

Region 10 News

Region Director's Message

Well, the Holidays are starting. It seems like only yesterday school was starting. Your PTA should be in full swing and looking towards next year. Have you, or are you going to look at **electing** the nominating committee for your PTA? Now is the time to start so that they have plenty of time to search for qualified people to lead your PTA next year. Elections need to take place before April so that the new officers know who will have a chance to get training at convention in 2004.

The Region 10 nominating committee will be soliciting your help in locating a qualified person to become the next Region 10 Director. This is my last year and I am looking forward to working with my replacement. Please give it some serious thought and send recommendations to the nominating committee. There will be a form in this newsletter for just such a purpose. Your input is needed and welcomed.

This February, there will be a Secondary School Conference in Lakewood. Debbie Severe, Clover Park Council President, is the sub-chair of this committee and is helping to put together this conference. Last year the first one in the state was held in the Seattle area and was very well received. This year, not only will it be in the Seattle area and in Pierce County, but next year it will expand to the eastern side of the state. Please put February 21 on your calendar and plan to attend this most informative conference.

As always, I look forward to your questions and my SDT and I offer our help to your PTA. Please take advantage of this help if you need it.

My wish is for all you to have a very safe and happy holiday season. May we keep all of our military men and women and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Brenda Justin

Director, Region 10
Washington State PTA
everychild.onevoice.

Perspectives: David Shaw

Excerpted from his Keynote Address to the WSPTA Legislative Assembly, October 17, 2003.

The task before you is indeed a challenge but few organizations have the mandate to advocate for the whole child and build community relationships as yours. We must be clear that when we advocate for children's issues we recognize that the important work to assist our children is done quietly--in our homes and neighbor-

hoods, our faith-based organizations, schools and community organizations. For it is here where we teach that there are no instant solutions without sacrifice, that giving is better than getting and that sharing is better than hoarding. No budget can love a child and no

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Send a letter to President Bush and your U.S. Representative and Senator that five cents of every federal budget dollar makes sense for education.

David Shaw, cont..

policy can substitute for a family's care, but clearly families can be helped or hurt in their indispensable roles.

We now understand that the family structure of several decades ago is no longer reflective of many of our children's families today. We have witnessed children raising children and many homes without a responsible adult and little to no encouragement. Teachers and schools have been asked to serve as surrogate parents and in doing so have nurtured not only the child's mental development but also the child's moral development--and that's alright. One of the many lessons from Enron, Adelphia Communications, Worldcom and other recent business debacles is that in some instances it is not what some very bright and educated people know—but rather how they behave that has lasting impact.

We must accept without reservation that our future is our children--all children. Our success as a state is inextricably intertwined with the fate of our poor and non-white children as well as our privileged and white children.

The time to acquire a more stable future tomorrow is through investing systematically and prudently in all of our children today, recognizing the connectivity of all issues affecting children and thereby achieving the synergy wherein the sum of the WHOLE is greater than the sum of the parts- a new math --where $2+2=5$.

David Shaw is State of Washington Academic Achievement and Accountability (A+) Commission and past superintendent of Pasco Public School District.

A transcript of his entire keynote may be found at www.wastatepta.org/programs/Legislation/keynote03.htm

Perspectives: JoAnn Hightower-Thomas

"Nothing is more important to our shared future than the well-being of children. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes children to raise up a village to become all it should be. The village we build with children in mind will be a better place for us all.
-Hillary Rodham Clinton

The road to success is a challenge for all our children to strive for; it gives them the mindset that their goals are reachable. We can help them stay focused and achieve whatever ambitions they have in life. As Hillary Rodham Clinton once said, **"It takes a village to raise a child"**. I am in complete agreement with that statement, because it does take more than just parents or guardians to raise a child, it takes a community. When I was younger, I lived in a small town in southern Illinois with my mom. She was raising eight children by herself and she knew that she would need help raising six boys and two girls. My mom was always working two jobs, but she had no doubt that we were being taken care of. She knew that if anything went wrong, the neighbors would watch out for us. Every Sunday, we attended the service at a little mission church about five minutes away from our home. There, we knew that if we misbehaved, the minister would handle the situation. Then, there was a policeman that my mom knew. He would drive around during the wee hours past midnight just checking to see if anything suspicious was going on around our house. So, Hillary's statement was true then and it is still true today. **It does take a village to raise a child.** The church, the neighbor, the teacher, the policeman and so many others being involved in our life, had a major affect on us being successful citizens in society today.

The path our children will take today will have a lifelong affect on

their future goals and aspirations. Yes, I have great regard for the PTSA, because it played such a vital role in my formative life years ago and it still plays a part in the lives of children today. We had teachers that were concerned about our well-being and would call my mom to discuss our situation. School is where our children spend most of their day. Every child needs to be a part of an established learning environment, where they feel safe, loved, needed and supported by everyone. The PTSA; "P" is for parent involvement, "T" is for teaching style and "S" is for student learning. The three work together in a cohesive relationship. That's why it is called an association. The triangle is a never-ending battle to help each child be successful in our schools and society, and that's the goal of the PTSA.

Many school years have come and gone since I was in school, but the PTSA is still going strong. Boy, how time flies when you are having fun. The University Place PTSA's have had some wonderful or should I say awesome years with many family oriented and educationally fun packed nights, carnival evenings and we are expecting nothing less this year. There has been and will be dances, math nights, auctions, book fairs, carnival and popcorn days. There will also be many exciting and fun things that the volunteers have planned throughout the upcoming school year to keep our children active, busy and fascinated about learning in our schools.

University Place has an awesome council. All the schools in the district are working together, to share ideas and to gain insight on how to make each event better. The schools, the staff, the parents, the students and the volunteers will be having another fun packed

JoAnn Hightower-Thomas, cont.

year, just as they have in years past. My hat goes off to all the principals, presidents and executive board for their leadership and to all the volunteers for all of your time and effort. Last but not least, to all the parents for allowing us to be an intricate part of your child's life, because **it does take a village to raise a child.**

So, if you are in the area on the 4th Tuesday of November, January, March or May, at Chambers Primary, beginning promptly at 7:00pm, you are invited to attend the University Place Council meeting. The council executive board would love to have you.

JoAnn Hightower-Thomas,
President, University Place Council

News from Curtis Jr. High

Curtis Jr. High school is in their 3rd year of having an Early Out Program. This program is for 3 of our Staff early out days and offers events for kids to attend after school instead of going home or finding other things to entertain them without adult supervision. It has been a very positive program!

Thanks,
Monica Hacker
Region 10 Service Specialist
University Place

Pierce County Council Proclaims October as PTA Membership Month

Greetings to each of the County Council Members, As the new school year begins, PTA units and families are gearing up for what lies ahead of us. With approximately 17,000 members in the Pierce County area, we are preparing to meet our mission of advocating for the children of our communities. To further engage that mission, we are humbly requesting 5 minutes on an upcoming agenda to give an overview to the County Council regarding our activities, and to request that the County Council issue a proclamation declaring October as PTA Membership Month.

When PTA is mentioned, the first thoughts most people have are carnivals, cookies and bake sales. This is far from the truth. From its inception, the organization's mission has been to promote the health, education, safety and welfare of all children. We have advocated for children on every level, from within the schools to the State Legislature. Our vision is to build a better world for children, and to speak up on their behalf when their voices can't be heard. Last February, the Washington State PTA was honored with resolutions by the State Senate and the State House of Representatives, noting their work on behalf of the children of the State of Washington.

Because many of the policies and projects overseen by the Council affect the health, safety and welfare of children, we want to bring to your attention the fantastic group of volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of our families. We would be very grateful to have your support and a small piece of your time.

Thank you for what you do on behalf of the children of Pierce County.
Cordially,

Stacy Shown, Legislative Chair
Region 10, Washington State PTA

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Washington State PTA was founded in 1905 as an advocate for all children and youth; and WHEREAS, the Washington State PTA is a volunteer association of over 17,000 members in Pierce County dedicated to improving the educational opportunities and quality of life for all children and youth; and WHEREAS, the Washington State PTA provides opportunities for parents, teachers, students and all citizens concerned about the future of our state to contribute to the development and education of our youth; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of Pierce County should become better informed on the over-all program, requirements and plans for the children in each school community; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to create safe, healthy and enriching environments falls to all of the citizens of Pierce County; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State PTA strives to secure new members throughout the year to strengthen the association;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Pierce County Council proclaim the month of October, 2003, as PTA MEMBERSHIP MONTH

in Pierce County in Washington State and encourage our citizens to applaud the work of the Washington State PTA throughout this County and join with them in their work advocating for children and youth.

Scholarships Available

The WSPTA Scholarship Foundation will award individual scholarships to qualified Washington State public high school graduates beginning their freshman year of post-secondary education in amounts of:

\$2,000 to each grant recipient entering a four-year college or university

\$1,000 to each grant recipient entering a community college, vocational-technical or other accredited post-secondary school

The scholarship application can be downloaded from the WSPTA Scholarship Foundation website:

http://www.wastatepta.org/sf/scholar_foundation.htm.

Completed applications may be mailed after February 1, 2004 and must be received by March 1, 2004. The Scholarship Foundation will give primary consideration to the financial need of each applicant. Please contact the WSPTA office at (253) 565-2153 if you have any questions.

WANTED: 2004-06 WSPTA Region 10 Director

Local PTA Unit Leaders:

This is your opportunity to recommend an individual who possesses the leadership qualities and desire to fill the position of Washington State PTA Region Director. This requires an enthusiastic, capable, and committed person who is **a member of a local PTA/PTSA unit and shall have served as a local unit or council officer for two (2) years or have served on the region service delivery team for one (1) year and a local unit or council officer for one (1) year or have served on the WSPTA Board of Directors for at least one (1) year and shall reside within the region to be represented.**

Region Directors shall not be eligible for two (2) consecutive terms in the same office.

The Region Director is elected for a 2-year term from June 1, 2004 to May 31, 2006

The job description of the Region Director is as follows:

***Basic Functions:** Serves as an elected member of the Washington State PTA Board of Directors representing the appropriate region, the entire membership, and the best interests of the association. Maintains open communication with and exercises personal leadership in the motivation of Board members and the membership-at-large. Takes part in monitoring and evaluating organizational performance and effectiveness.*

***Duties, Responsibilities, and Authority:** Within the limits of the articles of incorporation, uniform bylaws, and policies – the region director: Attends all meetings of the Board of Directors, Convention, Board Retreat, Board education workshops, and the Service Delivery Conference; Presides at region meetings for the election of a nominating committee and the election of a region director; Identifies and appoints (with the approval of the Executive Committee) service specialists after soliciting input from units and councils in the region; Directs and coordinates the activities of the service delivery team; Provides ongoing leadership education to the service delivery team; Identifies and appoints the region legislation chairman; Helps plan and coordinate (with the service delivery team) region leadership education conferences for the delivery of the programs, projects, and services of the association to local units and councils; Coordinates region needs assessment surveys; Provides an annual evaluation of the delivery of services within the region; Has the primary but not the sole responsibility for the organization of new units and councils; Supports the policies, programs, projects, and activities adopted by the Board of Directors; Provides leadership education as requested and authorized; Represents the association to other organizations as requested by the president; Provides written and oral reports to the Board.*

***Relationships:** Responsible to the Board of Directors and to the membership for seeing that the programs and policies of the association reflect the needs and aspirations of the membership; Consults, meets, and plans regularly with the service delivery team; Consults regularly with the president, executive director, members of the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors.*

RECOMMENDATION FORM FOR STATE PTA REGION 10 DIRECTOR

Send recommendations to:

Paula Warren
WSPTA Region 10 Nominating Committee Chairwoman
PO Box 369
Vaughn, WA. 98394

Deadline: January 15th, 2004

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email address _____

QUALIFICATIONS:

Local Unit Officer:

Name of PTA _____ Position _____ Year _____
Name of PTA _____ Position _____ Year _____

Council Officer:

Name of Council _____ Position _____ Year _____
Name of Council _____ Position _____ Year _____

Service Specialist:

Year _____ Name of Region Director _____
Year _____ Name of Region Director _____

WSPTA Board of Directors:

Year _____ Position _____
Year _____ Position _____

PTA SERVICE / INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNITY SERVICE / OTHER

PERSONAL QUALITIES / OTHER

Nominee's Consent:

I meet the requirements as specified in the Uniform Bylaws for the position of Region Director; I understand the duties of the position; and, I am willing to accept the responsibilities of the position, if elected.

Nominee's Signature: _____

Reflections

Does your School have a Reflections Program?

By now, many of you are on the downhill slide for the Reflections Programs at your schools. Winning entries from non-council units (Steilacoom or Gig Harbor/ Peninsula area) must be completed and submitted by February 2nd to

the state PTA office. For those local units in council (Clover Park, Tacoma and University Place) please send in your winning entries to the Council Reflections chairperson. Each council has their own deadline so please

check on the date. After the judging takes place, councils are also asked to send in their winning entries to WSPTA office.

The address is:
Washington State PTA
2003 65th Avenue West
Tacoma, WA 98466-6215
Good Luck to all the entrants and thank you for participating in this wonderful art program.

Brenda Justin
Region 10 Director

Legislative Assembly draws 15 delegates from Region 10!

Looking back to last October, we want to acknowledge the attendance and participation of Region 10 to the Washington State PTA's Legislative Assembly. Region 10 signs marked our block of chairs in the Assembly and we made our presence known in other ways as well. Several of our delegates facilitated and supported general and breakout sessions and served as tellers. The majority of Region 10 delegates actively participated in the issue caucuses and in the formal issue debate. For avidly representing their PTAs and for their earnest advocacy efforts for children in this State, our hats are off to:

Brenda Justin, Region 10 Director.
Stacy Shown, Region 10 Legislative Chair (and issue proponent and caucus leader for Funding and Support of Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents.)

Kris Anderson, Tacoma PTSA Council.

Tina Burns, Mont Downing PTA, Tacoma

Laura Burress, Whitman PTSA, Tacoma (issue proponent and caucus leader for Life-Threatening Allergies and Asthma, also debate issue Safe and Healthy Schools)

Scott Di Loreto, Sherman PTSA, Tacoma.

Patricia Fatherree, Northeast Tacoma PTA, Tacoma

Michael Flemming, Clover Park PTSA Council

Susan Gay, Tacoma PTSA Council

Diane Larson, Sherman PTSA, Tacoma

Margo Palmer, Wainwright PTA, Tacoma.

Kim Reed, Mont Downing PTA, Tacoma

Paula Warren, Key Peninsula Middle School PTSA.

Pat Kearney, Drum Middle School PTSA, University Place.

2004 Washington State PTA Legislative Platform

The Platform is listed in order of issue priority as determined at the Legislative Assembly.

1. Access to Health Care for Children and Youth.
2. Simple Majority for Levies and Bonds.
3. Alternative Assessments to the WASL
- 4/5. Fair and Ample Tax System
- 4/5. Funding and Support of Mental Health Services for Children and Youth

6. Education Funding study
7. Prevention and Intervention Programs
8. Children with Developmental Disabilities
9. Safe and Healthy Schools
10. Eliminating the Achievement Gap.
11. Sustainable Focused Assistance
12. Funding for Advanced Placement and Int'l. Baccalaureate honors programs.
13. Life-threatening Allergies and Asthma.

14. P-16 Early Childhood, K-12 and Post-Secondary Education in Washington State.

15. Safe Storage for Guns
16. Junk Food and Beverages in Schools.
17. Funding of Traffic Study Education.

The platform will guide and focus the effort of WSPTA's Government Affairs Liaison Mary Kenfield as the legislative session starts up in Olympia on January 12th.

Give Your Student the 10 Success Factors

1. **A feeling of control over their lives.** Parents who have a hopeful, optimistic outlook and listen attentively to the problems of their children, give those children a feeling of self-confidence and the knowledge that their homes are a safe place to get support and understanding.
2. **Frequent communication of high expectations.** These parents expect their children to attend classes, be careful listeners and actively participate in order to learn. They see school as a way for their children to get ahead in life.
3. **A family dream of success for the future.** These parents have a vision of personal success for each child and a plan for making that dream come true. They talk with their children about the steps they need to take to make that dream come true.
4. **Seeing hard work as a key to success.** Children who are told that personal effort is the key to success know it is not fate or heredity or how they look that makes the difference. They know their own efforts will make the difference.
5. **An active lifestyle.** Parents discourage idleness and help guide their children's time into wholesome activities. They encourage their children to take advantage of school and community resources.
6. **Twenty-five to 35 hours of home-centered learning hours a week.** These hours may be devoted to homework, leisure time reading, hobbies, games, household chores, part-time jobs, sports, organized youth programs, family outings and even creative daydreaming.
7. **The family is viewed as a mutual support system and problem solving unit.** Every child has some household responsibility appropriate to their age. This helps the children feel important to their families.
8. **Clearly understood household rules, consistently enforced.** Parents set limits and tutor their children in ethical standards. They give their children opportunities to find resolutions and generally proceed in a reasonable way. Their children learn to take responsibility for their own actions.
9. **Frequent contact with teachers.** They visit the school often, check out their children's progress, cooperate with the school and want to know how they can support learning with home activities.
10. **Emphasis on spiritual growth.** They encourage and inspire children to strive for inner peace and love.

Excerpted from Washington State PTA - Family Involvement Guide. Written by Gay Campbell and based on information from R.M.Clark's, Effective Families Help Children Succeed in School Network for Public Schools, 1987.

2003-2004 Region 10 Service Delivery Team is ready to help you !

Region 10 Director

Brenda Justin
(253) 752-1894
justinb@harbornet.com

Council Presidents

Debbie Severe, Clover Park Council
(253) 588-9953
debbiesevere@lycos.com

Kim Golding, Tacoma Council
(253) 383-2269
tacomapta@nventure.com

JoAnn Hightower-
Thomas, University Place Council
Joannhthomas@aol.com

Region 10 Legislative Chair

Stacy Shown
(253) 847-2450
sshown@aol.com

Service Specialists

Kris Anderson, Tacoma
(253) 759-8973
kmanderson@harbornet.com

Laura Burress, Tacoma
(253) 472-7790
bedotcalm@yahoo.com

Tanya English, Gig Harbor
englishtm@aol.com

Cynthia Flores, Steilacoom
Florfam@aol.com

Janice Giacoppe, Steilacoom
(253) 582-8187
Janicegiacoppe@msn.com

Monika Hacker, University Place
(253) 565-8173
Monz3@hotmail.com

Paula Warren, Gig Harbor
(253) 884-3551
ilmc4life@centurytel.net

Calendar

- Dec. 15** Recommendations for Washington State PTA Officers to be elected at 2004 Convention
- Jan. 12** Legislative Session begins in Olympia
- Jan. 15** Recommendation Forms due for 2004-06 Region 10 Director
- Jan. 15** Deadline to submit articles for February/March issue of Region 10 News
- Jan. 25** Payment of Membership Service fees due at State PTA Office
- Feb. 2** Reflections Entries to State PTA Office.
- Feb. 12** PTA Legislative Focus Day in Olympia 9:00 AM—3:30 PM
- Feb. 13** Pre-registration deadline for WSPTA Secondary Conference
- Feb. 21** WSPTA Secondary Conference at Lakes High School 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

VISIT

WWW.WASTATEPTA.ORG

Washington State PTA

2003 65th Avenue West
Tacoma, WA. 98466-6215

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