



SOUTHEAST SAGE

WSPTA Region 12



Southeast Sage

April/May 2010

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Region Director Message

Can you believe it's Spring already?! This year has just flown by!

I'm finding it hard to believe that it is already time to be electing next year's officers and putting together our budgets for 2010/2011. If there is anything that your Service Delivery team can do to help you out, please let us know. We have visited one school and are willing to visit them all. We will be hosting a Informational Roundtable on May 20th in Richland, so mark your calendars. As soon as I have a location secured, I will let you all know.



In less than 50 days, my time as your Region Director will be over. It has been a fun and highly educational job. I have had the opportunity to visit many local units and meet the many PTA leaders that are in our region. We have some wonderful people in our region and you should all be very proud of yourselves and what you accomplish! I know that I couldn't have done any of this without my great Service Delivery Team over the last two years. So a great big THANK YOU to Karen Albers, Connie Andrews, Amanda Djang, Bob McAdoo, Rebecca Peterson, Kerrilynn Robinson, Lani Whitlock and DeAnna Winterrose!!!

I'm also very excited for the leadership skills that your new Region Director will be sharing with you in the next two years. I have known Connie Andrews for at least 6 years and she has so much knowledge, energy and enthusiasm to share with all of you. She is going to do an amazing job representing our region and helping you all out.

Thank you all for allowing me to have this opportunity!

Region 12 Kudos

MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to **Prosser Combined PTA** for achieving the Platinum Membership Level this year! This means that for the 2009/2010 school year they had a 20% increase over previous year's membership enrolled and were paid by March 30th.

REFLECTIONS AWARDS

Congratulations to the following Region 12 students for their recognition at the state level in Reflections:

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY: Award of Excellence: **Nataya Lovejoy**, "Beauty is Dancing Joyfully", Green Park PTA 12.6.20

FILM PRODUCTION: Outstanding Interpretation: **Travis Lien**, "Phil the Zombie", Hanford Secondary PTSA 12.5.45

PHOTOGRAPHY: Award of Merit: **Jared Yearsley**, "I Picked a Flower", Tap-teal PTA 12.5.23

VISUAL ARTS: Award of Excellence: **Kelsey Christensen**, "Molly - Fish", Richland High PTSA 12.5.50



Nominating Committee FAQ

Nominations from the Floor

Q: What if a person who wants to be president is not nominated by the Nominating Committee?

A: Every qualified person has the right to be nominated from the floor in the event (s)he wants to run for an office and is not on the slate of candidates offered by the Nominating Committee. This is a protection which assures that if any member feels the Nominating committee ignored the best qualified candidate for a position, then that person can still be nominated and run for the office. The choice of who is elected rests, as always, with the membership.

Nominee's PTA Membership Requirements

Q: How many days does a candidate for office need to be a PTA member before being selected for nomination by the Nominating Committee?

A: The WSPTA Uniform Bylaws does not specify how many days an individual must be a member before being selected for nomination by the Nominating Committee, however an individual must have been a PTA member for 30 days prior to being elected as a PTA officer.

Courtesy of Monica Rupert, Region 5 Director

Preparing a Budget Can Be Fun! Really...

A non-profit's budget should be a detailed explanation of its mission and objectives in monetary terms. A healthy association annually re-evaluates its budget to make sure that it is still meeting the goals and objectives of its members. It is recommended that the budget for the next fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) be developed and approved before the end of the current fiscal year (June 30). This allows the PTA to continue operating to meet its financial obligations after school is out in the summer. Without an approved budget, the PTA DOES NOT have the authority to spend money for any purpose.

While this may seem like a daunting process, it can be achieved in 3 easy steps: create a budget committee; identify your objectives, mission and goals; present the budget to the membership for approval.

The first step in creating a budget is to form a financial/budget committee. This committee should consist of outgoing and incoming leaders and is chaired by the treasurer. The president may be a part of this committee.

Now that you have a budget committee in place, you need to identify the objectives of your PTA and start asking some questions. Do your current programs and activities support the mission of your PTA? Do you allocate enough funds to these programs? Do you have traditional programs that are no longer relevant to your membership? Are there new programs and activities out there that you would like to try? What are the costs of new programs? Do we have the revenue sources to meet these goals? If not, what other sources of revenue are there? A great way to answer some of these questions is to survey your membership and actually pay attention to the results of the survey.

After you have all the answers, put together a detailed budget that balances income and expenses. Keep in mind that you need to budget funds to cover necessities such as insurance, leadership training and council fees. You should also maintain a carryover that allows you to pay the necessities for 1 to 2 years in case you do have an income shortfall.

The final step is to present a proposed budget to your membership for approval at a general meeting before the end of the current fiscal year. Be prepared for questions, especially if you have made changes.

Keep in mind that a budget is only a roadmap of your association's finances. Situations may occur that require you to take a detour. Check your standing rules to make sure how these detours are handled. Can the Board of Directors reallocate funds? If so, by how much? What decisions must be made by the General Membership? Remember that as time goes by, your membership changes and your budget should reflect this.

Movie Nights

Movie nights are a popular and fun activity to hold at our elementary schools. However, there are a few misunderstandings about what is legal and what is not that need to be cleared up. The most important thing to understand is that you do need to have a Public Performance Site License to show movies outside the home. You can purchase a one-time license for \$75 or a yearlong unlimited license. Although this is expensive, our PTA's need to uphold the law when we are holding family events at our schools. The other thing to realize is that this license does not cover outdoor movies. You need to purchase a special license to do that.

If you decide to host a movie night, you may purchase a Public Performance Site License from www.movlic.com. This site also answers many questions you may have. The sales representatives are very helpful if you do not find your answers on the website.

Below I have copied a few questions directly from the FAQ section of www.movlic.com I hope that it will clarify a few things.

I thought schools were exempt from needing a license to legally use copyrighted movies.

Under the "Educational Exemption" copyrighted entertainment movies may be shown in a school without copyright permission only if all criteria are met:

A teacher or instructor is present

The showing takes place in a classroom setting with only the enrolled students attending

The movie is used as an essential part of the core, current curriculum being taught. (The instructor should be able to show how the use of the motion picture contributes to the overall required course study and syllabus.)

The movie being used is a legitimate copy, not taped from a legitimate copy or taped from TV

Are there limitations to this Public Performance Site License?

Yes. This license is for K-12 Schools only. This license does not permit entertainment movies to be used when an admission fee is charged, other than to cover costs. Outdoor showings are not allowed or covered under our [movie licensing agreements](#).

Are there advertising restrictions?

You may use the [promotional material](#) found on our website to advertise in your school or to pass out directly to students and staff. If you choose to advertise through the public media (such as public radio, television, or a website), you may do so, as long as the movie title and studio name are not used. For example, "Join us at ABC Elementary for a Family Movie Night at 7:00pm" is permitted.

By: Patty Parkman



More Nominating Committee FAQs

Purpose of the Nominating Committee

Q: Why is the Nominating Committee elected? ‘

A: This committee is elected to give the membership the choice on who it believes is best qualified as future leaders of the PTA. Election by the membership to the nominating committee is a very high honor. This is the one committee on which the president is not an ex-officio member.

Q: What is the duty of the Nominating Committee?

A: The responsibility of the committee is to identify, recruit and nominate the best qualified candidate for each elected position. To do this, the committee members must be committed to PTA; be willing to invest time into making it the best possible organization; and, be capable of holding frank, honest, candid discussions about the potential nominees knowing that all conversations are confidential.

What All Volunteers Need!

Belonging and Inclusion Volunteers need to feel welcomed, included and appreciated.

They need to feel needed because of their unique perspectives, gifts and abilities.

Ownership

Volunteers need to share in decision making and responsibility for various tasks and projects.

Attainable Tasks

Volunteers need to be assigned tasks that match their skills and are achievable.

Meaningful Work

Volunteers need meaningful tasks and the understanding of how their work contributes to the overall success of the organization or project.

Shared Power

Volunteers need to share in the leadership and decision making of the organization.

Clear Expectations

Volunteers need clearly defined tasks and goals, as well as the necessary tools to accomplish them. They need the organization's leaders to be available to answer questions.

Challenges

Volunteers need tasks and projects that match their skill sets but are also challenging and will help them enhance the personal or professional skills they already bring to the table.

Information

Volunteers need information and regular communication.

Confidence in Leadership

Volunteers need to know that they will be included and treated fairly and equally. Personal recognition of volunteers goes a long way in keeping, motivating, and inspiring them.

Confidence in Self

Volunteers need to feel valued and that what they are doing benefits the organization. They need to feel that they specifically are making important contributions.

Incentives to Attract "Top" Volunteers

Focused information

Timely information

High level of opportunities

Recognition!!

The gift of leadership

The Gift of Leadership is what you take away from your experiences and use in the other areas of your life.

Train your Volunteers

Committee notebooks

Volunteer orientation

Thank your Volunteers – throughout the year and no matter how "small" the job!

Newsletters : School & Business

"Teas"

Thank you cards

Chocolate!!!

Be creative!!

Be open to all volunteers, utilize them where their talents lie, set them up for success!!!

** Mark Levin, author of *The Gift of Leadership*



Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well. –Voltaire

Message from NPTA President Charles Saylor



The end of the school year means many different things to different people. For our children, it's time to ditch the school bus for afternoon bike rides. For parents, it's time to keep our kids focused until that last school bell rings. And for teachers, it's time to reflect on and be proud of the great strides the kids have made in the classroom during this year.

For the last several months – while parents have been packing lunches, helping with homework, attending PTA meetings, volunteering in the classroom and attending conferences – our teachers have been pouring every ounce of their energy into educating our children and building their confidence with passion, enthusiasm and heart. As the school year winds down, it's the perfect time to honor these dedicated folks with PTA's Teacher Appreciation Week.

I encourage your PTA to participate this year (May 2-9) and show our teachers just how much we appreciate their tremendous efforts. Our website has tons of activity ideas, downloads and other resources to get you started – use it! And let our teachers know what they mean to us.

Of course, just because the school year is winding down doesn't mean our efforts are. In just a few short months, on June 10-13, we'll travel to beautiful, charming Memphis for our 2010 National PTA Convention and Exhibition. There, we'll have more than 50 workshops, 200 exhibits, hundreds of resources and countless opportunities for you to voice your opinions among a mobilized group of advocates. Each year, it promises to be a powerful event, and this year, we're kicking things up a notch by incorporating our Emerging Minority Leaders Conference, PTA MORE (Men Organized to Raise Engagement) initiative, and Youth Summit, along with our partnership with PIRC (Parental Information and Resource Centers).. It will be an event like no other.

Whether or not you will be attending the National Convention, I encourage you to use your summer as an opportunity for recharging and continuing your valuable PTA efforts. Because, before we know it, back-to-school season will be upon us! I have no doubts that you will have successful summer leadership conferences and help carry your local PTA members through these next few months with conviction, grace and dedication.

So, thank you for all that you do and may your summer be one of stamina, solidarity, sunshine and success!

Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor

National PTA President

Connect with Chuck: csaylor@PTA.org www.PTA.org/chucksaylor

Parents Who Host, Lose the Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking

The WSPTA recently introduced the new **Parent Pledge Program**. This awareness campaign is designed to educate parents about the legal ramifications as well as the health and safety risks associated with serving alcohol to teens other than their own children.

The goals of this program are:

- * To build a communication network to reduce the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- * To host only Alcohol-Free, Tobacco-Free & Drug-Free parties for teens;
- * To not allow teens to possess or consume alcohol, tobacco or other drugs at their homes; and
- * To discourage their teens from attending unsupervised parties

Visit http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/parent_pledge/index.html for more information on this program.



Membership

Spring is a great time to start thinking about next year's Membership drive.

Before the end of the year, make sure to print up address labels for this year's members, use them to send membership postcards in August. Even if a parent no longer has a child at the school, they might join if asked. For a small fee, the state office will print up address labels for you.

If your PTA provides some kind of membership benefit, like a 2 for 1 card for local businesses, now is the time to start working on that. Ask new businesses to be included on the card. Ask the people at these businesses to join your PTA.

Finally, remember that membership fees are increasing next year to \$7.25 per person. Make sure to let your treasurer know so that it can be included in the budget.

Don't forget to enter your new officers into the state database. This is the only way to make sure that they get important leadership information . Make sure to check their contact information and correct if needed!

Upcoming Richland Council dates:
April 26—7 PM
May 24—7 PM
Both meetings will be held in the Jason Lee Elementary Library in Richland.

Legislative Youth Advisory Council

Students 14 to 18 years old, with an interest in state government, are encouraged to apply for the Legislative Youth Advisory Council in Olympia. The 22-member council, appointed by the lieutenant governor, advises the Legislature on issues of interest to students, such as drop-out prevention, gang violence and internet safety. The council meets in Olympia several times each year. Applications from the council are due May 14. For application forms, or more information, go to www.ltgov.wa.gov/YouthandCommunities/LYAC.

Protocols for Electronic Voting

Electronic Voting

Q: How can electronic voting be used?

A: All ballots mailed electronically to members in good standing include a brief description of the voting procedure and ballot return deadline; and the names of all candidates brought forth by the nominating committee and any self declared candidate(s) election of office/committee. Electronic mail messages containing member ballots are not be forwarded under any circumstances. Paper copies of electronic balloting messages created by the tellers committee must be destroyed. Ballots received via electronic transmission after the announced deadline will not be counted nor used for establishment of a quorum. The tellers committee will create a record of all members casting a ballot by electronic mail. Ballots distributed via electronic mail must be returned via electronic mail to the specific electronic mail address included on the announcement of election. The tellers committee will review each ballot returned by electronic mail to: Determine that the ballot was cast by a member in good standing; the ballot is returned from the member electronic mail address on record; the voter intent is clearly recognized/understood; and the electronic mail message containing the ballot was received by the specified voting deadline.



Washington State PTA
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Don't forget to visit the WSPTA Store at Convention!

Even if you miss the Early Bird Deadline, you can still register to attend!!

Don't forget to enter your 2010-2011 Officers on the State PTA membership website. Contact Lynne at ptareg12@wastatepta.org if you need any assistance!

