERS TO CONVENTION!

MAY 2 TO 4, 2003

- LOTS OF TRAINING
- NETWORKING WITH OFFICERS FROM UNITS ALL OVER THE STATE
- TEAM BUILDING WITH EACH OTHER
- NEW FUNDRAISING, ASSEMBLY & PROGRAM IDEAS
- SERVE AS YOUR VOTING DELEGATES TO HELP DECIDE IMPORTANT WSPTA BUSINESS AND ELECTION OF STATE OFFICERS

When sent as roommates, local units from our area report that the cost for sending two delegates, including their registration fees, mileage, lodging and a daily meal allowance totals about \$625.



Mark
Your
Calendar

IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TALK WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS PLEASE BE THERE

WHAT:

Legislative Forum

WHO:

Sponsored by PTA Southwest
Washington Region 3

FOR:

PTA members and legislators in the
17th, 18th and 49th Districts

WHY:

So we can discuss issues that impact
kids and education

WHEN:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2002
6:30 p.m. TO 8:30 p.m.

WHERE:

Clark Public Utilities
Community Room
1200 Ft. Vancouver Way
Vancouver, WA

For more information please contact:

Anne Woods
Region 3 Legislative Chair
360-573-7785

WSPTA BOARD OPPOSES TEACHER'S JANUARY 14 'DAY OF ACTION'

The Washington State PTA has and continues to actively lobby for education funding, including increased teacher compensation, through legislative action and initiatives.

An issue before us is the Washington Education Association Day of Action scheduled for January 14, 2003. This effort to close schools throughout the state in order to send teachers and other school supporters to Olympia to rally for increased teacher compensation and education funding was thoughtfully considered at the November 2, 2002 Washington State PTA Board of Directors meeting.

The WSPTA Board of Directors voted to oppose the January 14, 2003 Washington Education Association Day of Action because the method encourages work stoppage that potentially interrupts the education day for many students and families. The position taken by the WSPTA Board is based on a resolution passed by the general membership and board policies that oppose work stoppages and strikes. Some districts may make January 14th a non-work day for teachers and students. Local PTAs and Councils are encouraged to discuss their individual situations and make appropriate decisions.

Establishing long-term, credible relationships with legislators at home is the most effective advocacy tool for a grassroots organization. The following suggestions are ways that your PTA can show your support for funding children, youth, and families.

- Organize a letter writing campaign to your State legislators. (Model letter available.)
- Invite your State legislators to attend a PTA meeting to share concerns and possible solutions (schedule before Legislative Session begins in January).
- Meet with your legislators before session starts.
- Congratulate legislators on their election and offer your support on WSPTA issues of interest.
- Host a community forum to discuss education and health and human service funding for children and youth and possible solutions.
- Support a Legislative Hot Line "Bring No Harm to Children and Youth" message day. Ask your members to call the Legislative Hot Line

1-800-565-6000 and leave a message for your district's legislators as well as the Governor.

- Use e-mail for hot-line type messages.
- Organize your members to attend the WSPTA Focus Day on February 12. The Region Service Delivery Team will arrange carpools.

If you have specific questions, or would like more information, please contact Vicki Sparks, Region 3 Director, at 574-7822.



CONGRATULATIONS ON INCREASING YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

As of October 25, the following Region 3 units have shown an increase in their membership over their 2001-2002 enrollment. VERY COOL! Keep up the great work!

Harmony PTA 3.6.11	up by 88
Yacolt-Amboy PTA 3.6.50	up by 66
Felida PTA 3.7.13	up by 65
Pleasant Valley PTA 3.6.30	up by 45
Cascade Middle PTSA 3.5.27	up by 34
Chief Umtuch/Capt Strong PTA 3.6.40	up by 33
Roosevelt PTA 3.7.65	up by 32
Ben Franklin PTA 3.7.15	up by 28
South Ridge PTA 3.6.35	up by 23
Dorothy Fox PTA 3.6.9	up by 19
Illahee PTA 3.6.15	up by 19
Columbia Heights PTA 3.5.5	up by 15
Stevenson PTA 3.6.37	up by 9
Discovery Middle PTSA 3.7.100	up by 9
Eisenhower PTA 3.7.10	up by 5
Arts & Academics PTSA 3.7.110	up by 5
Helen Baller PTA 3.6.5	up by 3
Marrion PTA 3.6.25	up by 1

TRAINING FOR MEMBERS OF YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Joanne Boyd

One of the highest honors bestowed by any organization is election to the Nominating Committee. It is the task of the Nominating Committee to recognize and recruit candidates for the elected leadership of the PTA unit or council. The members of this committee, therefore, have a tremendous influence and impact on the future of the PTA and should be elected with a great deal of care.

The Uniform Bylaws of the Washington State PTA require that the Nominating Committee be **elected at a general membership meeting**. This committee should never be appointed by the president or a school building principal, or selected by asking for volunteers. No person can serve two consecutive years, nor can a sitting president serve on this committee.

Two very important qualifications to look for in the members of the Nominating Committee are (a) high qualities of tact, integrity and discretion; ability to hold one's own counsel; and (b) sound judgment and skill in evaluating possible nominees.

Members of the Nominating Committee are not barred from becoming nominees for elected office.

If you have any questions on how to elect a Nominating Committee feel free to call anyone on your Service Delivery Team. Those of you who attended the PTA and the Law Seminar in October got a first hand look at how it is done!

This being said, plan to elect your Nominating Committee **NOW**, rather than in the spring. The reason behind this is because your Region 3 Service Delivery team is offering training classes for Nominating Committees on Thursday, January 16th at two different times. The classes will be offered at the Jim Parsley Center from 11:00am - 1:00pm and from 6:00-8:00pm.

To sign up for this training seminar please call Joanne Boyd at 573-0777 or e-mail: JojoBoyd@aol.com. This is a free seminar, so we hope to see all your local units' Nominating Committee members there.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

UNIT # 3 . .

UNIT NAME: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

NUMBER TO ATTEND WORKSHOP: _____

SESSION: DAYTIME _____ EVENING _____

ATTENDEES:

CONTACT: JOANNE BOYD
360-573-0777
JojoBoyd@aol.com

CALL NOW TO BOOK THE PRESENTATION:

Parent to Parent – Success for Every Child Understanding the EALRs

February is the month when we are focusing our energy on educating parents in our community about the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) These are the benchmark learning requirements that the Washington State Assessment (WASL) is based on.

Through a grant from Washington Mutual and teamwork with the Partnership for Learning, a curriculum has been professionally developed and presenters have been trained to deliver this material throughout the State.

Local presenters are ready to put your meeting on their calendar. Do your local members a favor – schedule this seminar.

Call Vicki at 574-7822

SEE PAGE 2

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, December 12, 2003	OPEN FORUM WITH LEGISLATORS
Thursday, January 16, 2003	NOMINATING COMMITTEE TRAINING
Wednesday, February 12, 2003	PTA FOCUS DAY IN OLYMPIA

CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR PRESENTATION...
PARENT TO PARENT TRAINING – SUCCESS FOR EVERY CHILD
UNDERSTANDING THE EALRs
(Essential Academic Learning Requirements)
Contact Vicki AT 574-7822

Vicki Sparks
WSPTA Region 3 Director
3720 NE 160th Street
Ridgefield, WA 98642