

MERITORIOUS MOMENTS



WSPTA REGION 4 E-NEWSLETTER

SERVING GRAYS HARBOR, LEWIS, MASON, PACIFIC, & THURSTON COUNTIES

NOVEMBER 2011

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

By Espie Di Iorio

November is here! I can't believe that October just flew by! Fall Conference had a great turn out for our region! Now PTA and the Law will be on November 10, and I look forward to meeting some of you for the first time!

You are all wonderful, passionate, busy volunteers and always remember that our common goals for all children is what keeps us going. Your skills, compassion, and vision are inspiring as you all work toward "Making every child's potential a reality." Thank you for effectively conducting your PTAs during the often hectic opening days of the school year.

Legislative Assembly was once again amazing, and my hope for our region is to have more there in the coming years! Being a local unit is important but having your voice heard on the issues is a key point to making things happen!

Please remember if you haven't yet done so; please send in your LU Remittance form for all your paid members. and that taxes are due on November 15 and insurance is due on December 1.

Please know you can contact me anytime!

See you soon!

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Membership

By Elizabeth Rogers

Hello Region 4

As of today, October 30th we have 2042 members in our region. We are getting closer to our region goal that was set at Fall Conference of 3000.

This would be a good time to have a membership drive. Challenge the different classes, Challenge a classroom, and Challenge the school.

We have 37 local units in our region so if every Local unit signs up 26 more members we will meet our goal.

Washington State PTA is close to the goal set:

143,979 member and our goal is 147,500

So go out and recruit..remember to inform them of all the great deals available to them as a PTA member.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 10th

January 12th

February 20th

May 4th-6th

PTA & the Law - Tenino – for all units

PTA and the Law – Roosevelt – for all units

Focus Day – Urban Onion

WSPTA Annual Convention



WSPTA 2011-12 platform

Dear advocates,

Every two years, Washington State PTA chooses a legislative priority platform. We continue to support all of our legislative principles as well as National PTA's public policy agenda, but we focus on the priorities. In year two of this cycle (like this year) we consider adding priorities as "also supported" and we consider amendments. The following is our updated platform for this next legislative session.

Washington State PTA's 2011-12 legislative platform

1. Following up on reforms of 2009 and 2010 (Basic education finance/HB 2261 and education reform/SB 6696)
2. Math and science instruction
3. Literacy screening and instruction
4. Reduction in force/layoff policies
5. Fund education first in the state budget process
6. New, research-based model for teacher compensation that emphasizes rewarding teacher effectiveness in improving student learning.

ALSO SUPPORTED (listed alphabetically):

- Achievement gaps and educational opportunities*
- Charter schools*
- Early learning*
- Highly capable*
- Improve food quality in breakfast and lunch programs
- Juvenile justice*
- Make physical education/health a core subject
- School-zone signage*

*Adopted at 2011 legislative assembly

About our new priorities:

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ACHIEVEMENT GAPS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Legislative principle: Public education policies and funding

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We believe great educational outcomes are possible for all students, including students of color, students of diverse cultural or linguistic backgrounds, lower income status and students with special needs. The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that eliminate the state's achievement gaps and create equitable opportunities for all students.

Steps can include, but are not limited to, efforts to foster:

- Effective, culturally competent educators who have high expectations for every child
- Ongoing collaboration that helps teachers maximize instructional time, align materials and fill in gaps with challenging and engaging curricula for all students
- A positive school climate that factors in the needs of all learners
- Student-focused practices that encompass intervention and leadership strategies for each child and every classroom with positive academic and behavioral intervention systems
- Strong leadership at every school; transformational leadership at high-needs schools
- Widespread, statewide use of longitudinal data and formative assessments, such as WaKids, that inventory academic and social-emotional benchmarks to determine which students will need additional support, so families and schools can provide appropriate intense, targeted intervention in a timely manner
- Consistently effective home-school communications and family engagement that assists in the instructional development of children
- A funding formula that ensures children with more need get adequate support to meet standards.

WSPTA 2011-12 platform continued

SCHOOL-ZONE SIGNAGE

Legislative principle: Safe and Nurturing Environments
for Children and Youth

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The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that create consistent school speed zone and school warning signage across all school districts, counties and cities so that drivers routinely recognize them, reduce speed and watch out for pedestrians and bicyclists.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Legislative principle: Public education policies and funding

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The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that drive innovation and accountability in public education by allowing the operation of public charter schools in the state of Washington.

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-EARLY LEARNING

Legislative principle: Public education policies and funding

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The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that increase families' access to high-quality early learning programs and improve students' transition to kindergarten. This includes but is not limited to:

- Phasing in universal pre-kindergarten services for 3- and 4-year-olds, such as provided by our state's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program
- Improving access to high-quality child care by expanding Washington's quality rating and improvement system (Seeds to Success), a voluntary support and professional development service for licensed providers
- Continuing to phase in universal all-day kindergarten and use of a readiness assessment process, such as the state's new Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS), a longitudinal data system that informs schools and families of a learner's needs so that they can better support them.
- Provide resources and support for pre-kindergarten through third-grade alignment.

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-HIGHLY CAPABLE

Legislative principle: Public education policies and funding

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Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that ensure highly capable children (K-12) receive an appropriate basic education, which includes access to highly capable programs (K-12). The Washington State PTA recommends that the legislature and Quality Education Council build on the work of the Highly Capable Program Technical Work Group. This shall include, but not be limited to:

- Ramona Hattendorf, Government Relations Coordinator, Washington State PTA

Legislative Chair

By Christie Kraszowski

The 2011 legislative session of The Washington State PTA is over, We had some outstanding moments and some things that will never be forgotten!

Jim Strickland Was Presented with the "Outstanding Advocate Award" By Angela Falcone Advocates Coordinator.

Jim is from region 7 and was nominated not only by his peers ,but by the community as a whole. He has become one of the most liked men in the Marysville area and supports PTA and works hard daily towards Goals that the Washington state PTA stands for. He was surprised by his nomination and his winning of this Prestigious Award. Congratulations Jim!

To get a sense of what Legislative Chairs do, We keep informed on the issues that matter mostly to education, the well being of all children and Government issues. Also in attendance was Superintendent Randy Dorn - OSPI.

He Simply stated his heart's desire To have "NO MORE EDUCATION CUTS" as he told.

This was something he also conveyed strongly to Governor Christine Gregoire during a meeting he had with her previously.

Join The Service Delivery Team!

Do you care about kids? Have you ever thought you were destined for something beyond your local unit? Step up to the next level in PTA and join our Region 4 SDT.

What the heck is a SDT? We are a diverse group of individuals - just like you - who work together, under the direction of our Region Director to provide support & training to all the local units within our region. Region 4 covers 34 local units spread across 5 counties.

Who can be on the SDT? Any member of a local unit in Region 4 is welcome to apply.

What are the jobs that need doing? Beginning July 1, feel free to apply for Outreach Chair, Programs Chair, Newsletter Chair, Male Involvement, President Liaison, or if you don't know what position suits you but you know you want to be part of the team, simply apply to be a Service Delivery Specialist. We welcome all who'd love to join us!

Who do I contact for more information or an application? Region 4 Director, Espie Di Iorio

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