

**REGION 12
SERVICE
DELIVERY TEAM**

Region Director:
Connie Andrews

Legislation Chair:
Louise Hunsaker

Membership Chair:
Judy Morgan

Newsletter Chair:
Colleen Schofield

Council Representa-
tives:
Michele Braccia
Amanda Djang

Service Specialists:
Lani Whitlock
Cheryl Baker

**SERVICE
DELIVERY
TEAM IS HERE
TO:**

□ **Communicate:**
Provide information
on Region and State
Events.

□ **Educate:** Provide
Leadership Training
for Local Units
through Regional
Conferences and on-
site trainings.

□ **Support:** Help
Local Unit Leader-
ship with questions
and situations that
come up during the
year.

Southeast Sage

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

FEB/MAR 2011

Region Director Message

By Connie Andrews
Happy New Year! As I sit here on this beautiful sunny day, which is unusual for us this time of year, you would think it's warm out... but, not so. How fast time flies since this summer when we started the PTA year. We are now midway through the PTA year. During this time Local Units and the Council will be having their mid-year Financial Reviews, electing a Nominating Committee, and preparing for a smooth leadership transition into the 2011-2012 PTA year. What makes PTA's succeed? There are a variety of factors, the key ingredient is connection. By being connected to your membership you provide

programs that are meaningful to them. By being connected with the school you are working in partnership to provide all students with the tools they need to grow and succeed. By being connected to the PTAs in your area, you help each other, providing a strong base to show children they matter. By being connected to the Washington State PTA you are providing your leadership with training and information so they can stay on track. By being connected with all PTAs throughout the state and nation you are helping to continue PTA's strong history of advocacy for the education, health, welfare, and safety of the children of our country.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Membership	2
Awards	2
Advocacy	3
Deadlines	4



This is what PTA is
all about!

WSPTA Focus Day 2011

**February 21, 2011
(President's Day)**

We need you again this year to help shape 2011 legislative priorities in what will again be a very difficult economic climate. Bring your kids!

Join us for Focus Day as we rally on the Capitol steps and meet with legislators

and staff, leave notes, receive updates from policy-makers on key issues and network with other PTA advocates. PTA volunteer advocates can make a difference.

Come support Advocacy for Our Kids in Olympia at this Family Event and let your voices be heard by your state government.

Go to www.wastatepta.org

and click on the Focus Day button to access the PTA Focus Day scarf order form and for more information. Order your scarf then wear it while at the Capitol building, to be recognized with all the PTA members .

This is a free event and there will be activities for kids of all ages!

Let our voices be heard!

Membership

Keep that membership campaign going.

Membership is such an important part of PTA/PTSA. It is our voice and vote. Membership is not just a Back to School Fall activity. Pick a few times over the next few months to promote membership and make it front and center.

Did you know nationwide, approximately 18%

of PTA members join in January and February?

As Scott Allen wrote in a recent update: Please continue to promote PTA membership and ask everyone to "Join PTA" because we are:

- A valuable resource and advocate for all children.
- Contributing to student success with our Reflections and Scholarship programs.

Engaging children, families, and communities with a variety of programs.

Actively seeking men to be involved with our Million Hour Power Initiative.

Assisting military families by promoting Military Alliance for Parents and Partners.

Providing additional benefits when members use the PTA membership card.



Awards
—Postmark Deadline:
March 1, 2011
Applications online
wastatepta.org

Awards

Golden Acorn Award is presented, by a local PTA unit or council, to a volunteer in recognition of his/her dedication and service to children and youth. A contribution in the name of the recipient(s) is made by the honoring PTA to the WSPTA Scholarship Program. From these contributions, WSPTA is able to provide grants to freshman students entering post-secondary education.

The **Council Standards of Excellence** is a tool to encourage the use of the best practices in PTA management. Every council will benefit from using these standards as they plan and progress through the year. Councils that both attend and provide training will be offering better service for their members. This award is separate from all other awards. Award time frame: July 1 - February 28 (except where noted)

The purpose of the **Communication Award** is to identify and recognize all forms of effective communication to PTA members and the community about programs, projects, activities, and issues affecting children. Note: This application includes websites, electronic communications, paper and other forms of communication. Newsletters may be included as a part of your overall communications.

In addition, PTA **Outstanding Newsletter** is an award for newsletters judged in 5 categories for units and 1 for

councils. (announced and recognized at State PTA convention)

An **Honor Unit** is a PTA/PTSA local unit which has, in its service to children, gone significantly beyond the attainment of standards of excellence and has demonstrated the kind of exceptional qualities that merit replication by others. A local unit must apply and go through a competitive judging process to be an Honor Unit. (announced and recognized at the State PTA convention)

100% Membership Award
A PTA local unit that serves a school building community may apply to receive a very special membership award if it achieves a membership total equal to or exceeding the student enrollment of that school building.

The **Outstanding Local Unit of the Year** is the PTA unit that, when compared to all others in their unique environments and within their own special circumstances, is selected as the most representative example of a local unit which exemplifies the purposes and mission of PTA.

(selected from the Honor Units)

The **Outstanding Service Award** is presented to a volunteer who works for children and youth beyond the bounds of a job, PTA, or a specific school community. This honor goes to a person who has shown concern for all children and who has volunteered his/her time to help them achieve their potential. This award is presented only by the Washington State PTA and its regions and councils. A contribution in the name of the recipient is made to the WSPTA Scholarship Program to help provide scholarships to freshman entering post-secondary education

The purpose of the **Local Unit Standards of Excellence program** is to: (a) provide PTA local units with a set of standards that define qualities of excellence; (b) provide training to local units on attainment of those standards; (c) identify, recognize, and honor those units that achieve the standards. (Units achieving the standards will be announced and recognized at convention)

Advocacy

“...and Justice for all...”



WSPTA Legislative Priorities...

Following up on Education Bills is the #1 Priority

In October at Legislative Assembly, members all across WA State voted on the top legislative issues that set priorities for our state lobbyist in Olympia. Here's a rundown of the issues, in priority order:

1. **Following-up on Education Reform Bills** – Five percent of Washington's students drop out every year. Of those who graduate only 20% will earn a Bachelor's degree within 6 years. We don't fund enough periods and the State Board of Ed has new graduation requirements but all re-forms remain unfunded.
2. **Strengthen Math and Science Education** – Washington State has persistently low scores on math tests. Last year only 45% of 10th graders met the math standard and only 47% met the science standard. The results are much worse for some groups.
3. **Improve Literacy Instruction** – Kids struggle with reading, the cornerstone of educational success. About 60% find learning to read a challenge, with 20-30% finding reading remarkably difficult.
4. **Teacher “Reduction in Force” (RIF) Policies** - Typically seniority alone determines layoff and hire-back decisions, which can result in the retention of some less-effective teachers at the expense of others. This issue expands RIF policies to include more than just seniority.
5. **Fund Education First** – Article XI of our state Constitution declares: —The paramount duty of our State is to make ample provision for the education of all children residing in our borders and yet legislators cut education funding and put more burdens on local districts.
6. **New Model for Teacher Compensation** – As we move to an outcome based approach to teaching, a new research-based state teacher compensation model that emphasizes rewarding teacher effectiveness in improving student learning, is needed.

Supported Issues: 7. **School Breakfast and Lunch Programs** – Improve the quality and nutritional content of school breakfast and lunch as 93% of all school meal programs fail to meet nutritional standards.

8. **Physical Education and Health** – Strengthen physical education and health and add as a core subject because one third of all kids between 2-19 are overweight or obese.

PTA RESOLUTION: Increasing Revenue to Support our Legislative Principles -- that Washington State PTA will encourage reprioritization and efficiency in state spending to increase funds available for education, when these spending changes are consistent with our Legislative Principles, which include protecting and promoting the health, safety and welfare of children and youth.

Send a Representative to Focus Day

Does your PTA have a Legislative Chair? **Every PTA needs one and no experience is required.**

They will need computer access with desire to be informed and to inform local members. The legislative chair position can start small

with just emails and action alerts and with experience, expand to communicate with legislators before, during and after legislation session.

This upcoming session will be tough with cuts and new legislation. Our members need to be informed and our

State Legislators need to hear from us – PTA Members.

Please help advocate for kids – recruit a Legislative Chair and send them to Focus Day.

PTA: every child, one voice®.



Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

February 21, 2011

Focus Day in Olympia

March 1, 2011

Leadership Academy Applications

State PTA Outstanding Service Award Recommendations

PTA's Taking Significant Action Applications

100% Membership Application

Communication Award & Newsletter Award Applications

Honor Unit & Standards of Excellence & Outstanding Local Unit of the Year Applications

Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards Application due to National PTA

April 4, 2011

Convention Pre-Registration

April 29—May 2, 2011

WSPTA Annual Convention

April 30, 2011

Election of Officers for 2011-2012 (see leadership packet for more info on nominating committee requirements)



nominating committees

The "Uniform Bylaws of the Washington State PTA" Article 5(a) Local Unit **REQUIRES** that the Nominating Committee be elected at a General Membership meeting at least Thirty (30) days preceding the election of officers. This committee should never be appointed by the President nor be selected by asking for volunteers. No member should serve on this committee unless elected as specified in the Bylaws. The President or Principal is not eligible to be elected to, or serve on the Nominating Committee and may have **NO** part in their deliberations.

The Nomination Committee also must make its report to the general membership 15 days prior to the election and all candidates nominated must be PTA members.

Elected officers **MUST** be PTA members 30 days before being elected. The Officers shall be elected at a general membership meeting prior to **APRIL 30TH** for a term of one (1) year. No person shall serve in the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms.