

Mountain News

Region Director's Message

Looking back at our previous newsletter, I realize I didn't properly introduce myself! I'm Teresa Olson, your new region director. I have been married to Paul for 19 years. My daughters Tanya and Tracy are sophomores at Bethel High School and my son Steven is in the fourth grade at Spanaway Elementary School. We live in Roy (the middle of nowhere, as I fondly call it). We have lived here for 4 ½ years. When my girls started school at Roy Elementary the first friends they made were the daughters of the PTA Co-presidents. The rest is history. I was asked if I would be willing to collect soup labels the next year and I said yes. I had joined PTA prior, but wasn't involved. Why? Because no one ever asked me to participate! It makes me wonder how many moms, dads, aunts, uncles, etc. are out there waiting to be asked to become involved in advocating for children!

September is membership time, ask everyone to join your PTA. The WSPTA website, www.wastatepta.org, has many resources for your membership campaign. Check it out! Use the various resources and ideas to create a successful membership campaign for your PTA.

In August, we hosted our Region Leadership Conference. Thank you to all who attended. This is a busy time of year, your Service Delivery Team appreciated the gift of your time.

If you couldn't attend, and are a non-council unit, Anita Crosby-Weston has your leadership packets. Her contact information is to the right. If you are in Bethel Area Council or Daffodil Council, your council leaders have your packets – contact them to pick up your packets (contact info to the right). If your unit is in Franklin Pierce Council, I have your packets, contact me to pick up your packet.

Good luck to all as we begin another year of advocacy for children.

~Teresa

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Keys for a Successful Membership Campaign (reprinted with permission-WSPTA)

- ✓ Produce a flyer or brochure highlighting your PTA's accomplishments over the past couple of years; the services your unit provides for the children, families and the learning environment in the school; a brief description of advocacy efforts at the State PTA and National PTA levels; and a list of dates for your PTA's meetings and events for the year. Distribute this along with a membership envelope at the Back-to-School Night or in Back-to-School Packets.
- ✓ Invite last years members to renew their membership in the PTA unit.
- ✓ Invite everyone to join – neighbors, teachers, grandparents, and all families at the school. Inform individuals that being a member doesn't require them to go to meetings or volunteer on committees. Joining PTA shows their support for the mission of the organization.
- ✓ Offer a student directory or discounts on after-school PTA activities as incentives for joining PTA.
- ✓ Offer a family rate as well as individual rates for joining PTA to encourage both parents to join the PTA.

Benefits of Being Involved/Membership (reprinted with permission – NPTA)

- ✓ PTA works on behalf of its members, providing state and national information, influence, and recognition to help unite parents, teachers, and the community for the common good of all children. Together, members can create a healthy, nurturing environment for improving opportunities for all children and youth.
 - ✓ Local PTAs provide parents, teachers, and community members the opportunity to work together to improve the lives of children and youth through programs that address health, education, and social concerns.
 - ✓ Local, state, and National PTAs cooperate with other children and youth-oriented organizations to combine resources in addressing child-related issues.
 - ✓ PTA is committed to developing leaders who can carry out the mission and Purposes of the PTA.
 - ✓ By providing skills and information through workshops, videos, and written materials, PTA prepares members to fill specialized roles, e.g. advocating for children before government entities, managing finances, working with the media, developing programs, and encouraging parent and community involvement.
 - ✓ Members have clout and a powerful voice in government because of PTA's large membership of more than 6 million nationwide.
 - ✓ National PTA's Washington, DC, Office provides support for all PTAs with information regarding the analysis of federal issues and through advocacy training. This support is provided mainly through your state PTA.
 - ✓ Members have access to information providing the PTA perspective on current federal legislation, including NPTA's legislative hotline (888) 4-ALL-KDS (425-5537).
 - ✓ Each PTA president receives a subscription to the National PTA magazine *Our Children*, which includes a legislative section.
 - ✓ Members can get up-to-date information on legislative activity by subscribing to the weekly e-newsletter *This Week in Washington*.
 - ✓ National PTA's website, www.pta.org, provides legislative news and alerts, as well as background on key issues.
 - ✓ PTAs across the country have access to an abundance of information and resource materials from state and National PTAs covering all facets surrounding a child's life.
 - ✓ State and National PTAs assist local PTAs in developing strategies to effectively address concerns in the community, such as providing children youth with a safe and nurturing environment, support for public education, and strengthening the partnership between home and school.
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PTA and the Law Region Workshop

October 4, 2003 9:00 am – 12 noon
 North Star Elementary, 7719 224th St E, Graham

This specialized seminar deals with the many state and federal rules, regulations and laws that govern private, nonprofit, and tax exempt organizations – including PTA local units and councils. This workshop will acquaint officers and board members with these rules, and how they can affect your PTA’s activities. PTA and the Law will be open to all interested PTA members. Encourage your entire board of directors to attend this important training experience. How much information can you learn on a Saturday morning? Join us and find out for yourself!

PTA and the Law Registration Form

Saturday, October 4th 9:00 am – 12 noon
North Star Elementary 7719 224th Street East, Graham

Directions: North Star is located on 224th Street between Mountain Highway and Meridian. If you are coming from Meridian the school will be on your right, coming from Mountain Highway the school will be on your left.

Unit/Council _____ Unit/Council # _____.

Contact Person _____ Phone # (____) _____

Fees for the workshop: **\$25 per unit/council, includes 2 PTA and the Law Booklets ~ additional booklets can be purchased at \$10 each**

****Checks require two signatures and are made payable to Washington State PTA****

Arrive early to pay at the door or mail registration and payment (postmarked by 9-22) to:

Pam Sykes ~ 4324 214th St Ct E ~ Spanaway ~ WA ~ 98387

How many PTA members will be attending? _____

How many extra booklets will your unit/council be purchasing? _____

Note: the last newsletter had a typo on Pam’s address – this address is correct!

Just In Time Learning Workshops in the works for Region 5

September – Best Practices
October – Advocacy/Legislation
November – Nominating Committee
January – Budgets & Audits
February – Board Development Strategies
March – Smooth Transitions
April – WSPTA Convention Orientation

Brand New
For 2003-2004
PTA Leaders
& Members!

Due to time constraints with newsletter publication, we are planning on posting Just in Time Learning Workshops on the State PTA website. Just go to www.wastatepta.org and click on “Regions”, click on Region 5 and you are there! Your Service Delivery Team has identified the website as a place where we can give our leaders updated information. Please take advantage of this resource.

Legislative Assembly – October 17-18, Yakima, WA

Legislative issues prioritized by the delegates of Legislative Assembly become the platform defining the WSPTA’s legislative program. WSPTA’s legislative priorities are the primary factors in determining the actions and activities of the Legislation Committee, volunteer PTA advocates, and the State PTA staff during the legislative session. The priorities determine what legislation the State PTA will monitor and attempt to affect and influence. Plan on attending! Use your voice in choosing legislative issues. Registration fees range from \$55 - \$120. Online registration is available right now! Registrations received after 9-25 must pay an additional \$25 (includes on-site). For more information, contact the WSPTA office at 253-565-2153 or 1-800-562-3804, log onto website at www.wastatepta.org, & send email to: wapta@wastatepta.org