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Charles' Comments

Welcome back to PTA!

During your summer break your Region 7 Service Delivery Team has been busy receiving training at the Leadership Conference, printing a newsletter, presenting your Region 7 Summer Conference and delivering your leadership packets. Please take the time to thank the team members in your area, your council leaders and all of the 37 people who volunteered part of their summer to bring quality, specialized and local training to you. I also wish to thank our conference guest presenters: **Kari Wilkinson** - State PTA Leadership Director, **Novella Fraser** - State PTA Secretary, **Linda Hanson** - past State PTA President, **Karen Madsen** - WSSDA President and **Cathy Phipps** - past Region 7 Director for presenting a wonderful array of classes for us to enjoy on a local level.

Take this time to make sure you have entered your current board of directors and go over the leadership packet with your board. When you are reviewing and approving your standing rules at your first general membership meeting this year, make certain that the membership dues remitted to state are properly stated in your rules. This year I encourage all of you to expand your membership drive to include all walks of life and take the time to get to know someone you have not spoken to previously. Invite a stranger to volunteer and to join your PTA, call another PTA in your area and try to host joint events. We need to consider having our board and membership reflect the demographic of our schools so that everyone feels included and welcomed. The legislative, membership and outreach chairs are often overlooked positions in our local units. Our region team has each

of these chairs representing the region and they are the point of contact for your local unit if you are not in a council. They will be contacting your chairs soon to establish the flow of information.

The team and I are currently working on plans to bring expanded localized trainings to Arlington, Lake Stevens, Whidbey Island and the Stanwood areas, since they are not served by a council. We each take time monthly to stay in contact with our outlying areas.

Please let me know if our team can be of service to you.

Charles Miller
Region 7 Director
(425) 609-4536
(360) 659-0151

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Membership Minute:



I hope everyone has had a great start to the year! Hard to believe, but the first membership fee due date is just around the corner on October 25th. Below are some reminders for you as prepare to mail those checks off!

TIPS FOR EVERYONE:

- Make sure that you submit a payment request to your treasurer in plenty of time to allow the treasurer time to get the check to you.
- Don't forget that checks need to be signed by TWO officers.
- Remember to include your annual \$5 fee per unit.
- Make a copy of the remittance form for both yourself and your treasurer.

FOR SCHOOLS IN THE EDMONDS, EVERETT, MARYSVILLE, AND MUKILTEO DISTRICTS:

- Make sure you include your council per capita assessment AND any annual council fees
- Make checks payable to your council
- Send the check and remittance form to your council (if you need help finding the address don't hesitate to ask!)

ALL OTHER SCHOOLS:

- Make checks payable to WSPTA
- Send the check and remittance form to the WSPTA office at:
**2003 65th Avenue West
Tacoma, WA 98466**

Make sure that all your members have been entered into the WSPTA system and that your count is correct. There are **no refunds given** on overpaid membership fees. If you need help with anything please don't hesitate to contact me.

Have a wonderful fall!

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

Reflections—Important Changes:

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Reflections program and to the 40th Anniversary of the National PTA Reflections Program. I hope you have all received the new User's Guide from your local unit presidents. There are a few changes this year, especially for Councils, so please review the guide, even if you're an experienced Reflections Chair. You will notice that the deadline to submit entries to WSPTA has changed to **January 15, 2010** for councils AND non-council local units. This change was necessary to give us more time to process and have the entries properly judged prior to the March 1st National PTA deadline.

Please note that there are two corrections to the printed user's guide. First, on the Music Composition Rules and Guidelines page, **TWO** copies of the CD are required to be submitted. The other correction is on Page 18. The address where entries should be sent is my home address this year. Please add my name,

Pam Deming, before the words "State Reflections Chair" so that the delivery people will understand who the package is coming to. Arrangements can be made for hand delivery if you are in the Greater Puget Sound area.

Check out the Reflections page on the WSPTA website at www.wastatepta.org. The entry form and up-to-date rules forms are on that page in a fillable format so that you can fill your individual school information before you run off copies.

Please note that the box at the bottom of the entry form must be completed with relevant information about your local unit. The local unit number is your PTA's WSPTA number (such as 2.16.24). The 8 digit National PTA number has no resemblance to the WSPTA local unit number. That number usually starts with zeroes (such as 00012345). Both numbers were provided to your

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Region 7 PTA & The Law Workshop



Saturday, October 17th, 2009 from 9:00am-12:30pm
Marysville Arts and Technical High School
7204 27th Avenue NE, Tulalip, WA 98271

Yearly attendance to this training is highly recommended for your entire board!

The \$40.00 fee allows your unit to attend and includes two (2) PTA & The Law books.
Additional books can be ordered below for \$15.00 each.

Don't miss this **Vital Training** for your board and Principal. "PTA & The Law" deals with state and federal rules and regulations for running a charitable, tax-exempt non-profit corporation in Washington State and will explain how these rules can and do affect your PTA. Advanced registration highly recommended.

Registration Instructions:

- List all PTA members from your unit that will be attending the session.
- One registration fee from each local unit pays for all those attending.
- Registration fee per unit: **\$40.00** only if postmarked by October 10, 2009
- Late registration fee per unit: **\$65.00 at the door.**
- **Make checks payable to WSPTA.**
- Please include **Two Signatures** and your **PTA unit number** on your check.



COPY THIS REGISTRATION FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS AND MAIL TO:

Julie Matheny – 13317 60th Dr. SE, Everett, WA 98208

Advance Registration \$ 40.00

Additional copies of the 2009 Edition of PTA & The Law Qty: _____ X \$15 each \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Region 7 PTA & The Law Workshop

Saturday, October 17th, 2009 from 9:00am - 12:30pm
Marysville Arts and Technical High School
7204 27th Avenue NE, Tulalip, WA 98271

PTA Local Unit/Council Name:		PTA Unit #: 7. _____
PTA Unit/Council President's Name:	Phone:	Email:

Please **PRINT** Names of PTA members attending the workshop.

Name	Title / Position	First Timer?

Region 7 Calendar of Events

Friday and Saturday, October 2nd & 3rd:	Legislative Assembly (SeaTac)
Saturday, October 17th:	Region 7 PTA & The Law (9:00AM – 12:30PM)
Sunday, October 25th:	1st Membership Fee Remittance Due
Sunday, November 1st:	WSPTA Bylaw Recommendations Due
Tuesday, November 10th:	Liability Insurance Payment Due
Sunday, November 15th:	IRS Form 990/990EZ/990-N Due Date
Tuesday, December 1st:	Applegate Grant Applications Due
Tuesday, December 8th:	Recommendations For WSPTA Officers Due
Friday, January 15th:	Reflections Entries Due To WSPTA Office
Monday, January 18th, 2010:	WSPTA Legislative Focus Day (All Day)
Monday, January 25th:	Membership Fee Remittance Due
Monday, March 1st:	Award Applications Due
Tuesday, May 25th:	Membership Fee Remittance Due
Monday, May 31st:	Charitable Solicitations Renewal

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

Reflections—Continued From Page 2

local unit President in the Leadership Pack recently distributed, but can also be obtained with a phone call to the WSPTA office. The request for name, address, telephone and e-mail information pertains to YOU, as Reflections Chair, not to your school. When you send entries to State, if we have a problem or question, we need to be able to contact you during a weekend or evening. If you only provide school information, the entry will likely be disqualified if there is a problem and we can't reach you. The requests for information on payment of membership fees, insurance premiums and approval of Standing Rules should be filled in with the most current information at the time you send the entries to Council or State. Obtain that information from your Treasurer and Secretary. This information MUST be included or the entry form is not complete and the entry may be disqualified.

At WSPTA, we are striving for ZERO disqualified entries this year. You can help by making sure that all entries forwarded to WSPTA meet the requirements on the Rules and Guidelines checklists and the local unit and council checklist for submitting entries to WSPTA.

Finally, I'd like to invite you to join the WSPTA Reflections Committee. The Committee meets mostly via e-mail or conference call so we welcome participation from around the state. The Committee processes and judges the Theme Search entries in November, processes State Reflections entries, arranges for judges

for State entries, photographs winning entries, plans the Reflections awards ceremony, assists with the Reflections Gallery and awards ceremony at convention in May, purchases the awards, provides media assistance for the awards ceremony and WSPTA website Reflections Gallery, reviews the User's Guide for possible improvements in the Spring and keeps the program running throughout the year. The great thing about a committee - YOU don't have to do it all. If there's one job you're interested in volunteering for, PLEASE do so. Most of the Committee's work takes place from mid-January to the beginning of May. You don't have to be present to win - we have opportunities you can take advantage of from anywhere there is internet access. Please contact me if you're interested in helping or learning more.

I wish you all a wonderful Reflections year and look forward to seeing some outstanding entries as we celebrate 40 years of Reflections with the theme "**Beauty Is...**". I'll periodically be sending our information and reminders on the Listserv, so keep an eye out for these communications. And feel free to ask questions and send your ideas for a successful Reflections program out on the Listserv. This is a great networking tool for Reflections Chairs.

Sincerely,

Pam Deming
Reflections Chair, Washington State PTA
dustcollector@msn.com
(425) 788-6950

Education Funding Trial:

BEGINS MONDAY, August 31st, EXPECTED TO LAST FOUR TO SIX WEEKS

As many of you know, Washington State PTA is one of the 70+ members of the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools or NEWS, which is suing the State of Washington for not complying with its constitutional obligation to provide ample funding for the education of all children under Article 9, Section 1 of the State Constitution ("It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex.")

After two and a half years of pretrial proceedings, the case goes to trial starting Monday, August 31st in King County Superior Court in Seattle. The trial is expected to last four to six weeks, with court sessions being held from 9 to 4:30 Monday through Thursday each week. Although the trial is open to the public, the courtroom is small, and there are strict protocols that must be observed during court proceedings. If you want to keep up to date on what's happening in the courtroom, updates will be available on the NEWS website starting late Monday or Tuesday at this link: http://www.waschoolexcellence.org/daily_trial_updates.

Outreach Outtakes:

Is PTA diverse? Sadly, the answer is No!

Though we have been making some strides, we are still far from diverse. Look at your board and ask yourself..."Does my board accurately represent our school?" If you can answer yes then GREAT, but if you answer no then I challenge you to talk about how you can better represent your schools. For instance, one school in Federal Way has a higher percentage of Spanish families in their

school, but no Spanish board members. This is just one way you can look to be diverse. Discuss and encourage ways to involve these families in PTA.

Do you have any ideas on how we can be more diverse and involve families in PTA? Please send me your ideas and we can share them through this newsletter. Thank you!

Nalani Baker
Region 7 Outreach Chair
ROC7@wastatepta.org

Legislative Loop:

I am so excited to tell you that **Legislative Assembly** is now available to register online!

Click on the link below to register for the 2009 Legislative Assembly! We are very excited about this year's event. It will include timely updates about our current platform with a focus on next steps, as well as several new issues to consider. Classes to help you organize for action, with options to organize for either local or state level issues, will be a focus. This year we will also include clear identification of those classes geared for either novice (40% who attend are first timers) or advanced advocates.

Whether this will be your first Legislative Assembly or your 10th, we hope to see you there!

Legislative Assembly
Oct. 2 & 3, 2009
SeaTac Marriott Hotel
click here, or copy and paste this link:
http://www.wastatepta.org/meetings/leg_assembly/index.html

I sent this notice directly to your Legislative Chairs. If your Local Unit does not yet have a Leg Chair listed with Washington State PTA, then the President will be the default contact.

Please email me if you have ANY questions.

Jesica Stickles
Region 7 Legislative Chair
RLC7@wastatepta.org

Council Corner:

Marysville Council:

Marysville PTA Council is excited and ready for the 09/10 year!

Our first Council meeting will be on Monday, September 28th and doors open at 6:45pm in the Strawberry Room of the Marysville School District headquarters. We'll talk about the upcoming year and share a few ideas to make your local PTA unit run more smoothly.

On another note, it was awesome to see the participation from the local units at the recent Region 7 Summer Conference this August. 7.4 was well represented but more importantly, everyone left feeling rejuvenated and better-equipped to do their best for the children of the Marysville School District.

Thanks everyone!

Steve Campbell & Annette Rice
Marysville Council Co-Presidents

Edmonds Council:

The Edmonds District PTSA Council 7.2 is pleased to announce the following officers for the coming year:

President Ron Martinez
Vice President Nalani Baker
Secretary Audrey Travis
Treasurer Debbie Lindgren

This year's Council will be focusing on assisting PTAs with writing grants, leadership training and the Reflections program.

Meetings are scheduled for the following dates at the ESC in Lynnwood:

October 19, 2009
November 16, 2009
January 25, 2010
March 15, 2010
May 17, 2010

Mukilteo Council:

The Mukilteo PTSA Council was formed in 2003. It serves the 11 elementary Local Units (PTA and PTSA) in the Mukilteo School District. The council meets 1-2 times a month, rotating between the schools and other district locations.

Projects completed by the Mukilteo council last year included:

- Spreading the word about "Project Hope Giving Wishes" allowing other units to join with support
- Reflections
- A District-Wide Spelling Bee
- A very successful Volunteers of the Year Celebration.

The representing council members this year are: Rick Simon and Amy Fairchild (Co-Presidents), Rebecca Berman (Vice President), Lisa Matson (Treasurer), and Patti Gilman (Secretary).

Everett Council:

I am pleased to be serving as Everett PTSA Council President and am joined by the experienced team of; **Michele Lopez**, Vice President; **Jenny Forbes**, Membership Chair; **Jennifer Harbo**; Secretary; **Louise Uriu**, Reflections; **Pam Osburn**, Legislation; **Angela Steck**, Shoe Fund Chair; **Samantha Lamoureux**, Awards Banquet; and **Karen Madsen**, School Board Liaison.

We welcome our new Local Unit leaders and look forward to meeting you on September 15th for our first meeting of the year, where we will have the honor of welcoming and getting to know our new School Superintendent, Dr. Gary Cohn. You are also invited to join us on October 6th for our general meeting that will include a Legislative Assembly update, history of the Everett Council, and the opportunity to find out how easily your local unit can become an Honor Unit. We are always learning along the way, so if at any time you have questions or need assistance, please contact us, we are happy to assist you and your PTA.

For all the latest Everett PTSA Council updates and member sharing, please join our Facebook Group "Everett PTSA Council".

Christa Pederson
christapederson@comcast.net 425-585-0853

**All The Help You Need Right Here -
Everett PTSA Council, "That Was Easy"**

WSPTA Bylaw Recommendations:

The Bylaw Amendment Recommendation Form must be completed in its entirety and mailed or emailed to Bonnie Kayla no later than **November 2, 2009**.

The form can be downloaded at
<http://www.wastatepta.org/resources/bylaws/index.html>



**Washington State PTA Board
Opposes I-1033!**

**For more information, please
check out the WSPTA website**

WSPTA Listserv Information:

TIPS FOR USING WSPTA'S LISTSERVS FOR OPTIMAL BENEFIT:

Please be aware that our major listservs—Membership, Reflections and Legislative Talk—are all interactive. This means that anyone enrolled in the listserv can send emails and their message automatically goes to all others enrolled on the listserv. If one or more recipients responds using “reply” the reply will likewise go to all those enrolled on the listserv. This interactive feature is a great way to ask questions and learn from your colleagues across the state; however it also can generate a lot of email traffic, which can become an annoyance. Here are some strategies to think about to get optimal benefit from this tool without driving yourself (or your colleagues) up the wall:

- Most email software will allow you direct all email from a particular sender (including a particular listserv) into a folder without stopping in your inbox even for a millisecond; then you can check the folder from time to time to see what you may have missed;
- **To reply to the sender only**, use the forward function and type (or copy and paste) the sender’s email address into the address line; then the reply will go only to that person;
- If you’re the originator, and think your request may be pretty basic or unique to your circumstances, request the addressees to respond offline;
- Use the “reply” function only when you have something to add to the discussion that will be helpful to many on the listserv; for example, “thank you” notes are nice but should be directed to the object of your gratitude, not everyone else;
- When creating an email, put the listserv address in the “bcc” box instead of the “to” box; that way everyone on the listserv will receive the email, but replies will come only to you.

FYI, we are exploring forum software that would allow us to collect and catalog information on major topics, including those that are covered by our major listservs. It would also allow those enrolled in the forum to contribute to the knowledge base and have easier access to others’ contributions. We think this may be a more effective way for members to learn from each other and have the added benefit of cutting down on the number of emails that go through our system and end up in your mailboxes. Stay tuned as we continue our efforts to support your work on behalf of Washington’s children.

Get Connected Tools for PTA Child Advocates



The WSPTA is the largest grassroots child advocacy organization in Washington State. We strongly encourage and request your participation in the valuable advocacy work the WSPTA does to enhance the lives of children.

Sign up for one or all of the following opportunities designed to connect you with your WSPTA colleagues and the latest legislative news and events, by putting an “x” in the box beside each group you wish to join, and filling out the form at the bottom. Send the form via email to khoward@wastatepta.org

Grassroots Connection

Yes		The Grassroots Connection is a one-way electronic update sent weekly when the legislature is in session. It will provide you with timely, pertinent public policy information on issues affecting children and youth. (Less frequent emails will be sent when the legislature is not in session to keep you informed about opportunities for advocacy year round.)
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Legislative Contact Team: ***New focus – “Critical to our efforts!”***

Yes		Sign up to be contacted during legislative session, and agree to make a personal phone call or visit to your Senator or Representative. You will be contacted personally and asked to request specific support on bills, public hearing of a bill or other types of Legislative activity.
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Legislative Action Alerts

Yes		This is a one-way electronic communication alerting you to fast-breaking happenings in Olympia and requesting you to call, email, or write a letter to your legislators on a specific issue. The Action Alerts are generated by staff and sent out during legislative sessions. They are structured with background, requested action, and a brief message for you to use as a template.
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Legislative Listserv

Yes (Choose a format)	Real Time Format		This is a two-way listserv used by members to discuss advocacy topics impacting children and youth that are relevant to the mission of the WSPTA.
	Daily Digest Format		

Please fill in the following information:

Name:		Local PTA Unit:	
Phone #:		Email:	
Legislative District or Zip Code:			

Washington State PTA
2003 65th Ave. West Tacoma, WA 98466-6215
Fax 253-565-7753 Phone 253-565-2153