

Washington State

PTA[®]

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Region 7

Serving local PTA units of Snohomish / Island Counties

Region Director: Rachel Thompson

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Region 7 News

Director's Message

Happy New Year! The end of one year and the beginning of another year often causes me to reflect and ponder how things have gone. In this past year, I have heard from many of you about your efforts to provide quality programs, activities, improve parent involvement, advocate for children, and help children as they navigate our world. I have also heard about your challenges in working with new and different people, learning how to do a new job, trying to stay balanced, struggling to increase the level of involvement and raising the membership base of your PTA. I have always known that PTA members are dedicated but you are truly an amazing group of people!

Each New Year brings the promise of a fresh start, Nominating Committees, new programs, things to improve on, new things to learn and new adventures. PTA is all of these things and more. It is often new as we accept new roles and responsibilities. It is often a learning experience as we learn how to work with people, how to lead, how to run a program or a nonprofit corporation. It is certainly a huge adventure and one that is filled with peaks and valleys. Does the image of a whitewater raft speeding down a river canyon sound like it illustrates your PTA work or perhaps the step by step plodding of the snowshoe hiker as they consistently take step after step towards their goal? There are ups and downs but step by step (walking or running) you continue to do whatever you can do to make this world a better place for kids. President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." These are balancing and inspiring words. Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. Step into the adventure. Every step matters. Every step makes a difference.

Thank you and bless you for being such caring volunteers. In this New Year, I wish you all happiness, success in your endeavors, smiling children and continued patience as you explore each other as we take those steps together on behalf of children in our PTA association. As always, don't hesitate to contact your council leaders or region service delivery team if we can assist you.

*-Rachel Thompson, Director
WSPTA Region 7*

Service Delivery Team 2004-2005

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FOCUS DAY IN OLYMPIA

The Washington State PTA Focus Day in Olympia is on February 17, 2005

Our goal in Region 7 is to have representation from all of our legislative districts. Think of the strong message that our legislators will receive when they see that issues that affect children are a priority to so many people in their area!

Talking points, issue papers and other information will be provided to all participants by WSPTA. Remember there is strength and comfort in numbers, so bring a friend and come join other advocates in Olympia. If you are unable to come to Olympia but would like to participate, here are some options:

- **Send a card to your legislators**
- **Email your legislators**
- **Phone your legislators**

Send your legislators a card: This is much easier than you think. You do not need to mail the card. Write down the top three Washington state PTA legislative goals on an index card. Make sure you put your name and address on the card. Send it to your council or region team so someone attending focus day can hand deliver the card to the legislator.

Email your legislators on focus day: We will provide the capwiz feature on the PTA website to make this as easy as possible. Go to www.wastatepta.org. Click on Legislation and then click on Legislative Action Center and look for our Focus Day Link.

Phone your legislators on focus day: Call the toll free hotline 1-800-562-6000 and leave a message for your legislators on Focus Day.

The important thing is to mark your calendars now and be involved on this day. Make your presence known either by email, phone, mail or by coming to Olympia on February 17. Thousands of members united on this day will show our legislators that PTA advocates are serious about issues that affect our children.

Planning on going to Olympia? Please contact the following person in your area so we can get a sense of numbers and arrange carpooling if needed.

Everett: Kippy Murphy, 425- 259-5063 or kippym@hascal.com

Edmonds: Carrie McAfee, 425-742-3652 or mcafee_carrie@hotmail.com

Mukilteo: JeanMarie Trapp, 425-750-7855 or jtrapp@johnlscott.com

Marysville: Jan Gustavan, 360-653-4064 or PTALegislative@aol.com

Arlington, Lake Stevens and Stanwood: Kathie Roon, 360-653-6673 or kathier272aol.com

All other areas: Rachel Thompson, 360-794-3784 or ptareg7@wastatepta.org

More Information: Contact Region 7 members listed above or Kelly Munn, WSPTA Focus Day Chair at 425-391-3253 or kellymunn@comcast.net.

Focus Day Issue Card Template

Use or edit this template for members of your PTA to sign cards that can go to Focus Day. Make sure that you sign your name, address and legislative district so that legislators know that you are a voter in their district. You can use additional space below or on the back for any additional message you want to add. Give cards to council or other Focus Day contacts or attendees.

The more cards-the stronger the message!

Washington State PTA Top 5 Priority Issues

1. Simple Majority for School Levies and Bonds
2. Critical Support Components for Education Reform
3. Education Funding Study
4. K-12 School Facilities
5. Support for Highly Capable Students

These issues are important to me. Please support these priority issues during this legislative session.

Legislative Session in Olympia-Let Your Voice Be Heard! Every Child One Voice!

The 2005 Regular Legislative Session in Olympia begins on January 10 and ends on April 24, 2005. Session runs everyday, including Saturdays and Sundays. The Washington State Legislative Website, www.leg.wa.gov is a wonderful source of information. Besides getting information about your representatives and senators, you can get information on: daily meeting schedules, session calendars, activity reports, bill information, status of bills and much more.

Legislative Session is the time that legislators use to discuss and decide on policies and bills that affect us. This will be a difficult year for legislators as they continue to try to make the budget balance and decide where cuts need to be made. We have the right and the opportunity to have our voices be heard and make a difference in the outcome of this session and the programs funded within the budget. During legislative session, timing is everything! If you haven't already signed up for Action Alerts during legislative session, consider going to the WSPTA website to sign up. Go to www.wastatepta.org. Click on Legislation and then on the Legislative Action Alert link or go to the Legislative Action Center and see posted alerts and sample messages. Action Alerts are sent/posted when issues affecting children are being either discussed or voted on. You can call or email your legislators office or call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 to leave a message for your legislators. You can send an email to all of your legislators directly from the WSPTA Legislative Action Center.





Healthy Schools in Washington



A Healthy Schools in Washington website was created for school personnel and officials to connect to resources that will help them improve school nutrition and increase physical activity opportunities for students.

Senate Bill 5436 requires Washington school districts to adopt a nutrition and physical fitness policy by August 2005. Targeted for unveiling in mid-January 2005, visitors will find a new page dedicated to resources for complying with SB 5436, including a list of individuals who have agreed to be contacted as resources, listed by school district; a list of existing or potential funding sources; and ideas about healthy vending without loss of revenue. New resources will be added continuously.

This website was created through a partnership of Children's Alliance, Washington State Department of Health, Washington Board of Health, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State School Directors Association, and University of Washington, Center for Public Health Nutrition. The website can be accessed at <http://www.healthyschoolswa.org>

Has your PTA chosen their Nominating Committee?

Everett PTSA Council News

Everett PTSA Council has had recent meetings honoring our principals and school board members. The November "Principal's Recognition Tea" had an amazing 68 attendees! January's "School Board Recognition Dessert" honored our beloved school board members, and had local units sharing their accomplishments.

There will not be a regular council meeting in February. Instead, council members plan to visit local units at their regular meeting. This will give Council a chance to explain what services we provide, and to put faces to names. Please e-mail your meeting time/place to LUriu@comcast.net, and include any topics you would like to have addressed.

The March 1st meeting will be set up for Roundtable discussions, giving us all a chance to share ideas and ask questions. If you have a request for a Roundtable topic, please e-mail President Kippy Murphy at kippym@hascal.com. We will also be honoring our Reflections Chairs during this evening.

Louise Uriu
Everett Council Secretary

You Are Invited!!!

Marysville Founder's Day Dinner & Auction

Date: Monday, February 28,
2005

Time: Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Location: Marysville Junior
High School

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Dinner: Begins at 7:00 p.m.

Menu: Tri-tip Steak, Rice Pilaf,
Corn, Roll, assorted beverages
and Cake for dessert.

Auction: Begins at 8:00 p.m.

For additional information
please contact:
Barbara Arocha 360-659-7724

PTA- Stepping up for Children

Region 7 Leadership Conference Agenda

March 7, 2005

5:00 pm-9:00 pm

Location: Cedarcrest Middle School,
6400 88th Street NE Marysville, WA 98270

5:00-5:30 Registration & Resources

5:30-6:30 Welcome/Introductions/Recognition
Election of Region 7 Director 2005-2007

6:45-7:45 Class Session 1

- Smooth Transitions
- Money Matters-Part 1 of 2
- Advocacy: Addressing the Needs in your Community
- Secondary Solutions-Roundtable

8:00-9:00 Class Session 2

- Goals & Budgets & Audits
- Money Matters-Part 2 of 2
- How to Keep Out of Trouble: PTA & the Law –Review of Basics
- Leadership Roundtable

Region 7 Leadership Conference-Class descriptions

Advocacy: Meeting the Needs of Your Community

Focuses on using advocacy to address local concerns including outreach and strategy. Class emphasizes tools and resources for helping PTA and community members address issues. Recommended for all PTA members.

Goals, Budgets and Audits

Building a budget based on goals is key to the success of all PTAs. Learn how to assess the financial management practices your PTA is currently using and how to build, develop, and amend budgets. Discuss the who, what, when, where, and why of audits. Learn how audits can provide you with tools you need to streamline and improve your practices. Recommended for treasurers, president, vice president, and interested board members.

Leadership Roundtable

Come discuss your topics with our panel of experts. Get opinions, options and solutions for working more effectively in your PTA. Recommended for all PTA members.

Money Matters

Many of you asked for this class again only longer! This class covers financial management of a PTA. Legal and fiduciary requirements and responsibilities for all board members are covered in this workshop. All elected officers and other interested board members are encouraged to attend.

Smooth Transitions

Having a smooth transition between the outgoing and incoming leadership is crucial to the health of a PTA. Discuss communication, procedure notebooks, transition meetings, and how to help everyone feel valued in the process. Recommended for all PTA board members and chairpersons.

Secondary Solutions-Roundtable

Middle and High School PTAs have their own specific challenges. Come discuss your issues for working and volunteering in secondary schools. Recommended for all members in secondary PTAs or approaching secondary PTAs.

How to Keep Out of Trouble: PTA & the Law –Review of Basics

Review of PTA & the Law Basics. This class will cover corporation requirements, tax-exempt and corporation status and basic laws that govern the PTA. Recommended for PTA officers/members that missed PTA and & the Law workshop or that need a refresher on the basics. Note: This class is not designed to include all material from the three hour PTA & the Law workshops.

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars now for these important dates!

January 24 - Marysville & Edmonds Council Meetings
February 28 – Marysville Council Meeting
March 1 – Everett Council Meeting/Roundtable Discussions
March 28 - Marysville & Edmonds Council Meetings
April 25 – Marysville Council Meeting
April 26 – Everett Council Meeting/Educational Forum
May 11 – Golden Acorn Banquet/Tentative Date
May 23 – Edmonds Council Meeting
June 7 – Everett Council Meeting/Board Transitions

Leadership Reminders:

January: Membership Dues 1/25/05
February: Board Development Strategies. Schedule ‘Just in Time’ training with Region Director & Service Delivery Team, if desired.
February: WSPTA Focus Day in Olympia 2/17/05
March: Region 7 Spring Leadership Conference/Election of Region Director for 2005-2007
March: Secondary Conference-CANCELLED
March: Smooth Transitions. Schedule ‘Just in Time’ training with Region Director & Service Delivery Team, if desired.

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