



Region 8 News

Serving the units in Skagit, Whatcom, San Juan
counties
and the Oak Harbor School District
Fall 2007 Volume 5, Issue 1

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Here we are at the beginning of another PTA year!

I'm looking forward to a great year as your Region Director. It is also a bit bittersweet as it will be my last one. Yep, it's hard to believe but this is the second year of my two-year term. Where does the time go? That being said, it will be one of our major tasks at the Fall Conference in September to elect the Region Nominating Committee. Most people will run the other way when you mention "Nominating Committee" but it is one of the most important committees we have.

You will notice that this issue of the Region 8 News is very different than the ones you've received, or maybe seen, in the past. That is because we don't have a newsletter editor at this point. Are YOU interested? Do you know someone who might be? It is my hope to publish 3 or 4 newsletters during the year, and I'm in need of your help. This is not my area of expertise. ☺

In this issue you will find the registration form for our Fall Conference. The leaders at Carl Cozier Elementary PTA have offered to host this year's conference. Thank you in advance. At this gathering we will have an opportunity to hear from one of the Simple Majority Committee Chairs. Linda Hanson, immediate past president of the WSPTA, will be giving us some great information about this upcoming ballot issue. We will also have some other "friends" from around our state leading other breakout sessions. Please register for this important training opportunity.

Also, mark your calendars for October 23 for the Region 8 PTA and the Law workshop. This year it will be held at the Hampton Inn in Burlington. WSPTA Finance Officer, Karolyn Crabtree will be our facilitator. This venue is a little smaller than where we have held this in the past, so it is very important that you pre-register to guarantee a spot.

Thank you to all that you do for all the children of Washington.

Donna

WSPTA REGION 8 FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

September 25, 2007 5:30-9:15 pm

**Carl Cozier Elementary School
1330 Lincoln Street, Bellingham**

From Interstate 5 Northbound: Exit 253 (Lakeway Drive), at bottom of off ramp proceed straight for 1 block to Lincoln Street. Carl Cozier is located on the right on Lincoln Street between Lakeway Drive and Potter Street. From Interstate 5 Southbound: Exit 253 (Lakeway Drive), at bottom of off ramp, turn left onto Lakeway Drive. Turn left on Lincoln Street between Lakeway drive and Potter Street.

At this conference you will have the opportunity to:

- *Meet your Region 8 Service Delivery Team members
- *Gain new ideas by networking with PTA leaders from around our region
- * Learn more about EHJR 4204, better known as "Simple Majority"
- *Win wonderful door prizes, eat and have fun!

Cost: Preregistration by September 17th \$40 per unit - includes dinner
On Site Registration \$65 per unit

One registration fee per unit for unlimited number of attendees. Bring your officers, committee members, potential committee members...this event is for all current and future PTA leaders!

WSPTA Region 8 Fall Leadership Conference - September 25, 2007

Registration Form

For planning purposes, please indicate which classes your members will be attending.

Register early to insure handouts, materials and food for all the participants from your local unit.

Name of PTA _____ Local Unit Number 8.____.____
Contact Person _____ Number of Attendees _____
Contact Phone _____ Email _____
Name _____ Session One _____ Session Two _____
Name _____ Session One _____ Session Two _____
Name _____ Session One _____ Session Two _____
Name _____ Session One _____ Session Two _____

Please list additional attendees on the back. Thanks.

Please make checks payable to: Washington State PTA. Checks MUST have two signatures.

Send completed form and \$40 registration fee to: Donna Carr, 8542 Stevenson Rd, Anacortes, 98221

Questions? Call Donna at 360-293-7394 or email ptareg8@wastatepta.org

WSPTA Region 8 Fall Leadership Conference Class offerings

Registration: 5:30 to 6:00 pm

Dinner available, networking

Opening Session: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Simple Majority presentation and Election of Region Nominating Committee

Session One: 7:05 - 8:05

101) Leading the Team - Linda Hanson, 2005-2007 WSPTA President

102) Developing Community Advocates - Kevin Bright, Region 8 Legislative Chair

103) Membership - Laura Copher, Region 8 Membership Chair

104) Building Partnerships-PTA and School Administrators

105) Money Matters - Karolyn Crabtree, WSPTA Finance Officer

106) Questions, Questions, Questions

Service Delivery Team members available for discussion of topics of concern.

Break: 8:05-8:15

Session Two: 8:15 - 9:15

201) Engaging Volunteers - 2005-2007 WSPTA President, Linda Hanson.

202) For the Record

203) General Meeting Planning - Laura Copher, Region 8 Membership Chair

204) Legislative Basics - Kevin Bright, Region 8 Legislative Chair

205) More Questions, Questions, Questions

Directions to reach Carl Cozier Elementary School:

From Interstate 5 Northbound: Exit 253 (Lakeway Drive), at bottom of off ramp proceed straight for 1 block to Lincoln Street. Carl Cozier is located on the right on Lincoln Street between Lakeway Drive and Potter Street.

From Interstate 5 Southbound: Exit 253 (Lakeway Drive), at bottom of off ramp, turn left onto Lakeway Drive. Turn left on Lincoln Street between Lakeway drive and Potter Street.

Simple Majority: EHJR 4204

Questions & Answers

How does Washington's current school levy system work? Currently, local school levies must receive both a 60% supermajority approval and meet the 40% validation requirement to pass.

What would EHJR 4204 do? EHJR 4204 would amend the Washington State Constitution and would provide that a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) could authorize local school district levies. The amendment also removes the 40% election validation requirement for levy elections. It does NOT apply to school bond elections.

What do school levies pay for? Local levies support school needs. In most school districts, the levies help to support education programs and school operations such as teaching, school supplies, athletics, buildings and transportation. Levies help to ensure that your district can provide a well-rounded, quality education to each student.

What happens if school levies don't pass? Levy failures can result in budget cuts, which require program cuts, staff and/or teacher layoffs, and other disruptions.

Do all types of levies require a "supermajority" to pass? No. Regular tax levies do not require a super majority approval. Public hospital districts, metropolitan park districts, and other taxing jurisdictions can pass levies to operate hospitals, parks, and other facilities with a simple majority vote. School districts are held to the "supermajority" standard to pass a local levy.

How are voters informed about upcoming school levy elections? Registered voters are mailed a voters pamphlet (containing pro/con statements) in addition to a ballot before any election. 36 of 39 Washington Counties have adopted all mail elections, requiring that ballots be mailed to voters at least 18 days in advance of the election. School districts are also allowed to publish information about upcoming levy elections.

Where do Washington's public schools rank nationally in education? Washington State ranks 46th in the nation in average class size and 42nd in overall school spending. But according to our State Constitution, education is the "paramount duty" of Washington State.

Where can I find more information? www.wastatepta.org

WSPTA Legislative Assembly

What it is and why kids need your PTA to send a delegate to it!

One hundred years ago PTA founded as a child advocacy organization and advocacy is still an important part of our mission. We all joined PTA to make a difference for kids and participating in Legislative Assembly is an essential part of making that difference. Because there are so many issues impacting children and PTA's resources are limited, it is essential that we identify which are the most critical.

This annual process begins each spring when PTA members submit issues important to them and their community. It carries forward at Legislative Assembly where attendees learn more about proposed issues and let their voice be heard to determine PTA's Legislative Priorities. It culminates with advocacy we do with issues during the Legislative Session.

Current proposed issues have been compiled into a survey and members are encouraged to complete surveys to determine the priorities of their PTA. Then ensure that the "voice" of your PTA is heard by sending a delegate to Legislative Assembly to be held October 5 & 6, 2007, in SeaTac. The Proposed Issues Survey and survey guidelines are available by going to www.wastatepta.org and clicking on "Legislation".

You will also have an opportunity to vote for our region priorities at our Fall Conference on September 25th. For more information, contact our Region Legislation Chair, Kevin Bright. (kjbright@comcast.net)

Essay Contest - PTA MEN: Partners in Making a Difference

Men make a difference in the lives of the children they love, and children are more successful in and out of school when they have guidance of an involved male role model - a father, grandfather, uncle, brother, stepfather, teacher, mentor, neighbor, pastor/priest, coach, or a friend. WSPTA advocates for all children and families, and as part of that advocacy we are promoting a statewide essay contest that explores this vital relationship—from our children's perspective.

Look for the PTA MEN: Partner's in Making a Difference Essay Contest Application Form and details in your Leadership Packets. Application deadline is October 15, 2007. Winners will be announced February 1st, 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact our WSPTA Program Director,

Gina O'Daniel at ptaprogrid@wastatepta.org

Washington State PTA Region 8 "PTA and the Law"

October 23, 2007 - 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
The Hampton Inn & Suites - Burlington



Directions:

I-5 from South: Take exit #229. Right on George Hopper Road to Burlington Blvd. Right on Burlington Blvd.

I-5 from North: Take exit #229. Left on George Hopper Road to Burlington Blvd. Right on Burlington Blvd.

**There is an "On the Road Espresso" in front of the hotel. ☺

Key workshop subjects:

•What is "private inurement?" • Liability insurance, it's importance, what/who is covered • How to respond to the IRS • Sales tax, when/why/how to pay it • How much money can the PTA carry forward each year? •What political activities can we do? • Much, much more

This venue is a little smaller than in the past.
It is vital that you pre-register to guarantee a spot.

Agenda: 5:30 p.m. check in/registration -snacks will be provided
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. presentation

Pre-Registration fee by October 15: \$35 per unit, includes 2 updated PTA & the Law books
\$15 each for additional books

On Site Registration: \$45 per unit (includes 2 books)

WSPTA Region 8 PTA & the Law Seminar -- October 23, 2007 -- 5:30 pm-9:00 pm

Name of PTA _____ Local Unit Number: 8._____._____

Attendees Name: _____ Phone number _____

Attendees Name: _____ Phone Number _____

Please list additional names and phone numbers on the back. Thank you.

Make checks payable to WA State PTA. Remember! PTA checks must have TWO signatures and local unit number.
Send completed form and registration fee to: Donna Carr, 8542 Stevenson Road, Anacortes, WA 98221
Questions? Contact your Region Director, Donna Carr at 360-293-7394 or ptareg8@wastatepta.org



NEW IRS REQUIREMENT

501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations who gross less than \$25,000 will need to file an annual **electronic** notice IRS Form 990-N. The first tax year will be the July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008 year.

The e-Postcard will need to be filed by December 15, 2008.

The e-Postcard will require the PTA/PTSA to provide the following information:

- Organization's name
- Any other names your organization uses
- Organization's mailing address
- Organization's website address (if applicable)
- Organization's employer identification number (EIN)
- Name and address of a principal officer of the PTA
- Organization's annual tax period, **June 30th**
- A statement that your PTA's annual gross receipts are still normally \$25,000 or less, and
- If applicable, indicate if your PTA is going out of business

For more information, go to the IRS website:

www.irs.gov

The direct link to the information is:

www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/epostcard_faqs_final.pdf

**If you have any questions, contact the
WASHINGTON STATE PTA OFFICE
253-565-2153 or 1-800-562-3804**

WSPTA Dates to Remember

September 8 - WSPTA Legislation Committee Meeting, Tacoma

September 22 - WSPTA Membership Committee Meeting, Tacoma

September 25 - Fall Conference, Carl Cozier Elementary, Bellingham

October 5/6 - Legislative Assembly, SeaTac Marriot, Sea Tac

October 23 - Region 8 PTA and the Law, The Hampton Inn & Suites, Burlington

October 25 - Initial payment of Membership Fees due to State Office (25 min.)

November 9/10 - WSPTA State Board of Directors Meeting, Tacoma

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