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Charles' Comments

Our Region 7 Spring Conference was a huge success. Over 100 people from 28 local units made the commitment to serve with more information. Many of you were first timers and came away more educated, informed and renewed to lead the charge into the next year. Without our team of amazing volunteers, providing great training at a low cost locally would not be possible. We would like to recognize the following people for their selfless dedication to PTA in our region: Eisenhower Middle School, Ron Martinez, Brandis Roundy, Rick Simon, Daniela Thom, Julie Matheny, Jenny Forbes, Michelle Nims, Rita Lechluder, Barbara O'Kelly, Annette Rice, Steve Campbell, Kathleen Steck, Barbara Arocha, Rachel Loertscher, Jesica Stickles, Nalani Baker, and Vicky Quint.

We thank our vendors who helped to keep our costs down and provided great door prizes:

Fun Rent, Magic Photography, Stickles Press, Innisbrook Wrap and School Supplies, Nicholson Fundraisers, Papa John's Pizza, New Horizon Fund Raising and Elliot Bay Fundraising. For more information, email Brandis at roundyclan@comcast.net.

As you begin your year end preparations here are a few reminders:

- Conduct your elections by April 30th and input their names into the WSPTA database
- Budget money for training next year
- Make certain to send delegates to this year's Annual PTA Convention
- Volunteers like and need recognition
- Schedule a year end financial review and create next year's budget
- Meet with your replacement prior to the end of your term to assure a smooth transition
- Introduce a stranger to PTA and tell them what your PTA does for their child

WSPTA Annual Convention attendance incentive announced!

As you decide how many people you can send to attend convention consider the following: A non PTA sponsored training conference can cost \$250-\$500 for three days. Can you afford to miss your chance to decide the future of your WSPTA? Will you let someone else decide who is elected to office? Are you living up to your oath to serve to the best of your ability?

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Membership Minute:



As the end of the year draws closer it's time to get ready for the **LAST membership remittance date on May 25th**. Remember to request the check early enough from your Treasurer to allow them time to get two signatures on the check and still get the payment mailed out in time. It's also important that you double check your membership roster for duplicates. Duplicate entries **MUST** be removed by Melissa Anderson at the WSPTA office. If you need any help double checking your "Paid vs. Enrolled" members let me know, I'd be happy to help!

Now is also a great time to remind members what your local PTA has done for your school this year, and thank members for making this possible! Here are some suggestions!

- **Create** a short PowerPoint presentation to include pictures of PTA members at WSPTA Focus Day, waving school levy signs, Reflections entries, and other school/PTA sponsored activities and events.
- **Send** out a brochure or flyer highlighting the year's activities and events. You might also include a tentative schedule for next year so busy parents can put future events on their calendars.
- **If** your school principal is a PTA member, request that he/she write a testimonial about how PTA has benefitted the school. (Get quotes from teachers/staff as well!) You can include the testimonial in future marketing!
- **Attend** new parent orientations and let them know how crucial your PTA is to the school and why joining is important!

Finally, remember to enroll your new officers into the WSPTA membership system. You can do this from home or stop by the Membership booth at this year's WSPTA Convention. Thanks to all of you for a fantastic year!

Jenny Forbes, Region 7 Membership Chair
Email: RMC7@wastatepta.org
Phone: (425)385-3939

GOLD Level Membership Award Winners

Congratulations to the following PTAs for a 10% increase of the previous year's membership enrolled and paid by January 25th.

College Place PTA 7.2.30
Terrace Park PTA 7.2.117
Mountlake Terrace High PTSA 7.2.170
Hawthorne PTA 7.3.15
Silver Firs PTA 7.3.44
Whittier PTA 7.3.55
Sequoia Campus/ Homeschool Alternative PTSA 7.3.90
Cedarcrest Middle PTSA 7.4.43
Marysville Middle PTSA 7.4.45
Totem Middle PTSA 7.4.47
Marysville/Pilchuck Hi PTSA 7.4.50
Columbia PTA 7.5.6
Odyssey PTA 7.5.12
Mukilteo PTSA 7.5.13
Olivia Park PTA 7.5.15
Dutch Hill PTA 7.6.9
Glenwood PTA 7.6.15
Haller Middle PTSA 7.6.53
Cavelero PTSA 7.6.54
Monroe Middle PTA 7.6.60

Region 7 Calendar of Events

Friday, April 30th — Sunday, May 2nd:

Tuesday, May 25th:

Monday, May 31st:

Friday, August 13th — Saturday, August 14th:

Washington State PTA Convention

Membership Fee Remittance Due

Charitable Solicitations Renewal

Leadership Conference (Vancouver, WA)

Please refer to http://www.wastatepta.org/regions/region_7/region_calendar.html

Legislative Loop:

State Budget: The budget impasse continues although there are signs that leaders from the House and Senate are negotiating behind the scenes. On 3/24, the Governor raised the possibility of imposing an across the board cut to balance the budget, something that state law requires her to do if state resources are insufficient to cover the expenditures authorized in the budget. Obviously this would be far more detrimental to **K-12 education** than any of the budget proposals that have been considered, so we are continuing to work with legislators to remind them of the importance of maintaining as much K-12 support as possible.

Michelle Obama: It was a real treat to have her present to our group about her Nutrition and Obesity initiatives, which include work to improve school lunch offerings, but go well beyond this. To stay in touch with these efforts you can sign up to receive email updates at www.letsmove.gov

State Board of Education Meeting took place on March 17-18th: The State Board of Education is a critical education policy leader. Prior to 2005 the board focused largely on administrative issues. That year the legislature expanded its role so that they would provide broad leadership in strategic oversight and policy development for K-12 education. The legislature often asks the State Board to develop its policy ideas into proposals that can be implemented. Recent examples of this are proposals for a third credit of math (implemented), an accountability system to address low performing schools (implementation to begin this year) and increases in graduation requirements or CORE 24 (still in process).

The president of the State Board of Education, Mary Jean Ryan, is also on the steering committee that is preparing our state's federal Race to the Top application, which could net the state from \$150-200 million for education reform programs. This application is due June 1, 2010. During the meeting there was discussion about components of our application that go beyond the recently passed legislation 6696. The state must develop an application that is based on a well conceived plan that includes a "theory of action". They must also secure commitments from individual districts to implement the plan.

Highlights and meeting materials have now been posted to their website <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/> Go to the meeting materials page.

2010 Issue Proposal Submittal Form Now Online: Although the current legislative session has not concluded, we know that some of you are already thinking about issue proposals for the next legislative session. We need a whole new slate of issues for Legislative Assembly 2010 and encourage you to think about how we can build on past successes, bring back issues that still have not been addressed and introduce new issues. The issue submittal form is now available on wastatepta.org under **2010-11 Issue Submittal Form**. Individual members, units or councils can submit proposals. Proposals and supporting documentation are due on June 1, 2010. For any assistance with your submittals, contact - Kim Howard, Government Relations, Washington State PTA, 253-565-2153 or khoward@wastatepta.org

Jesica Stickles, Region 7 Legislative Chair
RLC7@wastatepta.org

Region Director Continued:

You can train your entire board in one weekend of never ending fun, training, door prizes and socializing and support the PTA Reflections winners from your area. Here are some cost saving ideas:

- Carpool
- Volunteer
- Share a room

As an added incentive, our **Service Delivery Team** members will each be given door prize tickets that could be drawn for one of two \$25 Starbucks gift cards (or one of over 50 other door prizes) to be given away Friday night during our Region meeting. We will be wearing our name tags, so find us, get your ticket and you may just win. We will discuss the future plans for our region for 2010-11, and how you can be an important part of it. We want to meet you, so come and say hello!

Charles Miller, Region 7 Director
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Outreach Outtakes:

Outreach is first a commitment to create an inviting climate. It is further about forming respectful, trusting relationships throughout the school community and recognizing that everyone has value. Outreach is sharing and distributing important information about PTA and topics of concern that inform and invite action.

Outreach must be a priority for all of us. The greater the ability of PTA members and leaders to form positive one-on-one relationships with all community members, the greater their ability to generate positive impacts for all children, the school community, and the organization.

Outreach efforts are successful when PTA leaders can develop community support with meaningful two-way discussions focusing on student success.

Outreach includes efforts that focus on enlisting the participation of parents, students, and community members in the educational process.

- Invite and encourage everyone to be a part, and assure everyone may play a role, because your community is your greatest asset.
- Empower others with information, support, and resources focused on students' needs.
- See the uniqueness of each individual.
- Work to build representative leadership and voice –

support the democratic process. Is the PTA reflective of the greater community?

- Assess practices to assure inclusiveness and speak out for change.

Steps to Take:

- **Be bold** – Envision communitywide involvement in seeking educational excellence.
- **Understand that everyone has value** – See the assets each person brings because everyone counts.
- **Speak to everyone** – Build a volunteer base that is representative of the diversity of the community, encompassing all languages and customs.
- **Build personal relationships** – Invite involvement through one-on-one relationships focused on what can be achieved for children.
- **Show school spirit and pride** – Display logos and accomplishments, student work, and share expressions of affirmation because, "This school is the best!"
- **Readily share information** – Share PTA's goals and values, programs, PTA contact information, resources, and published literature on important topics.
- **Check your success** – Regularly measure your efforts, share your results, and modify your goals.

Karen Albers, WSPTA Membership Director

Council Corner:

Mukilteo Council:

Mukilteo PTSA Council hosted a Reflections Celebration on January 6th, which drew 200 people. Congratulations to Sarah Forrester from Mukilteo Elementary whose visual arts entry is moving on to the national competition!

On March 17th, Council hosted a United Way presentation, "You Can Make a Difference for Kids," with speaker Lynn Lewis. Several Spanish-speaking families took advantage of live-translation headsets that were provided.

Local units are now holding spelling bees in their schools. Each school's top three spellers from each grade level will attend the District Spelling Bee on April 14th at Explorer Middle School. Mukilteo PTSA Council will sponsor this district-wide event.

Other events on the horizon include a "Just In Time Learning" round-table, and a Volunteer of the Year celebration.

If you have any questions about the Mukilteo PTSA Council's activities, please email Co-Presidents Amy Fairchild and Rick Simon at MukilteoPTSACouncil@yahoo.com.

Council Corner:

Everett Council: As we near the end of the year, it's heartwarming to look back at our achievements. Each Local Unit in our area should step back and take a good look at what you have been able to accomplish as a team in our schools and community. Thank-you for making an impact on our kids! We have enjoyed successes of our own; giving away over 446 shoe cards, hosting our annual Principal Celebration, participating in a successful school levy, hosting Money Matters, and sending many award winning entries to state from our Reflections program.

We look ahead and are excited to celebrate our dedicated volunteers at our annual Everett Council Awards Banquet. Make sure to register your new winners by May 3rd. We also ask that each of our local units send at least one delegate to join us for our April lunch meeting where we will be electing next year's Council leaders. Also, if you are not receiving email news from Everett Council, please contact Christa at the email below.

We can't wait to see you!

Everett PTSA Council Meeting - Silver Lake Alfys April 13th, 11:30 AM

Everett PTSA Awards Banquet - May 19th

Congratulations on this year's successes. Have a great time at Convention!

Christa Pederson, Everett PTSA Council President

christapederson@comcast.net

Marysville Council:

Marysville Council hosted our annual Founders Day Dinner and Auction. This annual event raises money for scholarships for our Marysville graduating seniors.

Marysville Arts and Technology High School just hosted the school's third annual auction which raised money to enhance the technology at the A and T High School.

With the opening of Getchell High School in the fall, a steering committee has been formed to establish a PTSA to benefit all four schools housed on this campus.

Congratulations to all 34 winners that were forwarded on to state in the Reflections program from Marysville. Marysville Council gives out R.A.V. (Really Awesome Volunteers) to the following volunteers for January:

- Marysville Special Education PTSA winners - **Rachel Loertscher and Evelyn Repass**
- Liberty winners - **Kathy Hall and Janette Hendrickson**
- Totem Middle School winners - **Dawn Westover and Nichole Menzer**

A huge thank you goes out to these Really Awesome Volunteers!!

Upcoming for all Marysville PTSA is our annual Award Banquet to be held at the Monte Cristo on Tuesday, May 11th. Our theme this year is "Golden Treasures of Past, Present and Future".

Thank you!

Annette Rice

Marysville Council Co-President

thericefamily@peoplepc.com

Reflections Winners from Region 7:

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION:

- **Anthony Joo**, "The Colorful Peacock", **Hilltop PTSA 7.2.55**, Lynnwood, Intermediate Visual Arts
- **Diana Lee**, "Beauty is a Sense of Security and Comfortableness", **Henry M. Jackson PTSA 7.3.95**, Mill Creek, Senior Visual Arts

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

- **Abby Bratt**, "Lucky Duck", **Terrace Park PTA 7.2.117**, Edmonds, M/J Photography
- **Claudia Chang**, "Beauty is a Shelf Full of Books for Me to Read", **Terrace Park PTA 7.2.117**, Edmonds, Primary Visual Arts
- **Sabrina Smith**, "Bluebells", **Heatherwood PTA 7.3.71**, Mill Creek, M/J Music
- **Miranda Cooper**, Untitled, **Everett High PTA 7.3.85**, Everett, Senior Literature
- **Sarah Forrester**, "Sacred Circle", **Mukilteo Elementary PTSA 7.5.13**, Mukilteo, Intermediate Visual Arts
- **Jaclyn Dahlquist**, "Beauty in Motion", **Haller Middle PTSA 7.6.53**, Arlington, M/J Dance

AWARD OF MERIT:

- **Eddie Diel**, Untitled, **Hawthorne PTA 7.3.15**, Everett, Primary Literature

PTA Convention Concessions 2010

Wood Smoked Turkey Ciabatta...\$6.00

with vine-ripe tomato, roasted red pepper pesto and baby spring greens

Fire-Roasted Portabella, Caprese Wrap...\$6.00

With tomato, fresh mozzarella, spinach, basil pesto mayo on jalapeño tortilla (veggie)

Chile-Spiced Northwest Salmon Salad...\$8.00

Spring vegetable julienne, organic field greens, Yakama pear, spiced pecans and raspberry vinaigrette

Classic Chicken Caesar Salad...\$7.00

with rustic potato roll and creamery butter

Assorted Dry Sacks...\$1.50

Whole Fresh Fruit...\$1.50

Sodas and Assorted Waters...\$1.00