



Region 9

Serving 141 PTAs in King County

Region Director: Barbara McPherson

January/February
2003



News from Nine

Barb's Blurb

PTA Resources

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Be the change you wish to see in the world —Gandhi

The New Year for PTA is a busy time. Many of this year's projects are yet to be completed, yet we start planning for the next year with Nominating Committee, elections, budgets and Convention. Region 9's Winter Leadership Training — "Getting it Together" will help with planning for the future of your PTA. PTA & the Law is being offered as an option and we have a Keynote Presentation, "Bully Recognition and Prevention" by Jennie Snell, Ph.D., Research Scientist/Clinical Psychologist for the Committee for Children. This opportunity should not be missed. Be sure to look for more information inside.

With the Legislative Session underway, it is time to become an active advocate for children. Our state's budget shortfall of around \$2 billion will generate many long debates in Olympia. Now more than ever we need to tell our legislators that we want all programs for children protected. We can do this in writing, by e-mail, by phone and by attending PTA Focus Day, February 12th and talking with them directly.

As we move through this year, I challenge each of you to invite someone to join you in your PTA activities. Reach out to families in your school community who maybe have not yet participated. Personal invitations often make people feel more welcome. Getting more people involved strengthens our PTA communities. And we do have some fun!

I look forward to seeing you on February 8th.

Barbara



**2003 WSPTA LEGISLATIVE
*FOCUS DAY !***

*Wednesday, February 12th
9:30 am - 3:30 pm*

WHERE?

Olympia, Washington - - Capitol Campus

WHO?

ALL members of the WSPTA

Legislators often refer to the WSPTA as the “Sleeping Giant.” We want to bring the “Wide Awake Giant” to Olympia on Feb. 12 and deliver this “Giant’s” message in person.

WHY?

**To advocate for Washington State’s
1.5 million children and youth**

The 2003 Legislature is facing a \$2.5+ billion budget shortfall. Take our message: ***BRING NO HARM TO CHILDREN*** directly to your legislators in Olympia—face to face!!

HOW?

- Organize car pools, van pools, or rent a bus.
- Call your legislators’ offices (*all 3*) and schedule meeting times for Feb. 12. *Pre-register for help with these!*
- Bring a bag lunch. Legislators will be invited to speak to us at lunch (12:30-1:15).
- Encourage other PTA friends to come with you!
- WSPTA staff will prepare packets for your use. Maps and talking points will be included.
- Bake and decorate cookies to deliver on Feb 12th.

Contact: Carol Taylor Cann (253-565-2153 - - ctaylorcann@wastatepta.org)

Be sure to visit the Region 9 Legislative Website at: <http://home.attbi.com/~r9leg/>

FOUNDERS DAY: PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST SINCE 1897
By Shirley Igo, National PTA President

Annually, members gather on February 17 to celebrate Founders Day. On that day we pay tribute to the three women –Alice McLellan Birney, Phoebe Apperson Hearst, and Selena Sloan Butler—in our history who challenged the barriers society had erected that prevented children from becoming healthy, happy and productive human beings.

These women and their successors worked hard to promote and advocate for a safer, healthier, and better world for children during a time when many ills needed to be corrected and protective measures needed to be put in place. The support of our founders and countless others helped lawmakers implement vital legislation for the nation’s children. Child labor laws, a public health service, hot lunch programs in schools, a juvenile justice system, mandatory childhood immunizations, and a federal law banning racially segregated schools eventually were accepted as national norms.

On Founders Day National PTA also pays tribute to you—the more than 6 million volunteers—who carry out our mission in schools and communities across the country. Whether advocating for more funds for public education, mobilizing communities to prevent youth violence, encouraging schools to promote tolerance, or helping families cope in times of national tragedy, PTA has taken a leadership role.

PTA is the parent voice urging everyone to act responsibly toward our country’s children. And we encourage each one of you to continue following our founders’ idea for a better world: If we can improve the lives of children, we can create a better future.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY WSPTA

PTA and the Law Seminars: presented in your region, will be presented at Winter Leadership Conference; **Focus Day in Olympia:** Legislative action day in February; **Convention** - 1st weekend in May at the Double Tree Hotel in Sea-Tac. 3 days of leadership training, awards recognition, program ideas and networking; **Benefit to Our Member**– Registered Agent and Notary Public Services (no charge). Agent for Secretary of State of Washington, IRS and most insurances; **Technical Services** (no charge): Charitable Solicitations Registration, Incorporation Annual Report, 990/990EZ forms, etc.; **Group Liability Insurance** plus three other types of insurance; 24 hr. toll-free phone line, 9am-5pm M-F for personal answers; **Websites:** Region, State, National PTA news; **Presentations:** Available to you at no cost upon request; **Grants to PTA units:** Applegate Grant, WSPTA Scholarship Foundation Grants; **Recognition:** through our awards program: **In addition,** PTA is represented on many state and community policy making boards and committees. Some of the entities on which PTA is represented include: State Board of Education certificate of Mastery Advisory Committee, Executive and Board of Learning First Alliance, ESEA, Implementation Committees, Healthy Schools Facilities and many more. We keep parents informed on policies that will affect the everyday lives of children and families.

REGION 9 WINTER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
“GETTING IT TOGETHER”

Saturday, February 8, 2003 - 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

At Kent Elementary
24700 64th Ave. S. Kent, WA.

Registration/Continental Breakfast 8:30-9:00a.m **Welcome /Keynote Speaker 9:00-9:50a.m.**
Session 1 10:00-11:00a.m. **Session 2 11:10a.m.-12:10p.m.**

Keynote Presentation: Bullying Recognition and Prevention
Presenter: Jennie Snell, PH.D.,
Research Scientist/Clinical Psychologist for the Committee for Children

Come and stretch your mind, exercise your imagination while learning about Legal Documents, Election Process, Conflict Resolution, Budgets, and Audits, and if you missed the PTA and the Law workshop, here is another chance to hear one of the most important workshops you will ever attend.

Cost for the workshop is \$25.00 per unit, at the door \$30. Handouts are guaranteed **ONLY** for pre-registered attendees! Registration fee covers as many attendees as you want to bring from your local unit or council. Pre-registered attendees will save time at check-in and have priority for classes and resource materials. PTA & the Law workshop is covered with conference registration, but books must be purchased separately for \$10 each. Question? Call Barbara McPherson at 253-630-5048 or e-mail at PTAreg9@wastatepta.org. To register online, send ALL information requested below to anccbear@yahoo.com. Pre-registration fee may be mailed or paid on site if registered online prior to Feb 8th. **PLEASE NOTE** Mailed and online registrations **WILL BE** considered firm and local units will be charged whether or not anyone from that PTA attends.

R E G I S T R A T I O N F O R M

Name of PTA: _____ Local Unit # 9. _____
 Contact Person _____ Phone Number: _____

Indicate class choices by number from descriptions on page 5.

Name of attendees: _____ Session 1 Choice _____ Session 2 Choice _____

Please attach a separate sheet of paper for additional names, Thanks.

Checks made payable to WA State PTA. PTA/PTSA check (don't forget two signatures) and Local Unit #
 Send completed form and registration fee to: Karen McClune 30352 121st Pl. SE, Auburn, WA. 98092-2048.
 (253-333-6582)

Questions? call Region Director, Barb McPherson at 253-630-5048

REGION 9 WINTER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
“GETTING IT TOGETHER”

Session 1

101-Legal Documents

What are legal documents? Come and find out what you need to keep your association organized “legally speaking”. Got piles of legal papers and don’t know how to organize them? Come and learn what should be in a legal documents notebook and how to get started organizing it.

102-The Election Process

From electing Nominating Committee to electing next year’s leadership, the procedures and how to recruit strong leaders for your PTA.

103-Conflict Resolution

“How to get along with others in difficult situations.”

Direction

From I-5: Exit at the Kent-Des Moines Road and go east. At the bottom of the hill, turn left (east) onto Meeker. Go to 64th St. turn right. Kent Elementary will be on the left.

From Highway 167: Northbound Exit at Willis. Turn left, go under the highway and turn right onto West Valley Highway. Go north to the next light (past Kmart) and turn left onto Meeker. At the next light, (64th St.) turn left. The school will be on the left.

From Renton: Use Highway 167 Southbound. Exit 84th Ave. S., turn left. This road turns into Central. Continue to Meeker, turn right. Continue through downtown to 64th St. Turn left.

Session 2

201-Goal setting, Budget and Audits

Getting finances in order and ready for next year. Guidance for conducting audits and creating budgets based on your PTA goals will be presented.

202-Awards & Recognition.

Recognition opportunities for you and your PTA to give and receive. This session will highlight how different PTA awards recognize, honor and encourage your volunteers.

203-Anti bullying

Understand your role in collaborating with schools to build a safe and civil learning environment. Learn strategies to work with schools to implement an effective anti-bullying harassment policy.

Both Sessions 1 & 2 (2 hour workshop)

301-PTA and the Law One of the most important workshops you will ever attend as a volunteer, and one of the most important services offered by the Washington State PTA. Learn about state and federal rules, regulations and laws that affect volunteers and their work in their local units.

*Books must be purchased separately for \$10 each.

302-Legislation With the legislative session underway, it’s time to get busy! How to keep up with what’s going on in Olympia and advocacy strategies will be shared.

NEWS AROUND THE NEIBORHOOD REGION 9

Let us give a big welcome to newly-elected
Highline Council President Anne Tiernan. Welcome aboard Anne.

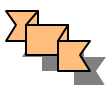
What's Happening in Kent

So far it's been a busy year for Kent Area PTA Council. We've had great turn out at our General Membership Meetings and conducted a number of workshops. They have included a PTA & the Principal presentation for which many of the school Principals were in attendance, a Best Practices presentation covering procedure notebooks, legal documents and effective ways to manage a PTA, an Awards workshop, and a Nominating Committee workshop followed by the election of the Nominating Committee. Pull out sessions have also been available for local unit leaders that have included Legislative, Emergency Preparedness, Treasurer Info, and Reflections. Each General Meeting has also included a presentation by our Superintendent Dr. Barbara Grohe. Everyone appreciates getting the first-hand information provided by Dr. Grohe.

Back on Thursday, October 24th the Kent Area PTA Council hosted a 47th Legislative District Candidates Forum. All the candidates for both the Senate & Representative seats were present. The candidates answered questions from a group of approximately 50 attendees, moderated by a representative from the League of Women Voters.

Our Council Reflections is coming to a close with an Art Walk (all the entries are on display for participants and their families and the community to come and see) on Saturday, January 11th followed by the Award Ceremony on January 28th.

Last, but surely not least, is the Kent Area PTA Council website has undergone a major overhaul. Many thanks to our webmaster, Gina O'Daniel, for the creative work to provide an extremely valuable tool filled with vital information for the local units and the KAC board. Be sure to visit our great website at www.kacpta.org.



Tahoma Non-Council PTA Roundtable Aids in Communication

The Tahoma Roundtable has been in place for over 6 years. It gives all the PTAs a chance to meet on a monthly basis to share information, learn key pieces of the district that they can pass on to parents, etc. The monthly roundtables bring together representatives from each PTA, the Tahoma Superintendent, the school board, district Public Information Officer, and TEA representative. At these Roundtable meetings various items are discussed, PTAs can ask questions and get the help they need from the different representatives that are there.

Often guests from various community organizations will drop in to let us know of their activities and/or partnering with a PTA. Towards the end of the school year, a meeting including all of the school principals and incoming PTA officers is held to aid in the transition into the next year.

All in all, our Roundtable allows the Tahoma PTAs to work together and open lines of communication while building a stronger sense of community. This in turn aids us in our role of working to help children of our community and as advocates for children.

RESPECTING DIFFERENCE

To Find Common Ground

Despite your best efforts to be role models for your children, children learn prejudice through living in and observing a society where prejudice exists. They may observe that some people will not associate with certain groups. They may overhear jokes that show disrespect toward races, cultures, people with disabilities, genders, family configurations, and sexual orientations. It's important to address the issue of prejudice and discrimination in all forms against all people with your children. Children can be taught that differences make people special, and they can learn from those who are different than they are.

Tips for Parents

To help your children understand and respect **difference**

- ◆ **Accept each of your children as unique and special.** Children who feel good about themselves are less likely to be prejudiced.
- ◆ **Be a good role model.** Maintain and encourage friendship with people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds.
- ◆ **If others use bigoted language,** don't ignore it. Ask them not to talk that way around you and your children.
- ◆ **Teach your children to be sensitive to other people's feelings.** Ask children to imagine themselves in the position of others.
- ◆ **Tell children that prejudice and discrimination are unfair and unacceptable behavior.** Make it a firm rule that no one should be excluded or teased on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, accent, gender, ability, sexual orientation, or appearance.
- ◆ **Help your children recognize instances of stereotyping and discrimination.** Teach them to never tolerate racial or ethnic slurs or jokes.
- ◆ **Provide opportunities for your children to learn about people of different cultures.** Through books, museum visits, and TV programs, children can appreciate and respect people's differences.
- ◆ **Encourage your child's school to offer educational programs that show positive insights into other cultures.** Books, TV programs, and trips to museums are all good tools to help children learn about different cultures.
- ◆ **Teach your children to view television, movies, Internet sites, video games, and the news with a critical eye, and to listen to music critically, too.** Inform them that the media often promote intolerance and violence against those who are different.

Resources

National PTA's Respecting Differences Resource Guide will help you examine diversity in all forms. The guide provides resources that you may want to use in talking with your children about respecting differences. It's available online at www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/helpchild/respectdiff/index.asp.

Region 9 Service Delivery Team

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