

Washington State

PTA[®]

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Region 9

Serving 141 PTAs in King County

Region Director: Charlotte Kemble
Editor: Karen Brooks

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News from Nine

Director's Message

Spring came very early this year. It was so unusual to have beautiful cherry trees and other wonderful pollen (sneeze, watery eyes) trees in full bloom. Yes, good old allergy season has arrive for some of us. And so has PTA leader's "burn out". We receive a lot of calls this time of year from wonderful, caring PTA leaders concerning burn out. My job is to listen to you, offer support as much as I can, and reassure you that you are not the only PTA leaders feeling this way. I relate PTA burn out to what children feel after Christmas. For months there is this big preparation for Christmas. As Christmas gets closer children get really excited, there is a huge anticipation of wonderful things on Christmas day. The day arrives, the children have a great time, and then its done. The excitement is gone, they may not have gotten everything they wanted but as parents we know that's okay. Well, PTA is kind of like that for us grownups. Remember the excitement you felt at being the new PTA officer, all the wonderful plans you had for the new PTA year, getting together with your team and making it work. We get pumped, the budget is approved, membership is on a roll, you have a core group of PTA volunteers and you set off to meet your goals. You get wonderful things done on behalf of the children, and yes, there has been some struggles along the way.

Now it's April, and we have only three months to the end of the PTA year, have you reached all of your goals? Maybe not, but that's okay. What I ask is that you look back on the PTA year and ask yourself have you made an impact on a child's life. The answer is YES, you have. And that's the most important goal, you have touch's the lives of the children. I want to say thank you all for making a difference in the children's lives. You all have done an excellent job.

So let's get pumped up again, learn new and exciting things about PTA, see new vendors, listen to wonderful guest speakers, go to General Membership meetings, elect new a WSPTA President, VP, Membership Director, Legislative Director, and vote on Bylaws for WSPTA. Where? WSPTA Annual Convention at the Doubletree at Sea Tac on May 5th - 8th. And, oh yes, did I mention Henry Winkler, the "Fonz" will be there.

Now for the really hard part of this newsletter for me. This is the end of my two year term as your Region 9 Director. I have enjoyed this position so much. Region 9 is a blast to work with. You guys are so wonderful and I thank each and every one of you for the work you do for the children. It has been a pleasure to work with you. The good news, I am leaving this position in the wonderful hands of Debbie Straus. Debbie has been on the Region 9 Service Delivery team for four years, Council President for two years, and has a wonderful sense of humor. You will enjoy Debbie and I know she will do an excellent job as your new Region 9 Director.

One last thing, I would like to say a special thank you to a wonderful group of people who have always been there for me - WSPTA staff, WSPTA Board of Directors, and my own outstanding Service Delivery team. Thank you so much for everything, your efforts and your support.

Charlotte Kemble

WSPTA Region 9 Director

A Message From Our New Region 9 Director

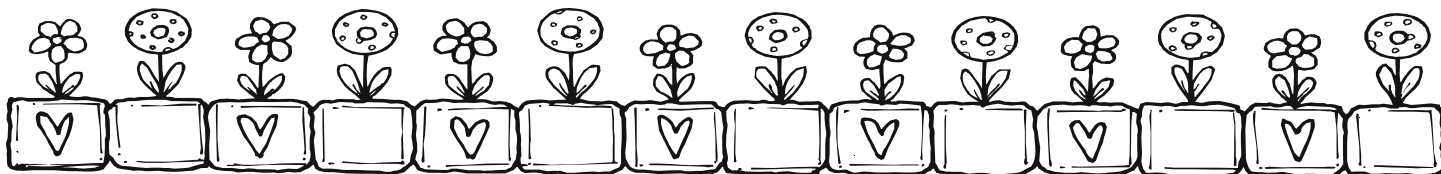
First of all I would like to thank Charlotte for the wonderful job she has done as our current Region Director. She has been a great mentor and friend.

I am excited about my new adventure as Region 9 Director. Region 9 is full of fantastic volunteers and caring individuals. I am also looking forward to representing Region 9 on the State PTA Board. I will do my best to serve and represent you.

As you are planning next year's calendars make sure that you mark off the evening of August 25th for our Fall Region 9 Leadership Training Conference. Training is so important to make sure that your PTA unit stays healthy.

Again, thank you for your support. I hope to see you at Convention in May!

Smile,
Debbie Straus



News from Kent Council

This year Kent will be celebrating their 50th Founders Day Celebration on April 22nd. We will be celebrating in full 50's style. We also had a fabulous Reflections Ceremony on January 20th. It is so wonderful to see the talents of the students in our district.

Kent Area Council recently held their elections for next year's officers. I would like to congratulate the incoming officers for the 2005-2006 school year! They are an awesome group and I am sure that they will be able to accomplish great things!

President: Gina O'Daniel

Senior VP: Helen Murray

Co-Secondary VPs: Kathy Nies / Gina Herron

Kentlake VP: Linda Novak

Kentwood VP: Shannon Weiler

Kentridge VP: Allyson Johnson

Kent Meridian VP: Tina Busenius

Secretary: Shelley Clutter

Treasurer: Anne Baer

Legislative Chair: Dennis Higgins

It has been my pleasure and privilege serving on the KAC Board as president for the last two years. I truly believe that as we work together we can and do make a difference in the lives of the children that we serve! Keep up the great work!

Smile,
Debbie Straus
Kent Area Council PTA President

Legislative Advocacy News

Current Status of #1 Legislative Priority

Mary Kenfield, WSPTA Government Relations Director
mkenfield@wastatepta.org
(253) 906-8773

Simple Majority for Levies and Bonds

On 2/21 HJR 4205, Simple Majority for Levies, passed out of the House of Representatives by a vote of 73 yea to 25 nay. The measure now moves to the Senate, where it is expected to be more difficult to pass. SB 5441 and SJR 8202, Simple Majority for Levies AND Bonds, have both passed out of the Senate Ways & Means committee.

It is expected that both sets of bills will be heard on the Senate floor during the same session. Senate leadership is discussing the timing for this vote, and I will send you information as it becomes available. **We may only have a few days notice. When these bills are heard on the floor, we want to make sure the Senate gallery is packed with simple majority supporters. So – please try to attend this floor session if at all possible.** WSPTA has been a leader in working on this bill for over 20 years. Passage of simple majority legislation will be a monumental success for the organization, and you won't want to miss it!

Excerpted from the March 4th Edition of the Grassroots Connection. To view the entire document please go to www.wastatepta.org ? Legislation? Grassroots Connection (March 4, 2005). For more information contact Mary Kenfield, WSPTA Government Relations Director, at (253) 906-8773 or mkenfield@wastatepta.org

How to stay informed

About Simple Majority and other priority issues

Be on the Frontline of Child Advocacy by signing up for one of WSPTA's Electronic Advocacy tools. To sign up go to the WSPTA Legislative Web page at www.wastatepta.org

- Legislative Action Alerts-Lets you know when there is specific action needed on specific issues
 - Grassroots Connection-Provides regular updates on the status of PTA priorities
 - Legislative "Talk"-Two way conversations with other PTA advocates from all around the state
-

What your PTA can do now to plan for next year

Enable your PTA to make a bigger difference for children next year by planning now!

Goals

Make Legislative Advocacy one of your PTA's Goals for next year, resources to assist you will be provided

- Recruit A Legislation Chair
- Include Legislation reports at PTA Meetings & include Legislation articles in PTA's newsletter

Budget

Have a line item in your PTA's Budget for Legislative Advocacy including funds to:

- Send at least one Delegate to Legislative Assembly
- Send a secondary Student Delegate to Legislative Assembly
- Print advocacy materials and postage
- Send your Legislation Chair to Region Training and Convention

Have a line item in your PTA's Budget to support your school district's bond and levy campaign

- Local units may contribute up to \$200 to Bond and Levy Committees
 - Additional funds could be allocated to print and mail flyers to support the campaign
-

Resources to assist your PTA

Because Legislative Advocacy *is what PTA Does!*

Any PTA can include Legislation in its endeavors to benefit children *whether it has a Legislation Chair or not.* The following resources are available on the Region 9 Legislation Web site at <http://r9leg.home.comcast.net/>

- A PTA Legislation Newsletter Article that is "kid mail" safe
- A PTA Legislation Report that anyone can read at a PTA Meeting
- A PTA Legislation Flyer, that anyone can print and copy to handout at a PTA Meeting
- Legislation Chair Recruitment Flyer
- Legislation Job Descriptions in 3 levels-*because one size does not fit all!*

Questions...Please contact me anytime

Jean Strother, Region 9 Legislation Chair (253) 631-7712 jeanstrother@hotmail.com

Convention Volunteers Needed...

Do you have too many people in your unit that you want to send to convention but don't have the money in your budget? If so than volunteering to work at convention is the way to go!

For working just 3 hours for each day you would to attend, you can go to convention and visit all convention areas (classes and vendors) for FREE.

This year is Washington States 100 Year Celebration May 5th – 8th and many volunteers are needed to make this event happen. Volunteers are needed to help with Recognition Area, Exhibitor Security, General Session and more. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gina O'Daniel, at 253/854-8109 or by e-mail at vicepresident@kacpta.org.

Washington State PTA Centennial Celebration

May 6th - 8th, 2005

Featured Speakers:

Eric Liu

Keynote address on Thursday

Gordon A. McHenry

Keynote presentation ~ General Session 1

Terry Bergeson

Keynote Presentation ~ General Session 2

Dr. Terrence Roberts

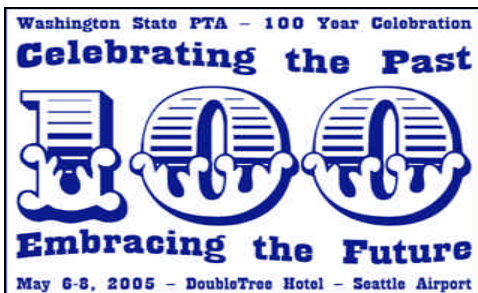
Presentation ~ General Session 3

Linda Hodge

General Session 3 & Final Session

Henry Winkler

Keynote Presentation ~ Banquet Saturday night



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Charlotte Kemble, Region 9 Director
Washington State PTA
2003 65th Ave West
Tacoma, WA 98466-6215

