

Region 8

Washington State
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.

Serving local PTA units of :
Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan Counties and Oak Harbor

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Region 8 News



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Diversions from the Director

Karolyn Crabtree, Region 8 Director

Well, it's a New Year and the month is racing past. It's a time for Resolutions and I made a few, how about you? So far the whole time management thing is sliding away (much like my car on the road lately). I think the trick to a Resolution is to make it manageable. Make a resolution to talk to a new person at your next PTA meeting. Invite a friend to join your PTA, membership doesn't just happen at the beginning of the year. Have you got a nominating committee yet in your PTA? See how you can help shape new leadership, mentor someone.

Inside you will find an article about Focus Day, make your Resolution to learn more about what you can do for Focus Day, join us in traveling to Olympia or call from home, there are some great ideas from Kelly Munn, Focus Day Chair.

WA State PTA

Focus Day
Thursday, Feb. 17th 2005
Come to Olympia!

or

Send a card
Email your Legislators:
Phone your Legislators

See page 2 for details and ideas!

100 Year Celebration—May 6-8, 2005

Focus Day, February 17th in Olympia Washington

PTA Focus day has two main goals:

To raise awareness in Olympia of the Washington State PTA as advocates for children and to familiarize our legislators with our priority goals.

To raise awareness of our lobbying efforts within our own communities.

At Legislative Assembly we voted the top five messages are:

Simple Majority for School Levies and Bonds, Critical Support Components for Education Reform, Education Funding Study, K-12 School Facilities, Support for Programs for Highly Capable Student

Focus Day is an opportunity to show strength in numbers. There will be hundreds of PTA people walking on the campus displaying our political solidarity. You should be able to schedule appointments with your legislators and talk with them briefly. (This can be difficult sometimes because they are in session and will be in committee meetings) We will have a centralized PTA meeting that will give updates on political realities. If you are interested in attending Focus Day in Olympia please email Kelly Bashaw our Region Leg. Chair at maneringbashaw@hotmail.com or Karolyn at ptareg8@wastatepta.org. or call 360-398-7102 and let me know.

If you just can't come to Olympia, there are things you can still do. Send a card, make a phone call, email your legislators on Focus Day. Have a group of people come over and do it together, be inventive!

Send a Card to your Legislators

Representative _____ or, Senator _____

P.O. Box 40600 (House), P.O. Box 404[leg district] (Senate).

Olympia, WA 98504-0600 (House)

Olympia, WA 98504-04[leg district] (Senate)

Remember to put YOUR name and address on the card. Our legislators are more influenced by people from their own legislative district.

Email your Legislators:

Write the first 8 letters of your legislator's last name, followed by _ plus the first two letters of their first name, @leg.wa.gov. (e.g., washingt_ge@leg.wa.gov – if George Washington were here.

Phone your Legislators:

1-800-562-6000

TTY 1-800-635-9993

During the Legislative Session, operators are standing by:

Weekdays from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, and

Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

HOTLINE Operators will send your message to:

* one of your legislators, * all three of your legislators,

* the Governor and Lieutenant Governor – or all of these, as you request.

Coffee with Karolyn

Ok, so here's the thing... everybody has a question sometime. So let's get together and have a cup of coffee and answer some of them. We'll start slow and if we get going with this I will add more dates to be available in different parts of the Region. Members of the Service Delivery Team will be on hand if they can. I'd like to get to know more of you.

Anacortes/ Oak Harbor:

Anacortes Chocolate Factory
2303 Commercial Avenue
Tuesday February 1st, 3:00 to 4:30pm
Tuesday March 1st, 3:00 to 4:30pm

North Whatcom County

The Woods Coffee (Lynden Safeway Center)
8077 Guide Meridian
Thursday February 10th, 6:00-7:30pm
Thursday March 10th, 6:00-7:30pm

Bellingham

Starbucks (Barkley Village)
2915 NewMarket
Monday February 28th, 6:00 to 7:30pm
Monday March 21st, 6:00 to 7:30pm

*If the weather turns snowy and icy these will be cancelled.

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. --*Martin Luther King Jr.*

The Nominating Committee

by Donna Carr

Your first thought of the Nominating Committee might be, "Oh that's just another committee that the President appoints." Well, that's not the case. This important committee is to be elected by your general membership and is charged with identifying the future leadership for your local unit.

It is very important to get this committee up and running at least by mid year -- which is NOW! --so they can be talking to people who will be around next school year. It is important not to assume anything. In our new mobile society families change jobs, get transferred or just move out of the district much more often than they did years ago. The people you elect to serve on this committee must be people who can look objectively at all possible options for leaders, and are willing to do some homework on new people to your area.

A couple of points that are considered Best Practices for Nominating Committees are that a person may not serve on the committee two years in a row and the President may not serve on, or be ex-officio- to this committee. The reasons are that you do not want to Nominating Committee to be viewed as the same people picking their friends or the current president hand picking who follows them. It is vitally important to keep new blood in your PTA leadership.

New Blood = Fresh Ideas.

New Ideas = New Faces/Members.

New Members = Potential Leaders and the ability to continue the good work you started.

February and March Important Dates:

- February 1 Coffee with Karolyn- Anacortes Chocolate Factory
- February 10 Coffee with Karolyn- The Woods Coffee- Lynden
- February 17 **FOCUS DAY, Olympia WA**
- February 21 President's Day (WSPTA Office closed)
- February 28 Coffee with Karolyn- Starbucks- Barkley Village

- March 1 Coffee with Karolyn- Anacortes Chocolate Factory
- March 10 Coffee with Karolyn- -The Woods Coffee -Lynden
- March 21 Coffee with Karolyn- Starbucks- Barkley Village

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Have you made your Convention Plans yet???????

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