

# NEWS FROM NINE

## REGION 9 SERVICE DELIVERY TEAM

Serving PTAs in the Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Tahoma, and Tukwila School Districts

### REGION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We come to this part of the year when we reflect and give thanks to those responsible for our success and security. At times, it is easy to remember those that support us as individuals and as a group, and there are times when we neglect to thank those that are the closest to us. I am thankful to my family that gives me their support and the time to be involved in PTA. I give thanks to the Region 9 Service Delivery Team and their hard work and their support within Region 9. I am grateful for the Washington State PTA staff, the WSPTA board of directors and members for all their work and time which they volunteer to our organization. The success of your work is evident in the children, staff and parents and schools where you volunteer. Your dedication inspires me and humbles me. Thank you everyone!



Another thing I am thankful for is training! If you didn't attend PTA and the Law on October 29<sup>th</sup> in Renton there is another chance to attend it will be January 9, 2010 in Puyallup with Region 5. Training is such an important part of being a PTA leader I hope you will take the chance to attend and be taught by WSPTA President Scott Allen and PTA Secretary Novella Fraser. Region 9 will be holding their Mid-Winter/Spring Conference on March 11<sup>th</sup> and the location will be in Kent. More information will be posted to the website in January.

I am also Thankful for the newest PTSA within Region 9 and the Highline Council- Welcome New Start PTSA!

I am thankful for PTA Memberships and those units that have asked me to join. If I am not a

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- \* Notes from Family Engagement
- \* Notes from Minority Leaders Conf.

Editor: Ray Kusumi

member of your local unit feel free to ask me via e-mail, snail mail or by phone to join on the 9<sup>th</sup> of each month. I look forward to hearing from you!

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful and safe holiday season with your families. Thank you again for all you do for the children in your communities.

Smile,  
Allyson Johnson  
Region 9 Director

## Focus Day

### FOCUS (On Kids) DAY Set For JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, Information Now Available Online

Washington State PTA's annual Focus Day has a slightly different wrinkle this year. Because it's scheduled on a day (the Martin Luther King Holiday) that schools are closed, our planning team is encouraging you to bring your children so they can see their government first hand, learn about how legislation is made, and also have some fun. At the same time, their presence will help reinforce our message to legislators that **all** of Washington's children should be the focus of their efforts. Plan now to come to Olympia, and join hundreds of PTA members from all across the state. For more information, see the brand new Focus Day flyer available at the WSPTA website. Please be sure to pass this information on to all your members, because if we work together and get everyone involved, we will make a difference.



*John Stokes and Corrine Patten, WSPTA Focus Day 2010 Co-Chairs.*

## Mid-Winter Training Conference

### SAVE THE DATE

Region 9 will host a Mid-Winter Conference on March 11th. The conference will be in Kent. More information and details will be available in the coming months.

Toni Troutner, Conference Coordinator

## Membership

Howdy Friends!

As we race into the end of the year, it is a good time to count your chickens. How did you do with your first membership drive of the 09-10 school year? Were you able to make you goal? If you didn't have a goal, look at your numbers now and choose one. What would your programs look like if you were able to increase your current membership by 5%, for example?

### Get yourself prepared for January by setting a new goal.

The New Year is a great time to have a New Drive.

- Start fresh with a new form, a new theme, a new color of paper.
- Focus on a particular group. For example: have an event that invite more Dads into your PTA family.

Put the "T" back in your PTA! Invite your teachers and school staff to join the team.

It is never too late to welcome new friends into your unit's PTA. Remember that your Regional and State teams are here to help. Check out the new and improved Membership pages on the WSPTA website. They are located in the Leadership Recourses section and they provide all sorts of good information to begin a new year in your unit. If you have more questions, drop me a note! I am happy to help!

I wish you and your families a warm and friendly Winter and a Happy New Year.

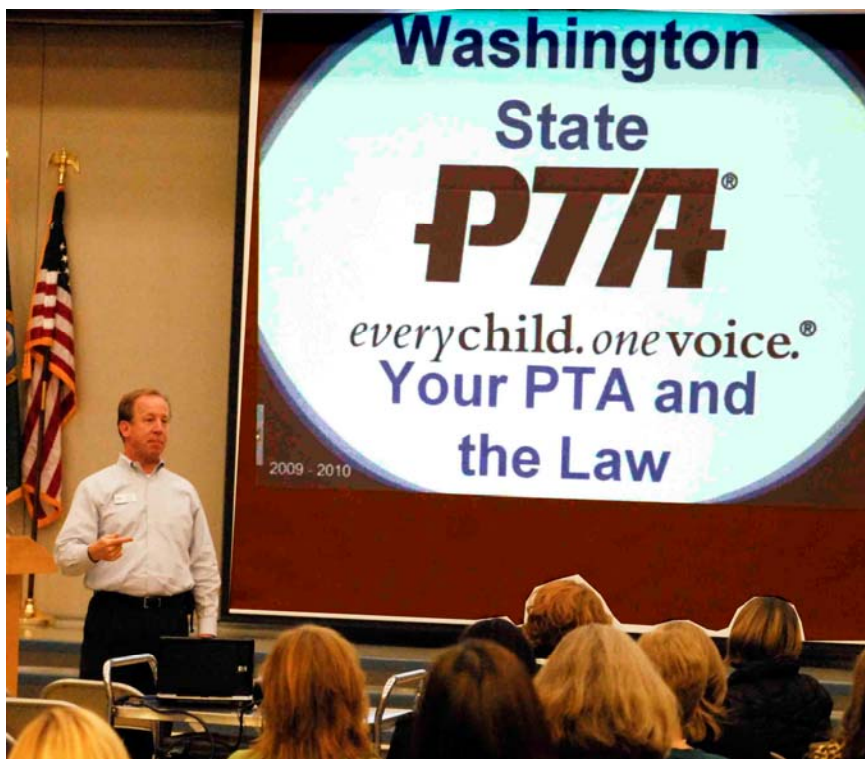
Michelle Baker  
Regional Membership Chair



## Calendar of Events

### Region 9 Service Delivery Team & WSPTA Dates

Jan 18, 2010	WSPTA Focus Day (Martin Luther King Day)
March 11	Mid-Winter Training Conference
Apr 30-May2, 2010	WSPTA Convention



## Reflections Program

### REFLECTIONS ART WORK FROM 2008-09 NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can now view the award winning art work from the 2008-09 Washington State PTA Reflections Program on our website. Thanks to Gregg Lobdell who spent untold hours putting this display together, and to WSPTA Reflections Chair Pam Deming and Program Director Maureen Monson and all of those who made last year's program such a success. For more information on the current year's Reflections Program, see the Programs section of the WSPTA website.



## Service Delivery Team

### Region Director

Allyson Johnson  
[Ptareg9@wastatepta.org](mailto:Ptareg9@wastatepta.org)

### Newsletter Editor

Ray Kusumi  
[Rkusumi6806@msn.com](mailto:Rkusumi6806@msn.com)

### Membership

Michelle Baker  
[Imagine.lilacs@gmail.com](mailto:Imagine.lilacs@gmail.com)

### Legislation

Brooke Valentine  
[wavalentine@msn.com](mailto:wavalentine@msn.com)

### Conference Coordinator

Toni Troutner  
[btkttrout@yahoo.com](mailto:btkttrout@yahoo.com)

### Outreach Chair

Maria Santiago  
[ROC9@wastatepta.org](mailto:ROC9@wastatepta.org)

### Auburn Council

Laura Theimer  
[LaurasPTAstuff@hotmail.com](mailto:LaurasPTAstuff@hotmail.com)

### Lisa Wilkinson

[lwilki1@comcast.net](mailto:lwilki1@comcast.net)

### Federal Way Council

Grace Rawsthorne  
[gracepta@hotmail.com](mailto:gracepta@hotmail.com)

### Highline Council

Felecia Corbin  
[fkcorbin@aol.com](mailto:fkcorbin@aol.com)

### Kent Council

Hallie Knudson  
[halliepta@g.com](mailto:halliepta@g.com)

### Renton Council

Karen Carpenter  
[2bacarpenter@comcast.net](mailto:2bacarpenter@comcast.net)

### Non-Council Units

Charlotte Kemble  
[cykemble@msn.com](mailto:cykemble@msn.com)



WASHINGTON STATE PTA  
**EMERGING MINORITY LEADERS**  
CONFERENCE

On August 6-7, 2009 Washington State PTA held its first Emerging Minority Leaders Conference in Olympia. More than 130 parents, teachers and others came together with the goal of identifying barriers that minority parents encounter in trying to advocate for their children and to identify what actions PTAs and PTSAs can take to help address those barriers.

The conference created an atmosphere where parents could speak freely about their experiences with schools and with PTAs/PTSAs. While we initially intended to summarize these comments, we quickly realized we could not do so and maintain the power of what we heard.

Information gleaned from the conference:

**WHAT MINORITY PARENTS SAID ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH PTA (Challenges)**

- Membership fees
- Language
- Children not welcome at meetings—lack of childcare
- Cultural differences
- Business orientation vs. family orientation
- Trust and patience with minorities
- PTA stereotypes
- Not enough “thank yous” and personal contact
- Lack of outreach
- Too many meetings
- Personal agendas
- Timely notification of events and meetings
- Too cliquish – fear of not fitting in
- Meeting schedule conflicts with work hours, especially single parents
- Intimidated by leaders

**WHAT MINORITY PARENTS SAID ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH PTA (Suggestions)**

- Open door and welcoming attitude
- Include families when setting up meetings
- Educate parents to advocate for their children
- Watch dogs—get men involved, call and ask for dads
- Break the cycle of prejudice—touch one parent at a time
- Get the kids to come and they’ll bring the family
- High school PTAs, help parents with college planning
- Recognize all age ranges, from young parents through grandparents
- Translation volunteers – students, retired teachers or others
- Potlucks to lower cost
- Use ELL staff for interpreting
- Build bridges to immigrant communities



## Notes from “Family Engagement: Closing the Achievement Gap” Conference

### WHAT IS A COMMUNITY CAFE?

Community Cafés are a series of guided conversations based on the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework leadership development and parent partnership. These conversations are hosted by parent leaders who use the World Café technique to increase community wisdom, build parent voice and facilitate action to improve lives for children. It is a process that is designed, planned and implemented by parents, working with their community partners. Typical community partners include: early child care and education sites, neighborhood centers, community based family resource centers, schools, immigrant and refugee agencies, faith based organizations, health departments or any system or agency that touches the lives of families and children.

Website references: [www.theworldcafe.org](http://www.theworldcafe.org) and from: [www.ctfalliance.org](http://www.ctfalliance.org) (community cafes)

Community Cafes: Nuts & Bolts: Read the book "Community. The Structure of Belonging" by Peter Block

Use affirming language: the language of possibilities to set the context and establish a culture of listening. "Let's pause, let's reflect on.." The visualization of a familiar setting frames the setting: checkered tablecloth over a small table.

During a community cafe, have a 'Kid's Cafe' for childcare; call it making friends or strengthening families. Before you begin, ask what we would like to harvest. Develop questions that link to compelling issues in the community. Consensus leads to action.

Questions need to be:

- ◇ open ended
- ◇ reflective but directive towards action
- ◇ personal, internal
- ◇ invite possibilities
- ◇ related to theme
- ◇ looking at topic from different sides
- ◇ welcome different perspectives with underlying themes
- ◇ Dialogue produces the fruit for harvest

Other notes from the Conference:

All minority groups would say: All teachers & school staff need Cultural Competence, and its not just attending a class for 2-4 hours. It comes from developing a relationship with a community. To engage and spend time with them, work with them. It means to go beyond the hours of operation.

Need to start with changing the school culture to be welcoming to families. Start small, with a positive phone call to parents. Like one parent a week. The front office staff/office manager are key. How welcoming are they?

**Sharing the story:** allow parents to share their story. To hear their story, helps to understand. It takes trust, to do this. There is a story behind every person, family. We need to really look, investigate what kind a relationship we really have. We need to reach families we are not reaching. It comes down to respect.

-Ray Kusumi



**REGION 9 SERVICE  
DELIVERY TEAM**

Washington State PTA  
2003 65th Avenue West  
Tacoma, WA 98466-6215



Just for your information for the holidays...  
The Holiday Inn Express at SeaTac has just completed a renovation and has a special \$49. weekend rate avail. now through the end of the year. If you have anyone coming into town looking for a budget room at SeaTac, have them ask for the customer appreciation rate (see attached).

Happy Holidays,  
*Linda Broderick*  
Director Global Accounts  
*HelmsBriscoe*  
11501 4th Ave NW  
Seattle, WA 98177  
206-784-9172

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**STAY CONNECTED**

*The Washington State PTA is the largest child advocacy organization in the State. To keep connected to the advocacy topics, subscribing to the listservs is a great way. Some listservs are informational, some ask you to take action and others are used as communication tools.*

**Grassroots Connection Listserv** (weekly when the Legislature is in session) This is an electronic update of legislative matters, including hearing schedule and bill updates.

**Action Alert Listserv (periodic)** These emails alert you to fast-breaking happenings in Olympia and request you to contact your legislator on specific issues that

*relate to the WSPTA legislative platform.*

**Legislation listserv (real time)** Two way communication between members on topics impacting Children and Youth. This listserv can be very busy at times.

**Legislation listserv Digest (daily)** The digested version of the Leg listserv delivered with all posts once daily.

*Participation is a valuable tool for all members in your PTA. Be sure to share this information in your newsletters. To subscribe go to the Advocacy page on the WSPTA website and under Legislative Basics click the Online listserv signup form or use the link below.*

[www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/leg\\_basics/Get\\_Connected\\_Legislative\\_Listserv.doc](http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/leg_basics/Get_Connected_Legislative_Listserv.doc)