

Washington State

PTA[®]

everychild.onevoice.

Region 7*Serving local PTA units of Snohomish / Island Counties*Region Director: Cathy Phipps
Newsletter Editor: Karen MadsenDecember, 2008
Volume 3, Issue 3**Region 7 News****Cathy's Comments**

As I sit here with the snow falling outside, reflecting on the year and a half of service spent as Region Director, I think of all of the wonderful opportunities I have had to grow and watch others around me grow. I want to thank all of you for the opportunities you have given me. You are all amazing people and leaders, with such a strong commitment to kids. Some of your questions and inquiries have made me think and question the correct answer in more ways than some of you might think. The strong leaders and resources we have in this region are enormous and we should all be thankful for them: the past State President Linda Hanson, State Secretary and past Region 7 Director Bonnie Kayla, and your own Region Newsletter Editor Karen Madsen (WSSDA President-Elect and a PTA Board Member for over 20 years at the council and local level while serving on the region level for several years). Over the past year and a half, they have all helped in more ways than one. They have helped answer those questions (behind the scenes and/or in person). Your region team is also full of wonderful leaders from around the state. They are not afraid to ask tough questions to get you the right information.

Your Region Team is busy planning a wonderful winter conference (please note the name change). I understood what everyone was saying about the name and you were all correct. We are bringing you classes that we thought would answer all of your questions and best help you at this time of year.

I would like to urge you to send in your ballet for the next Region Director. This is a very important part of the process. I have enjoyed my time as Region Director, but it is time for the next person to have the chance to work with all of you.

I look forward to seeing you at the winter conference and getting a chance to hear more of your challenges and successes. We are working on getting a speaker on education and feel that this will help you understand the financial side of the picture.

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with family and was able to take the time to enjoy each other.

Cathy Phipps, Region 7 Director
425-338-4817
ptareg7@wastatepta.org

Service Delivery Team

Cathy Phipps, Region Director
(425) 338-4817, ptareg7@wastatepta.org

Charles Miller, Region Membership Chair
(360) 659-0151, cdm6324@yahoo.com

Nalani Baker, Region Outreach Chair
(425) 743-1797, bakerkotovic@comcast.net

Julie Matheny, Region Legislative Chair
(425) 385-2482, markt56@aol.com

Karen Madsen, Newsletter Editor
(425) 337-5552, kpmadsen@juno.com

Ron Martinez, Edmonds Council President
(425) 670-1777, danaronm@earthlink.net

Sam Lamoureux, Everett Council Co-Pres
(425) 303-9177, Lamoureux@hotmail.com

Michele Lopez, Everett Council Co-President
(425) 772-3228, michelelopez1@comcast.net

Barbara Arocha, Marysville Council President
(360) 659-7724, barbaraarocha@yahoo.com

Christa Jones, Mukilteo Council President
(425) 315-5965, christa.jones@spacelabs.com

Steve Campbell, Service Specialist
(360) 653-1303, scamp10204@msn.com

Michelle Nims, Service Specialist
(425) 338-7202, michellenims@juno.com

Daniela Thom, Service Specialist
(425) 338-0995, thom.daniela@hotmail.com

Brandis Roundy, Service Specialist
(425) 774-8937, roundyclan@comcast.net

WSPTA Office, 1-800-562-3804
www.wastatepta.org

2003 65th Avenue West, Tacoma, WA 98466

Region 7 Winter Leadership Conference

Monday, March 16, 2009 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Cascade High School, Everett 98203

\$35.00 per unit

Directions: Exit I-5 at the Boeing Freeway. Take the first exit from the Boeing Freeway onto Evergreen Way. Turn right at the top of the ramp onto Evergreen. Turn right at the second light onto Bruin Boulevard. Turn right at the T onto Casino Road. Cascade High School is ahead on your right. Enter the school near the large bear sculpture.

Agenda

5:00-5:50 Light dinner with registration and fund-raising vendors

5:50-6:00 Introduction of Region 7 Service Delivery Team

6:00-6:30 Keynote speaker

6:45-7:45 First class session

- Managing Your Reserve—Learn about reserves and restricted funds. Find out how much is too much, how much is enough and how to manage your reserves.
- Smooth Transitions—Discuss communication, procedure notebooks, transition meetings, and how to help everyone feel valued in the transition process; for all board members.
- Attracting Retaining and Rewarding Volunteers—Who to reach out to, how to move past the obstacles seen as reasons not to volunteer, and how to engage and honor volunteers.
- Managing Complex Meetings—How to conduct an effective meeting. Including how are issues raised and handled? How to best manage dissent. What is the Boards role
- Nominating Committee—Learn how to elect a nominating committee, ways to encourage nominations, and all the procedures around electing the next officers of your PTA.

8:00-9:00 Second class session

- Budgets & Financial Reviews—Building a budget based on goals is key. Learn to build, develop, and amend budgets. Discuss who, when, where and why of financial reviews.
- Board Development Strategies—Discuss key components of leadership development within your PTA; recruiting and retaining members, and creating a team environment.
- Programs & Awards—A brief overview of WSPTA's awards and recognition program. Find out how to create and maintain tailor-made programs for your local unit or council.
- The Magic of Conflict—Think together about how to resolve and keep conflict out of your organization. This class is a must for all boards with conflict.
- PTA & School Administrators - A Partnership—Learn valuable techniques for communicating and understanding the similarities and differences of each partner, and discuss how to make the most of these pivotal relationships

Please plan on coming and meeting others in your Region.

This conference will feature many popular vendors.

We will share ideas and learn together.

Region 7 Winter Leadership Conference Registration

Monday, March 16, 2009 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Cascade High School

Registration Instructions:

List all PTA members from your unit who will be attending the conference. By pre-registering your members they are guaranteed a handout from each class they attend, adequate food and refreshments and various resource material available at the conference. One registration fee from each local unit pays for all those attending, so invite everyone on your board and others in leadership positions. **Please let us know if you will be joining us for dinner by writing yes or no in the “dinner” box on the registration form below.**

Registration cost per unit: \$35.00. Registration deadline is March 2.

Make checks payable to WSPTA. Please remember to include **two signatures** and your **PTA unit number** as required on the check. Copy this registration form for your records and mail to:
Nalani Baker, 17102 11th Place West, Lynnwood, WA 98037 bakerkotovic@comcast.net

| Region 7 Winter Leadership Conference Registration Form | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| PTA Local Unit Name: | PTA Unit Number: 7.____.____ | |
| PTA Unit President: | Phone: ()- | |
| Address: | Email: | |
| Names/PTA positions of members attending the conference | | |
| Name | Position | Dinner? Yes/No |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Attach an additional page if needed.

SILVER Level Membership Awards

Congratulations to the following local units in Region 7 which achieved 5% increase from last year's membership enrolled and paid by October 25th, 2008:

Alderwood Middle PTA 7.2.120
 Brier Terrace Middle PTSA 7.2.123
 Hawthorne PTA 7.3.15
 Lowell PTA 7.3.30
 Penny Creek PTA 7.3.42
 Silver Lake PTA 7.3.45
 Whittier PTA 7.3.55
 Eisenhower Mdle PTSA 7.3.65
 Henry M Jackson Hi PTSA 7.3.95
 Grove PTSA 7.4.7
 Discovery PTA 7.5.7
 Endeavour PTA 7.5.8
 Fairmount PTSA 7.5.10
 Chain Lake PTA 7.6.2
 Cedarhome PTA 7.6.4
 Cougar Creek PTA 7.6.8
 Mount Pilchuck PTA 7.6.26
 Twin City PTA 7.6.46
 Park Place Middle PTSA 7.6.63
 Port Susan Middle School PTA 7.6.64
 Post Middle PTSA 7.6.65

PTA Outreach

Outreach has many different faces. The Edmonds School District has a group organized to support children with special needs. This group is made up of parents who share a similar concern...the education of their special needs children, the Special Education PTSA Committee of ESD. They provide support to families with special needs kids to obtain a purposeful life and a quality education and welcome all families interested in supporting their children's education. They have a discussion group on the internet at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ESD_Spec_ED_Parents/. Do you have a similar group that you would like highlighted in future newsletters? Send your information to Nalani Baker, Regional Outreach Chair at bakerkotovic@comcast.net.

Basic Education Funding Resources

If you want additional resources related to Basic Ed Funding, there are several developed by PTA members for PTA members on the WSPTA Website, Legislation page under the "It's Basic" Link on the left side of the page. Additional articles will be forth-coming, so please check back regularly.

PTA Men Essay

Washington State PTA sponsors an annual essay contest called "**PTA Men: Partners in Making a Difference.**" The contest is open to all children in Washington K-12 public, private and home-school settings. Essays are short (650 words max.) that describe how a male role model has positively influenced the child's education with his involvement. All applicants will receive a certificate of participation.

Three statewide finalists will receive:

An invitation to and recognition at the WSPTA Convention in May, 2009; his or her essay posted on the WSPTA website and published in *the Child Advocate* magazine; and 4 VIP tickets to a 2009 Mariners home game

Deadline for entries is February 1, 2009.

Additional information can be found at:

www.wastatepta.org/programs/PTAmen.htm.

Christine Gillingham

WSPTA Making a Difference Chair

New Year—New Opportunities

January 25th is the deadline to enroll, enter and remit fees to your council or the state office. If you have a 10% increase over last years member totals you will earn the Gold Level.

Membership Director, Dori Tate asks us to share our ideas to kick off our New Years Membership Drive on the membership listserv at membership@listerv.wastatepta.org

Here are some ideas from PTA.org:

- 1) Nationwide, approximately 18 percent of PTA members join in January and February.
 - 2) Running membership campaigns more frequently reminds your members that membership is everyone's business, especially if you weave membership into programs, activities, and general PTA work.
 - 3) January is not too late for parents to make a real impact in the current school year, and people who join PTA in January will be ready to renew their membership the following year.
- The **membership page** at www.wastatepta.org has been totally redone. There are instructions for entering members, printing membership cards and emailing members.

Charles Miller

Region 7 Membership Chair

It's Basic: First you have to define it

Washington's system to pay for schools is broken. By law, the state is supposed to pay for basic expenses like salaries and utilities. But across Washington, districts face severe financial shortfalls and some may become insolvent. The state is under-funding K-12 education, primarily by not covering actual staffing costs and not keeping up with inflation.

Consider: Experts hired by the Washington Learns committee recommend 71 certified instructors for every 1,000 students; the state funds 46 per 1,000. Caught in the discrepancy are kids who aren't getting the help they need. So districts hire more teachers and pay for them with local funds. Statewide, local funds pay for 22 percent of our teaching corps.*

Then there are non-employee costs, like utilities. In 2006-07, districts spent \$259 million on utilities. The state paid \$118 million.

So the question is: How much do schools really cost? To answer that, the Basic Education Finance Task Force – a group of state and education representatives charged with making sure schools get enough money – *first* has to define what we need to pay for. What skills do employers expect? What standards do colleges stipulate? How do we prepare kids for life and career, and what infrastructure does that require?

The Legislature hasn't addressed this issue in 30 years. In the interim, PTA members – you guys – have argued for tougher graduation requirements, better diagnostic assessment, stronger math and science curriculum, and more funding for facilities. The PTA position is we need to make schools better for all students. And when the state only pays to replace textbooks every 18 years, and only pays for five hours of the average six-hour school day, we need to re-evaluate the state's definition of "basic."

Over the summer, a number of groups testified before the task force, discussing everything from accountability to collective bargaining. The Washington PTA was there, too, laying out our positions, asking the state to match financing to expectations, and reminding them: Kids first. Members of the task force have since written or sponsored preliminary proposals. Some want fundamental overhaul, such as changing the way teachers are certified or evaluated; others just want enough state funds to cover what districts have cobbled together. The task force is meeting weekly and is seeking public input. By mid-December it will send a report to the state Legislature. What happens after that depends on all of us.

We need to ask ourselves: What do our kids need? What reforms are essential and doable? And we need to ask our representatives in Olympia: Why is our current system unstable? Our schools are financially at risk and we have high drop out rates. Will the proposed changes fix the problem? We as a community need to speak up and make sure that the Legislature plans and budgets for what kids really need.

"It's Basic" is a campaign of the state PTA. Our goal: Make sure Washington kids have stable, secure and sufficient funding for basic education. Materials are posted at www.wastatepta.org/leg/funding.htm.

*All budget information in this article comes from figures provided by the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction.

How to get involved:

- Send comments on the proposals to: bef@wsipp.wa.gov
- Contact your legislator: <http://capwiz.com/npta2/wa/home/>
- Read a summary at [www.wastatepta.org/leg/FUNDING COMMITTEE/BEF_proposal_sum.pdf](http://www.wastatepta.org/leg/FUNDING_COMMITTEE/BEF_proposal_sum.pdf)
- Read the full proposals or get background info: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/joint/committees/bef/>
- Review WSPTA testimony: http://www.wastatepta.org/leg/BEF_July_2008.pdf
- Learn more about Washington State school funding: www.fundingwaschools.org

Edmonds Council News

The Edmonds District Council is working to help with issues that pertain to the PTA/PTSAs in the Edmonds School District. We recently helped resolve a school lunch issue and made recommendations to the school district on how to not lose money and allow students more dignity when they owe the school lunch program. In addition, we have made recommendations to the district on charges that were to be assessed to parent teacher groups for use of school facilities. In these tough economic times, it is especially critical that the lines of communication between the school district and the volunteer organizations who help them and the students remain open and that budgets cuts are readily discussed.

Marysville Council News

PTA in Marysville is alive and well with the addition of two new PTAs, **Grove Elementary PTSA** and **Marysville Special Education PTSA**.

Thanks to veteran Council Reflections chair Donna Stevick and Committee members as well as youthful participants, Reflections are in full swing here in Marysville.

I would like to give an honorable mention to Halleh Stickles of Pinewood PTSA for continuing to help in the Scholarship Basket campaign which raises money for scholarships to be given to deserving High School Seniors, helping defray those college costs.

Congratulations to the following 13 of 18 Marysville PTA/PTSA's for meeting the Bronze level: Allen Creek PTSA 7.4.2, Cascade PTA 7.4.5, Grove PTSA 7.4.7, Liberty PTA 7.4.10, Marshall PTSA 7.4.13, Pinewood PTA 7.4.20, Quil Ceda PTSA 7.4.22, Tulalip PTSA 7.4.40, Cedarcrest Middle PTSA 7.4.43, Totem Middle PTSA 7.4.47, Tenth Street School PTSA 7.4.48, Marysville A & T PTSA 7.4.55, Marysville Special Ed PTSA 7.4.70 and to Grove PTSA 7.4.7, Marysville Special Ed PTSA 7.4.70 for reaching the Silver level.

Marysville Special Education PTSA upcoming meetings:

Please join us for our speaker series - all are welcome! We meet from 7-9pm at Grove Elementary in the library. Our scheduled speakers are as follows:

January 14, Stacy Gillett of the Dussault Law Group, on Special Education Law and parent rights

February 11, Sharlet Jensen, CCC-SLP on "Making Play Meaningful" in therapy and school settings

March 11, JoAnn Moffitt, school counselor, on "The Role of the School Counselor in Special Education"

April 13, Kristin Hennessy, WA State Education Ombudsman, will speak at a location to be determined.

Finally, Happy Birthday to Emily,

the new daughter of our Co-President of the Marysville PTA Council Annette Rice.

Mukilteo Council News

Cathy Phipps (Region 7 Director) and Steve Campbell (Region 7 Service Delivery Team) gave a wonderful National PTA presentation called "Building Successful Partnerships". It focused on how Parent/Family involvement impacts children's success in school.

Upcoming Dates

January 14th @ Serene Lake Elementary 6:30pm. PTA and the Principle Presentation

February 11th @ Mukilteo School District Services (Tour of Facility)

Reflections

Submissions are due by December 12th. Reception for all participants will be mid-January.

Issues in Mukilteo

Space Advisory Committee was formed to generate ideas to solve the space problems faced by the district. District enrollment (especially elementary) has increased, and the failure of the last construction bond will require creative solutions to address this issue. Their first meeting featured a review of factors that the district can't control (enrollment, growth, state regulations on class sizes, No Child Left Behind Act, homeless students, etc.) and factors over which the district has some control (local need decisions such as special education, Summit, and English Language Learner.) The committee will make recommendations on funding option and how to add and/or find space. Meetings are open to observers.



**FOCUS DAY 2009
FEBRUARY 26**

REGION 7 PRESENTS A "FIELD TRIP" TO FOCUS DAY!

**EVERETT & MARYSVILLE COUNCIL ARE SPONSORING
A BUS TRIP TO FOCUS DAY 2009**

The bus will depart from McCollum Park & Ride in south Everett
on Thursday, February 26th at 8:30 am.
WSPTA is hosting a rally on the Capitol steps in Olympia from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.
The bus will leave Olympia at 2:30 pm and
arrive back at the Park & Ride at approximately 4:30 pm.

EVERYONE INCLUDING STUDENTS IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

PLEASE CONFIRM A SEAT FOR ME ON THE BUS TO FOCUS DAY –

RESERVATION NAME: _____

NAMES OF ALL TRAVELERS: _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

OF ADULTS: _____ # OF STUDENTS: _____ TOTAL #: _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED: \$16.00 X # OF SEATS / TOTAL - \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MARYSVILLE PTA COUNCIL 7.4

Mail checks to: Julie Matheny 13317 60th Dr. SE Everett WA 98208

CONTACT INFORMATION: Julie Matheny / Region 7 Legislative Chair 2008-2009 425-385-2482-home / 509-668-0960-cell / [markt56@aol.com-email](mailto:markt56@aol.com) / mail reservations with payment to: Julie Matheny 13317 60th Dr. SE Everett, WA 98208 We are sorry; however, NO REFUNDS can be given for cancellations.

Upcoming Events—Mark your calendars now for these important dates:

January 25, 2009—Membership Service Fees due (determines # of voting delegates to Conv.)

January 28—Reflections entries due to WSPTA—entries must be postmarked by this date

February 26—Focus Day 2009 in Olympia

March 1—Most WSPTA award applications due

April 3—Convention pre-registration

May 2-4—WSPTA Convention at the Doubletree/SeaTac Hotel

May 25—Final Payment of Membership Service Fees

May 31—Charitable Solicitations Renewal form due

Information/registration available at www.wastatepta.org/meetings/meetings.htm

Leadership Reminders:

Please call your Region Service Delivery Team/Director for help with trainings.

National PTA Reflections theme 2008-09

 “Wow!” 

Washington State PTA
2003 – 65th Avenue West
Tacoma, WA. 98466

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tacoma, WA
Permit No. 474