

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

School has started parents are in the hallways of the schools volunteering in the classrooms, popping popcorn and planning the fall fundraiser. It also means PTA membership campaigns are in full swing. As I announced at the Region 9 Fall Leadership Conference I will be happy to join the first 3 local units that ask me to join their PTA on the 9th of each month. Send a membership form via e-mail to ptareg9@wastatepta.org . A big



Thank You to those units that have already asked me during the summer! The best way to increase membership is to "Just Ask". Don't forget to ask grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, co-workers and those within your community such as the Mayor, City Councilmen and School board members. The worst thing they could do is say "no".

Thank you to everyone who attended the Region 9 Fall Conference that was held on August 27th at the Tye Complex it was well attended. I really enjoyed meeting many of you who attended and hearing the great comments about the classes, and hearing about your PTA's. We are fortunate to have more training coming up and hopefully many of you will take the opportunity to attend first we have the 990 class coming up October 14th at the Auburn School District Building. Then a couple of weeks later PTA and the Law at Kenndale Elementary in Renton. Training is so important please take the time to come and hear from PTA Staff and Leaders. More information including registration forms for the trainings can be found on the Washington State PTA website at www.wastatepta.org under Region 9.

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Special points of interest:

- * Council News through out the newsletter
- * Calendar of events
- * Service Delivery Team Directory

Editor: Ray Kusumi

Something new this year is "Cocoa with Allyson" our first one will be held in October where I'll pick a local Starbucks or other coffee shop in an area of Region 9 and invite local units and councils to come chat with me about PTA; share good news on what your PTA is up to. Ask questions about Washington State PTA and brainstorm with each other about problems or challenges you may be experiencing in your local unit. More information will be posted later on the Region 9 webpage. Please send me the name and address of your favorite coffee shop or establishment it may be one that I visit during the coming year.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or someone on the Service Delivery Team we are here to help you. We are available to come teach classes at your local unit and to help you with any concerns you may have.

Thank you for all you do for the children in your community.
Smile,
Allyson Johnson
Region 9 Director

Focus Day

It's just around the corner. Well, maybe just around the New Year. WSPTA Focus Day will be early this time in light of the short legislative session.

Save the date: January 18, 2010.

Given that this is Martin Luther King Day, school will be out and what a grand outing with your

kids and a great way to honor Dr. King by exercising your right to a voice in your government.

We will have the Columbia Room in the Capitol again, and great festivities and direct contacts with your legislators on tap. So stay tuned for more details on Focus Day as the new PTA year unfolds in September. Be there!

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



Reflections Program

The 2009-2010 Reflections theme is: "Beauty is...".

Young artists get involved in Reflections through their local PTA or PTSA. A student may submit an entry in any of six arts areas. Only original works of art are accepted. The six art areas are: Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Film/Video and Choreography/Dance. If you need more information about Reflections contact your local unit or Council President or a member of the Region 9 SDT.



TVW Special Report on Education Reform and Funding

For those of you who may have missed one or both segments of TVW's special report, "The Quest for Quality" when it aired you can view both segments online:

[Watch Part 1](#): "What's the Cost of Basic Education?"

[Watch Part 2](#): "More Money or More Reform?"

For a summary of the program and links to related material, visit "[The Quest for Quality](#)" homepage.

Bill Williams, Executive Director



Calendar of Events

Region 9 Service Delivery Team & WSPTA Dates

Oct 14	Region 9 990/990 EZ Class
Oct 29	Region 9: PTA and the Law at Kennydale Elementary
Jan 18, 2010	WSPTA Focus Day (Martin Luther King Day)
Apr 30-May2, 2010	WSPTA Convention

Membership

Hello, Region 9!

My name is Michelle Baker, and I am your new Regional Membership Chair. Your success is my priority- please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or issues concerning your membership. I am eager to help.

October 25th is the first deadline for getting your Membership Dues paid. Please enter all your members into the WSPTA database, and send the correct amount in to your Council. If you are a non-council unit, then please send your dues directly to the state office.

A few reminders:

- 1) Make checks payable to your council PTA/PTSA (*or WA State PTA if you do not belong to a council*)
- 2) Always have two officers sign checks
- 3) Include Local Unit Membership remittance form with the check
- 4) Mail to your council PTA/PTSA (*or WA State PTA if you do not belong to a council*)

I would like to challenge all units to increase their membership over last year. Getting more people involved in your school is a good thing for everyone concerned!

- New faces and fresh ideas make a unit stronger
- Parent involvement in school directly affects student success

Many hands make light work!

If you have a successful Membership Drive Idea, please email me at RMC9@wastatepta.org

Tell me what you did, and how it improved your unit. I will publish the best ideas in my next article

Thank you,
Michelle Baker



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Kent Area PTA Council

In Kent this year we are starting our year differently than we have in years past. Kent Teachers voted to go out on strike after contract negotiations between them and the Kent School District broke down but the contract has since been ratified and school started on 9/15/09. We are excited that school has started and I know the teachers, the district, parents and students are as well. Tuesday morning in all of the Kent Schools was a happy one. Now we will start the healing process that needs to take place to bring us all back together to focus on our children.

The format of our first General Membership Meeting was changed to host Dr. Edward Vargas, Superintendent of Kent Schools, Becky Hanks with Community Connections of the Kent School District, Jim Barrios, President of the Kent School District Board of Directors, Lisa Brakin-Johnson, President of the Kent Education Association and Bill Williams, Washington State PTA Executive Director. Each person had time to speak with a question and answer period following and we hope that those in attendance came away with a better understanding of the issues at that time.

At our General Membership meeting September 28, 2009 we look forward to getting back to our usual format and welcome all of our local unit's representatives. We will have a Membership Break Out, Reflections Break Out, and a Legislative Break so we hope that the chairs of those committees will be in attendance at the meeting as well as the Presidents.

We are excited to start the New Year, support our teachers and administrators and look forward to a positive outcome for all involved especially the **children** of the Kent School District.

Please be sure to check the KAC website for updates on happenings, membership information, Region and State training opportunities and the Legislative Assembly Deadline which is coming up soon. www.kacpta.org. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me president@kacpta.org or your Area VP's who will be happy to help.

We look forward to being part of the challenge that brings us all together as a community and reminds us that we are all passionate about our children.

Thanks for all you do!!

Sharon Pfeiffer

Kent Area Council PTA President

206-244-3389

Annual Corporate Renewal - Is it due?

Each local PTA and Council is separately incorporated as a non-profit corporation, and the corporate status must be renewed annually with the Secretary of State's office no later than the anniversary of its incorporation. Not surprisingly, many PTAs were chartered during the fall, so it may be time for you to file the renewal. If you don't know your incorporation anniversary, you can find it on the Secretary of State's website, at this link: http://www.secstate.wa.gov/corps/corps_search.aspx. Note that this is different from the registration required under the Charities Program, also administered by the Secretary of State, which has a uniform renewal date of May 31st applicable to all organizations.



Renton PTSA Council

Renton PTA council had its first meeting on Aug. 31 to officially kick off our year. We are still working on making personal contact with all the local units in our council to network and offer support as needed.

Our next event is our annual Principals & Presidents Potluck Meeting, which is an opportunity for local unit officers to get to know the administrative staff from their schools in a fun and festive setting. This is usually well attended by Principals and we encourage all local unit boards to attend.

We are looking forward to attending Legislative Assembly on Oct. 2&3 and plan to get the most out of the classes and workshops offered there. Education funding continues to be a front burner issue and we need all the help we can get to effectively advocate for our children's education, health, and well-being.

Also in October, on the 29th, we will be hosting PTA & the Law at Kennydale Elementary. This is the most valuable workshop you can attend in PTA! There is always new information on keeping your PTA/PTSA in good legal standing. We hope to see you all there.

Our Reflections chair, Suzanne Chandler, is already hard at work planning for this fabulous art program. If you have not forwarded the name and contact information for your Reflections chair to her, please email her at reflections@rentonptsa.org.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact us at president@rentonptsa.org. We are here to support you! And don't forget to check out our website at www.rentonptsa.org.

Ray Kusumi & Annie Hetzel
Renton PTA Council Co-Presidents

Check out our website: www.rentonptsa.org

Establishing Common Academic Standards

TWO NATIONAL GROUPS LEADING EFFORT TO ESTABLISH
COMMON CORE ACADEMIC STANDARDS THAT EACH STATE CAN ADOPT

The National Governors' Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers (made up of our Superintendent of Public Instruction and his colleagues from other states) have jointly embarked on an effort to develop common core academic standards that all children would need to be ready for college or the world of work. Forty-eight states (all but Alaska and Texas) and three territories have agreed to take part in the effort known as Common Core, although none have agreed to adopt the standards once they have been developed. The first draft of the core standards was released for comment this week. You can access more information about the initiative as well as the draft standards at this link: <http://www.corestandards.org/>.



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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 Digested (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