



REGION 7

CONNECTION

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Connecting local units and councils in Snohomish and Island Counties



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What an exciting time it has been watching the units in Region 7 develop and share their goals and programs for the year. Fall Conference was attended by 62 units and over 250 people. In attendance were Presidents, learning how "To Lead the Team", as well as Secretaries, Vice Presidents, and Treasurers. Membership Basics was presented to membership chairs. And with membership campaigns getting off to a great start there are thousands of new members to PTA this year. Be sure and take this time to engage new leadership and be ready to answer questions for those who are new. We had two PTA & The Law workshops that were attended by over 50 Local Units. 169 people came out on a Tuesday and Saturday to learn how to apply WSPTA Best Practices, as well as how to best comply with State laws and regulations. With all of this training for new board members and even the veterans, this is sure to be a successful year for everyone!

Be sure and take time as a Board to sit together and collaborate for the "New Year", including working with your membership chair to develop an effective campaign when your unit comes back from winter break. And don't forget to take the time to "Tell the PTA story" to both your membership and anyone else that will listen!

There will be two more opportunities for training in Region 7. The first one is PTA & The Law on Tuesday February 7th from 5-9PM. Also the Mid-Winter Conference for Region 7 will be Saturday February 25th from 9AM-1:00PM. Both locations are still to be determined so watch for updates on the webpage, including registration information. You can also LIKE Washington State PTA- Region 7 on Facebook for weekly updates delivered right to you. And as always feel free to contact the SDT for any needs or concerns that your unit may have.

Happy Holidays!
Virginia Muniz

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MEET THIS YEAR'S WSPTA OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR, JIM STRICKLAND!



Jim Strickland is a Lifeskills teacher at Marysville-Pilchuck High School, and longtime Marysville PTSA member. He believes that all students can become creative, caring and contributing citizens in their community. This belief inspires his work in the classroom, schools and the community at a local, state and national level. Congratulations, Jim, you truly deserve this award! Region 7 is so proud of you!!

"...he became very proactive for Keith as a student to me as his mother, in a manner that no other school personnel has done for us. Jim entered him in the correct program, has listened to both of us concerning his issues, taken them seriously, mine as his parent, and in doing so, the only way I can describe the way I feel, is to say.....I feel like he has saved our lives....!"

He is a very caring, concerned advocate for these children, who otherwise slip through almost every crack there is, to fall through, thus continuing to be "children at risk!"

Jim Strickland "dare's" to be different, act on the behalf of these student's thus making the "total" difference in their lives.

Keith and I, will be forever grateful for having this man come into our lives....and into the lives of countless other's !

I cannot say enough good about this gentleman.....and he is so deserving of this honor and award he has been given!"

—Parent, Leslie Lasher, talks about her son's inspirational teacher

"I like Mr. Strickland because he is the greatest teacher I've ever met, he took us on lots of community trips and we never had homework!!! But, we learned about different stuff in the community. We toured Marysville Police and Fire Station and other community businesses. We also volunteered at YMCA cleaning exercise machines.

We also worked at Marysville Food Bank bagging and sorting food. Because of Mr. Strickland I joined the Leadership Program for ARC of Snohomish County. I plan to go to Olympia and talk with Washington State Legislators about disability awareness and the laws that effect people's lives "

—Student, Preston Dwoskin, remembers his special teacher

Without question, Jim is one of the finest, most compassionate people that you will ever meet. It is a true joy to watch him teach or just to watch him with his own family. Jim considers his students to be part of that family.

When I think of the word advocate, Jim immediately comes to mind. He is so supportive of his students, constantly encourages them and looks for strengths at every turn. I truly have never heard the man say an unkind word to anyone.

Jim is a credit to the teaching profession, his school district and to the community. He clearly fits the "my kid" rule. What kind of teacher would I want to work with MY kid.....Jim Strickland!

—Gary Howlett, School Psychologist, and friend of the family

The Outstanding Advocate Award is offered by the Washington State PTA Board of Directors to recognize and honor an individual for continued and dedicated service to ALL children, and a demonstrated commitment to helping create strong policies relating to the health, welfare, safety and education of all children and youth.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

How To Run A January Membership Drive Without Losing Your Vacation

The first week of December:

- ✧ Review the goals you set for the membership committee at the beginning of the year.
- ✧ Set a new, short-term goal for the January 25th deadline.
- ✧ Gather a group of volunteers that can start working in your goals right away in January

The second week of December:

- ✧ Meet with your committee to discuss your goal and theme.
- ✧ Discuss who is under-represented in your PTA. Fathers? Grandparents? Teachers? Students? Bilingual families?
- ✧ Design a fresh membership form using your theme.
- ✧ Consider planning an event for early January that will celebrate PTA and give an opportunity for recruiting new members. Check your school's calendar and try to make it early in January to give you plenty of time! Think about your goals: if you are trying to recruit more dads, focus our energy on an event that dads would love to attend!
- ✧ No time for an event? No worries! Piggyback on an already scheduled event. Or skip the event altogether and put your energy into marketing your theme.

Winter Break:

- ✧ Enjoy your family during this festive vacation!

The first week of January:

- ✧ Send out your spiffy new membership form. Make sure it is everywhere there are potential new members: Website? Newsletter? Main office? Staff lounge? Work room? Teacher's boxes?
- ✧ Communicate with your committee and with the Board. Make sure that everyone knows your goals and their tasks. During the drive, all chairs and Officers should be well versed in your plan, and can work hard inviting people to join PTA- Everyone is on the Membership Committee this month!

The second week of January:

- ✧ If you planned an event, have fun!

The third week of January:

- ✧ Gather your incoming forms. Enter names into the database.
- ✧ Print out the remittance report and turn it into your Treasurer following your unit's bill payment procedures.

The last week of January:

- ✧ Print out and deliver new membership cards to your new members. Add a thank you note for joining, and a calendar of upcoming events.

January 25:

- ✧ Due Date for your membership fees into Council.
- ✧ Non council units, send your fees directly to the State office.

Congratulations on a membership drive well done! Publish an article in your newsletter telling the community how your drive went.

✧✧From WSPTA December 2010.

Thanks!

Theresa Ramey, RMC

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PROGRAMS PIECE

March 1, 2012

Mark your calendars!! The following award applications must be **postmarked** no later than March 1, 2012 to be considered for judging.

- ★ Communications Award ★ Honor Unit
- ★ Outstanding Local Unit Award
- ★ Outstanding Newsletter Award
- ★ Standards of Excellence

I encourage you to consider applying for these awards for many reasons. First of all, you can use them as a yardstick to see how your PTA is doing. If you are following Best Practices and using the guidelines from Money Matters and PTA & The Law, your PTA will be successful! They will also alert you to areas that your PTA could try to focus on improving. Second, you can share your success with your membership and give them confidence in your leadership and decision making. Don't be afraid to "toot your own horn"! Third, you can share your wonderful programs and ideas with other PTA's that are looking for fresh and exciting ways to improve their local units. The applications will be on display at the next Washington State PTA Convention. If you attend, be sure to visit the awards room and look through them yourself. There is so much that can be learned from other PTA's!

It is never too early to start! Go to the WSPTA website and login to the leadership section. You can look at the applications and judging forms so that you know what information you will need for each of the awards. Familiarize yourself with the requirements now so that you are prepared when you begin the application process.

If you have never applied for an award before, consider starting with the Standards of Excellence as a good way to get your feet wet. If your PTA is a veteran at these awards, think about applying for a new award or simply try to improve your scores.

I look forward to a **HUGE** showing from Region 7 this year! As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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WSPTA Leadership Section
login information is
located on the back of your
2011-2012 PTA
Membership card!

WELCOME!!!



**Have you heard?
Region 7 has
two new local units,
and 1 new council!!
Welcome to
★ Everett Special Ed PTSA
★ English Crossing PTA,
★ Arlington Council**

ARLINGTON COUNCIL

We have been working hard to get this Council formed and I am very excited to introduce our Officers!

**President: Rebecca Swislow
Co-President: Heidi Clark
Co-President: Katie East
Treasurer: Mary Levesque
Secretary: Jesica Stickle**

We are here to work with the Arlington Area schools in networking and support for our Local Units! I am very excited to see all of the opportunities, help & resources a Council brings to our area. Please join me in welcoming the newest unit to the Arlington Area Council.....Darrington PTSA.

You can like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/ArlingtonAreaPTACouncil

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

EDMONDS COUNCIL 7.2

2011-12 has started well for Edmonds PTSA Council 7.2. We were pleased to have Theresa Ramey, Region 7 Membership Chair, as our guest speaker at our first meeting September 19. We have welcomed to council leadership Kristy Meadows as Reflections Chair, Heather Kelm as Secretary, and Lacy Kinman as Vice President. Our legislative chair, Ken Bogle was joined by local unit legislative representatives Jim Meadows, Dora Taylor, Kristin King, Zara Kublin, and Damian Godon at the WA State PTA Legislative Assembly October 14&15. And our Treasurer, Deb Satterlee, is keeping the I's dotted and T's crossed on the membership checks passing through.

Edmonds Council PTSA and the Special Education PTSA Committee hosted two community forums to meet the candidates for the Edmonds School Board on Thursday October 6th and Monday October 17th. Four candidates vying for three positions attended, answering questions from several dozen audience members.

Our council website, <http://edmondsptacouncil72.org/>, is a work in progress, but has some key information, like our meeting dates (the next one is Monday, February 13, 2012, 7:00-9:00pm, ESC Rooms 101-102), our snail mail address, Legislative News and our standing rules.

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EVERETT COUNCIL 7.3

Got Questions??

We Got Answers!! - Everett PTSA Council

We are excited to announce that Everett has a brand new local unit—Everett SD Special Ed PTSA!

The purpose of this PTSA is to encourage students, families, educators and community members to collaboratively work to provide programs and activities that recognize the students potential and enhance the educational opportunities of children receiving and/or seeking special services in our district. The Everett Special Ed PTSA is an advocate for all students in the Everett School District and Washington State, and we're so happy to have them join us!

The Everett Council Shoe Fund is once again providing Payless Shoe gift cards to Everett students in need. Already this year we've handed out more than 119 cards! Thanks to Vicki Fraser, Shoe Fund Chair, for heading up this important committee!

Wonder what amazing things the local units of Everett are doing? Check out our Star Award recipients on our website, and find out! Each month Everett Council hands out Star Awards to 3 outstanding local units!

Congratulations to the 17 local units who achieved the Bronze level WSPTA Membership Award!! We are so proud of you!

Everett Council Website:

<http://everettsptacouncil.club.officelive.com>

Jenny Forbes & Pam Osburn
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MARYSVILLE COUNCIL 7.4

Marysville Council has gotten off to a great start this year! We have had great participation in our before meeting training classes and our units are getting some great skills! We have started a local unit Honor Unit Award that we will present to the Local Marysville Unit who goes above and beyond. They will be given this award at our annual Awards Banquet in May. To earn the award, the units need to show they are committed to the children in Marysville, to the Council & to their local units. The information and points awarded scale for this can be found in our Council Handbook. Our very own Jim Strickland was named Outstanding Advocate of the Year by WSPTA at Legislative Assembly! Congratulations to Jim! 9 of our 18 units made Bronze level in Membership this year and many others were very close. Our shoe fund continues to be a huge success in the community and we are developing partnerships with the ELL department in our district to network and recruit the members of our community so we can better represent all of Marysville.

Thank you to all the members of Marysville PTA Council 7.4 for helping to make this a great year!



Theresa Ramey,
Council President

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MUKILTEO COUNCIL 7.5

This fall the Mukilteo Council eased into the year by setting some goals, including our permanent goal of striving to meet the WSPTA Gold Level for Standard of Excellence. Another important goal for us is to facilitate and promote communication within the school and PTA communities. One of the things we do towards this is to invite VIPs to come to speak at our General Meetings on timely subjects. In October, the Mukilteo School District Superintendent, Dr. Marci Larsen, School Board Vice President, Judy Schwab, John Gahagan (a newly appointed School Board member) and a candidate for the Board (Mike Simmons) all attended and spoke. They conveyed information about the current state of the school district as well as discussing upcoming budget issues that we will be facing. These are fantastic forums for parents and PTA board members to come and ask questions of people they wouldn't normally have such easy access to.

Every year our schools participate in the Giving Wishes program spearheaded by Principal Ann Jordan of Endeavour Elementary. She was on hand at our last general meeting to discuss the program and inform us of important dates and needs for the year. This program has successfully helped families in our district for over 20 years. The most inspirational part is hearing the stories of people who come back to lend a hand after receiving help in years past.

We are all looking forward to enjoying the holidays and our next big thing - Spelling Bee! We hope you all have a safe & happy holiday season too!



Shelley Friend
Council President

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THANK YOU TO LOCAL UNITS AND COUNCILS

WHO HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED YOUR WSPTA BYLAW MANDATED TRAINING FOR THE YEAR!

IF YOUR UNIT HASN'T FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! PLEASE NOTE THE REGION 7 TRAINING DATES BELOW, AND MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND.

Requirement Reminder

During the PTA year, at least one member of the executive committee must attend PTA & the Law, and all elected executive committee members must attend at least one WSPTA or Region 7 training.

What does it mean to be in "good standing"?

A unit in "good standing" is defined in the *WSPTA Uniform Bylaws* Article 5 Section 2(a) for local units and Article 6 Section 2(a) for councils. If a unit is not in good standing the unit will be removed from the WSPTA mailing list, and all WSPTA services to the unit will be discontinued. Also, units in this status will not be able to purchase insurance from AIM at the discounted PTA rates.



REGION 7 CONNECTION

Connecting local units and councils in Snohomish and Island Counties

REGION 7 CALENDAR

January 18th - Non-Council Unit Entries Due to WSPTA Reflections Chair

January 25th - 2nd Membership Payment Due

February 7th - Region 7 PTA & the Law - 5:00-9:00pm- Location TBA

February 20th - WSPTA Focus Day in Olympia, WA

February 25th - Region 7 Mid-Winter Conference - 9:00am-1:00pm, Location TBA

March 1st—Leadership Academy Application Due & State Award Applications Due