

Southeast Sage

A WORD FROM THE REGION DIRECTOR

Can you believe we are half way through the school year? Time certainly flies when you are having fun. And as PTA volunteers, I certainly hope that you are having fun doing what you do for kids!

And you are probably very busy as well, correct? Let's see, you are probably getting volunteers together to perform a *mid-year financial review* of the Treasurer's books. Your Membership Chair is planning another *Membership* drive and is reviewing all the resources available from the National PTA and WSPTA.

You may have contacted your board to discuss whether your PTA will submit applications for any number of awards this year, possibly *Newsletter* or *Communication*, *PTAs Taking Significant Action* or even *Standards of Excellence* since the application deadlines is March 1.

If you haven't done it yet, you probably have a General Membership Meeting planned to elect a Nominating Committee. During the meeting, your Legislative/Advocacy Chair (or designee) will present an update on WSPTA legislative priority issues and solicit members (don't forget to coordinate carpools) interested in attending WSPTAs annual Focus Day February 26 in Olympia. Imagine how exciting it will be to stand on the steps of the Capitol, shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow PTA members from across the state, asking the legislators to pass the Basic Education Funding bills (HB1410/SB5444)!

Your board probably has plans to review the budget to determine whether your PTA can afford to send the new officers to WSPTA Annual Convention for training. And while your are discussing training, if you feel like you need a refresher in any particular subject (e.g., Nominating Committee, Money Matters, Smooth Transitions, Advocacy Basics, etc) please feel free to contact your service delivery team.

Lynne McAdoo

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FOCUS DAY 2008
FEBRUARY 26
OLYMPIA, WA

USE YOUR VOICE
FOR CHILDREN!



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Visit our Region 12 Web Page for newsletters, forms, meeting dates or SDT members.
<http://www.wastatepta.org/regions/region12/re12.htm>



PTAs Taking Significant Action Judges Needed

The purpose of this program is to recognize the accomplishments of units and councils across the state that present programs, projects, and activities that show significant originality, involvement, potential, usefulness, and results. Selected programs will reflect how projects and activities are implemented by small and large, affluent and poor, city and rural PTAs. Recipients will be recognized at the State PTA convention and asked to display their projects.

If you are interested in spending an enjoyable day reviewing & judging project submittals over lunch and conversation, please contact Karen Albers, via email (kl.albers@verizon.net) or phone (509 375-5356). We will probably meet on Sat, March 14 from 9:30 am until we're done!

And the Nominees Are...

The following individuals have been nominated by the WSPTA Nominating Committee for the positions of:

President: Bonnie Kayla
Vice President: Dori Tate
Secretary: TBD

Legislative Director: Jeanette Muck
Membership Director: Karen Albers
At-Large (2) Nominating Committee: TBD

Elections will take place during the WSPTA Annual Convention in May.



We want to hear from you!

We would like to include more news from PTAs in Region 12. Tell us about your PTA: goals, programs, activities, advocacy issues, successes & lessons learned, volunteers, membership, etc. If there is information you'd like to see in future newsletters, please let us know!

Lynne McAdoo - Karen Albers
RD12 Newsletter Editor

WSPTA SUPPORTS BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING

On January 14, 2009 the Legislature's Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance (JTFBEF) issued its final report, laying out a framework for dramatically reforming the funding of public education in Washington State. Many education funding studies have been conducted, but none have held this much promise for meeting the challenges of preparing our children for the 21st century. The Washington State PTA strongly endorses this report and encourages the Legislature to follow through on its recommendations.

Many of the Task Force's proposed solutions to today's funding problems are closely aligned to WSPTA's principles. Some highlights include:

- A redefinition of Basic Education to provide early learning programs for students from low income families, and implement more rigorous high school course and graduation requirements;
- An identification of the staffing and resources needed to meet the needs of all children.;
- An easy-to-understand method to allocate state funding to school districts, so their communities can understand and hold them accountable for locally based decisions;
- Elimination of the existing irrational levy and teacher salary inequities
- A common fiscal and student data system,
- A substantial increase in funding phased in over a reasonable time period, beginning in the next biennium.

PTA applauds the work of the 14 Task Force members and their staff for producing a framework for addressing the very complex changes needed to align our education funding system with the goals of education reform. PTA also thanks the Governor for her leadership and continued efforts to bring a world-class education to the children of Washington State.

Both PTA and the Task Force recognize that the current plan needs more work; it will be added to and amended as discussions about the various topic areas reveal additional considerations. For example, we recognize that funding for transportation and facilities are being addressed by different legislative task forces whose work is not yet complete. We look forward to participating in the ongoing conversation about this plan with all education stakeholders.

The challenge before PTA members and truly every public education advocate in our state is to keep the momentum going so that education finance reform becomes a reality. Our kids can't wait for another study. Now is the time to take action to make change happen.

Be a part of the solution. Advocate!

Focus Day February 26, 2009

Come join PTA advocates from across the state in Olympia for the WSPTA annual Focus Day. A full day of activities including a rally on the steps of the Capitol!
Let's speak together in Olympia. We can create a victory for children.

**"When one person speaks alone, it's an opinion
When 10 of us speak together, it's a concern
When 50 of us speak together, it's a strong suggestion
When 200 of us speak together, it's a movement
But when 150,000 of us speak together, it's a victory for children!"**

Interested in attending? We will be coordinating a Region 12 contingency to meet with our Legislators. Contact De Anna Winterrose, RLC 12 for more information.

The "Ayes" have it ... Rules of Order

Making Decisions When You Can't Meet In Person

Does your organization need to be able to make binding decisions when in-person meetings are impractical?

If incorporated, check your corporation law for rules regarding teleconference meetings and decision making without meetings.

"Efforts to conduct the deliberative process by postal or electronic mail or facsimile (fax) transmission-*which are not recommended*-must be expressly authorized by the bylaws and should be supported by special rules of order and standing rules as appropriate, since so many situations unprecedented in parliamentary law may arise and since many procedures common to parliamentary law are not applicable (see pp. 482-83)." -- (RONR) p. 2.



"The bylaws may authorize a board or committee (or even a relatively small assembly) to meet by videoconference or teleconference. If they do, then such a meeting must be conducted by a technology that allows all persons participating to hear each other at the same time (and, if a videoconference, to see each other as well). The opportunity for simultaneous communication is central to the deliberative character of the meeting, and is what distinguishes it from attempts to do business by postal or electronic mail or by fax (see p. 2). It is advisable to adopt special rules of order and standing rules, as appropriate, to specify precisely how recognition is to be sought and the floor obtained during videoconferences and teleconferences." - RONR pp. 482-83.

Consider amending bylaws to create an executive board or committee with power to act between the larger body's regular meetings. Such a board or committee should be able to meet in person, or it should be authorized in bylaws to meet by teleconference. And it should be able to meet at the call of the president, and by petition of a specified number or percentage of members of the board/committee.

If changing the bylaws is not feasible, consider (a) making the preliminary, unofficial decision via e-mail or internet chat room or by telephone, and ratifying it at the next in-person meeting to make it official; or (b) delegating the decision to a small committee that can feasibly meet in person. A group should rarely depend on the ratification approach; its use generally indicates poor planning or organization, and it may happen that the assembly asked to ratify a decision won't do it.

Meeting Myth

Myth: It's okay to make decisions by e-mail if no one objects.

Fact: "Any action [that] has been taken in violation of a fundamental principle of parliamentary law" is a breach "of a continuing nature" (RONR p. 244), and "it is a fundamental principle of parliamentary law that the right to vote is limited to the members of an organization who are actually present at the time the vote is taken in a legal meeting" (p. 255). A point of order can be made at any time the breach continues (p. 244), so even though no member currently objects, at any time in the future members may change their minds or new members may think differently, and raise a point of order to nullify such decisions. Only bylaws or a higher ranking document can authorize such a procedure.

The Washington State Legislature Convenes January 12 - April 26, 2009

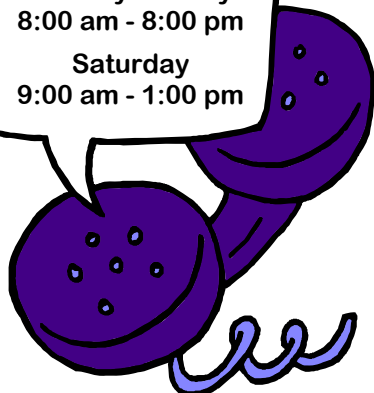
8th Legislative District	9th Legislative District	13th Legislative District	16th Legislative District
<p>Sen. Jerome Delvin (360) 786-7614 delvin.jerome@leg.wa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Environment, Water, & Energy • Econ Develop & Trade 	<p>Sen. Mark Schoesler (360) 786-7620 schoesler.mark@leg.wa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri/Rural Eco Develop • Financial Institutions • Higher Education • Ways & Means 	<p>Sen. Janéa Holmquist (360) 786-7624 holmquist.janea@leg.wa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Learn & K-12 Ed • Labor, Commerce • Environment, Water, & Energy 	<p>Sen. Mike Hewitt (360) 786-7630 hewitt.mike@leg.wa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Ed & Workforce • Rules • Ways & Means
<p>Rep. Larry Haler (360) 786-7986 haler.larry@leg.wa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Learn & Child Serv • Education Appropriations • Tech, Energy & Comm 	<p>Rep. Joe Schmick (360) 786-7844 schmick.joe@leg.wa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Human Serv Appropriations • Higher Education • Rules • Ways & Means 	<p>Rep. Judy Warnick (360) 786-7932 warnick.judy@leg.wa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit Review/Oversight • Capital Budget • Judiciary • Rules 	<p>Rep. Maureen Walsh (360) 786-7836 walsh.maureen@leg.wa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Learn & Child Serv • Health/Human Serv Appr • Human Services
<p>Rep. Brad Klippert (360) 786-7882 klippert.brad@leg.wa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Services • Public Safety & Emerg Preparedness • Transportation 	<p>VACANT</p>	<p>Rep. Bill Hinkle (360) 786-7808 hinkle.bill@leg.wa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gen't Gov't Appropriation • Health Care & Wellness • Tech, Energy & Comm • Ways & Means 	<p>VACANT</p>

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When leaving a message with the Hotline, please be prepared to give your name and street address.



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National PTA Training in Chicago

by Kerrilynn Robinson

Did you know that National PTA has an initiative to train PTA leaders across the country to become certified PTA trainers? The program is called Training Capacity Building Initiative (TCBI) and has just completed its second year. Those who are chosen to attend go through intensive classroom modules in order to become better trainers and to create innovative classes that involve attendees far beyond lecture-style presentations.

Washington State PTA was able to send 4 representatives this year to the TCBI training that took place in Chicago last October 3-5. I was fortunate enough to be asked by our state leaders to attend TCBI representing the east side of our state. My background is in education, and I was so excited to further develop my skills as a teacher while building upon my PTA leadership skills.

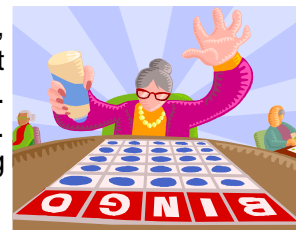
My Chicago trip was fun, but it was a lot of work. We were eating breakfast by 7:00 a.m. (6:00 a.m. on Sunday) and kept busy with classes and meals until 6:30 p.m. every day. We concentrated on subjects dealing with training objectives, learning styles, teaching techniques, classroom atmosphere, trainee involvement, etc. Then we tackled our homework assignments for the rest of the evening. National PTA chose a hotel in the suburbs on purpose. They didn't want us to leave and play in downtown Chicago. They wanted us to work really hard on developing our presentations to be given and evaluated on Sunday. Our presentations were our "final exam" for the course.

The class and information learned was invaluable. However, I received an unexpected gift as well. I was able to meet and network with dedicated PTA leaders from across the nation. I was in a crowd of amazing and highly capable people who were willing to share so much information. There's nothing like getting together with a group of people for something that you are passionate about and being able to support and learn from each other.

I will never forget my trip to Chicago, the excellent training, new friends, and the opportunity to offer my new and improved training and presentation skills to further the goals of WSPTA.

Gambling: A Quick Refresher

Under Washington state law, bingo, raffles and amusement games are gambling activities. That includes cake walks. Auctions are not gambling activities.



A **gambling license** is **not** needed if the following conditions are in place: **1)** no more than 2 activities are held in a calendar year (not school year); **2)** only PTA members, who are not paid for their services, participate in the management or operation of the activity; **3)** combined gross revenue of the activities does not exceed \$5000 per calendar year and **4)** you notify the local police department at least 5 days in advance of the activity.

In addition to these rules, **raffles** have their own special rules: **1)** tickets must be consecutively numbered, with a duplicate stub with a matching number; **2)** maximum price per ticket is \$25; **3)** all tickets must be sold for the same price, none can be given away; **4)** they can only be sold by members 18 years of age. The following information must be displayed, preferably on the ticket: cost; date, time and location of drawing; name of sponsor; description of prizes and whether or not you must be present to win. If you plan to have member only raffles, you may have an unlimited amount of them per year, provided you do not exceed the \$5,000 per year threshold. Remember, these are for members of your PTA only.

If your organization plans to have more than 2 of these activities a year, plans on making more than \$5,000 per year or even wants to sell discounted raffle tickets, you must apply for a gambling license 60 days prior to the event. This can easily be done by going to the following website www.wsgc.wa.gov. It is fast and inexpensive (usually less than \$60) and is good for a year.

All **records** from these activities need to be kept for at least one year for an unlicensed activity and 3 years for a licensed activity. The WSPTA recommends 7 years.

Remember, if in doubt, get a license. You never know, you could have the fund raiser of a life time!

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

Hanford Secondary PTSA

Karen Albers

President

Those of us involved at high schools know how difficult it is for the PTSA to find its niche. There's constant competition for funds, resources and volunteers with the ASB and booster clubs. This year, our PTSA joined forces with the boosters and school to produce a "community" volunteer list (which is maintained by our PTSA). Often parents aren't interested in joining a group because they don't want to be committed to attending meetings or volunteering. These individuals are an untapped resource that have provided, for example, baked goods to PTSA staff luncheons or Drama Booster's Dessert Theatre. It has helped bring our school community closer.

We sponsored our first Barnes & Noble Book Fair in December to benefit our school Library. Taking a cue from the elementary school book fairs, our Librarian provided us with a "wish list" of books that parents could purchase to donate to the Library. Each donated book contains a bookplate with the donors name. Key Club volunteers manned the Gift Wrap table after school. We raised a grand total of \$1,064.97 (including tips) for the Library. We have already booked a Saturday in December for our 2009 book fair.

Our PTSA will sponsor its 3rd Annual Fun Run sometime in late Spring.

Clarkston Heights PTA

by Hollie Williams

So far this year we have been busy having a Family Night at the local Rollaway. It was a success with over 100 people attending to skate, visit, and compete in games such as roller skating limbo.

We held our first book fair of the year in the Fall and made some extra money to give to our school's library. On the night of the evening book sale we hosted a BINGO for books, giving away books as prizes and gift certificates to the book fair during intermission drawings.

Our Fall fundraiser was a success and will give us the opportunity to fund more needs for the school and the children Heights Elementary impacts.

Our members each received with their paid membership a car magnet with a "Heights Hawks" logo on it. These coveted magnets were inexpensive on our PTA's part but have made big impact in showing our members how much we appreciate them.

During the Holiday season we combined forces with a local radio station to have a float in the local Lighted Christmas Parade. We had about 75 children singing Christmas carols around a decorated tree.

Now that the holidays are over, we will resume PTA duties with more family fun nights including another book fair, a disco dance, and movie night.

Richland PTA Council Meeting Schedule Reminder

Jason Lee Library
7:00 pm

- Feb 25
- March 24
- April 28
- May 19



Membership Award News

Connie Andrews Region Membership

SILVER LEVEL

Congratulations to the following PTAs for 5% increase of the previous year's membership enrolled by October 25, 2008.

Jefferson Elementary PTA 12.5.5
College Place Combined PTA 12.6.10
Edison PTA 12.6.15
Green Park PTA 12.6.20

CALENDAR	
<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
25	Richland PTA Council Meeting, 7 pm, Jason Lee Library
26	WSPTA Focus Day - Olympia
<u>MARCH</u>	
1	Program & Awards Postmark Deadline to State PTA Leadership Academy Application Deadline
24	Richland PTA Council Meeting, 7 pm, Jason Lee Library
<u>APRIL</u>	
3	WSPTA Convention Pre-Registration



May 1 - 3, 2009
Doubletree Hotel - Seattle Airport

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