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August 2009

Council Connections

Renton PTSA Council 9.11.00

Serving the PTAs within Renton School district

Maureen Monson, Editor

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF LOCAL UNITS.

Hello PTA Leaders!

Soon, school buses will be rolling down neighborhood streets and kid's bright faces will enter classrooms. Mornings are cool and Fall is in the air. By now, membership drives are under way and Reflections planning begun. It is a busy and exciting time of year, full of promise for all we can achieve together.

Helping you achieve your local unit goals

For those of you new to Renton PTSA Council, we want to introduce you to some of our upcoming events.

We meet on the last Monday of the month except in December and March. Our meetings are an excellent way to network with other PTA leaders. You can also hear about district news and stay ahead of the curve regarding district wide issues that affect all of our schools.

Our October meeting is the Principals & Presidents potluck when

we invite entire local unit executive boards to network with their school's Principal. It is a fun opportunity to get to know your administrators.

Also in October, Renton Council is hosting the PTA & the Law training at Kennydale Elementary. This is the most important training to attend, whether you are new or experienced in PTA. At this event, you will learn how to keep your non-profit corporation out of legal trouble.

As a council, our goal is to provide you with the knowledge and support to have a great year. We will be happy to attend your meetings if you invite us. Please let us know how we can best help you and we will do all that we can.

The fun begins in August so mark your calendars now! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail me or give me a call.

ANNIE HETZEL & RAY KUSUMI – CO-PRESIDENT - RENTON PTSA COUNCIL

E-MAIL ADDRESS: PRESIDENT@RENTONPTSA.ORG

PHONE: (425) 235-4188 (ANNIE) (425) 277-6806 (RAY)

Check out our website: www.rentonptsa.org



Has your Local Unit updated its Standing Rules?

Did your local unit change the standing rules to reflect the new increase in State PTA Membership Dues?

At WSPTA convention the delegates approved an increase in membership dues. For 2009-10 the assessment for the State will be \$5.25, in 2010-11 \$5.50 and in 2011-12 the assessment will increase again to \$5.75.

Your dues assessment can not be less than the total amount assessed by the Council, State and National PTA's and your General Funds can not be used for membership dues. Check to see the increase has been included before printing your membership paperwork.



Tip from AIM, the PTA's insurance company:

Have someone who does not have check signing authority review the bank monthly statement before giving it to the treasurer. This person is looking for red flags including: checks showing up in non-sequential order, checks made out to cash, cash withdrawals, checks written out to non-approved vendors or for non-approved expenses or to individuals.

AIM's website is www.aim-companies.com. Click on Insurance Programs then click on PTA and scroll down to

Top Ten Ways To Protect Your PTA Against Embezzlement.



Treasurer's Tidbit

Thanks for joining me in the wonderful world of finance for the 2009 – 2010 school year. As a former local unit treasurer, I want to thank each of you for the time and energy you are giving to your PTAs, and the students and families that benefit from your efforts. I'm happy to assist you with budget questions, tax issues, and corporate paperwork. If I don't have the answer I'll track it down. Please feel free to contact me at treasurer@rentonptsa.org with any comments, questions or concerns you may have.

The first date to remember is September 28th, when PTA & the Law will be hosted at Kennydale Elementary School. This is a critical class. To help you understand those changes and new filing requirements for **all** non-profits, Auburn Council will be hosting a 990 IRS class on October 14th, at Auburn School District bldg. (915 4th Street NE, Auburn, Washington 98002).

It's not too soon to be thinking about membership fees. October 25th is when the first membership forms and checks are due to Council. These should be sent to:

Paul Sjolholm, Treasurer
Renton PTSA Council
P.O. Box 234
Renton, WA 98057

You can find all the membership due dates posted on the Council website under membership.

Thanks for all you do,
Paul Sjolholm

Start your year off right

Best Practices Checklist

Set aside time during your PTA meeting to go over the **Best Practices Checklist**. It will help identify the strengths and weaknesses of your PTA and assist in planning for next year.

OUR PTA IS CHAILDFOCUSED AND RESPONSIVE TO OUR MEMBERS.

- Clearly defined goals have been established by our PTA and approved by the Board of Directors and/or membership.
- Programs and activities were developed to address those goals.
- Regular communication was provided to members concerning PTA issues and activities.
- Our PTA determined our members' needs.
- Our membership campaign is ongoing and welcomes all who seek to join and participate.
- Meetings are held to address the needs of the membership and conduct the business of the association.
- Our volunteers are recognized.
- Our PTA annually identifies an outstanding volunteer in our community and honors him/her with a Golden Acorn Award.
- Our PTA annually identifies an outstanding staff member in our community and honors him/her with an Outstanding Educator Award.

OUR PTA PRACTICES FISCAL AND FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY.

- Our PTA's budget was approved by the membership
- An audit was conducted of last year's books and records.
- Monthly financial reports were made to the board of directors and general membership.
- Our PTA's standing rules were updated and approved by the membership.
- The Nominating Committee was elected by the membership.
- Our PTA's officers were elected by the membership.
- Our PTA purchased insurance.
- Our PTA's board of directors held regular meetings.



OUR PTA LEADERS ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE, INVOLVED AND WELL TRAINED.

- Our PTA leaders attended a Region Conference or received person-to-person training from a service delivery team member.
- Our PTA leaders attended PTA and the Law
- Our PTA leaders attended Legislative Assembly.
- Our PTA leaders attended the last State PTA Convention.
- Our PTA leaders will attend the next State PTA Convention.
- Our PTA has a process to evaluate the current year's goals, programs and activities.
- Our PTA shares information received from State and National PTA with our members.
- Our PTA has a process to pass on materials and records to next year's officers and committee chairs.
- Our PTA networks with others:
 Council PTAs: by regular attendance and participation at council meetings and events
 Non-Council PTAs: by working with other PTAs and similar volunteer and service organizations.

There are several reasons why a unit would apply for the Standards of Excellence and Honor Unit awards and a few are:

- (1) recognition - it is definitely nice to be able to tell your PTA families and staff we are headed down the right track. I think it builds confidence in our PTA, helps get new volunteers and leaders, and gives the current officers a "pat on the back" so to speak.
- (2) To improve - this was truly the most important reason. What we can change or improve. What should we be doing that we are not doing already?

PTA and The Law

This seminar is one of the most important services by Washington State PTA. This workshop will explain how these rules can and do affect your PTA's activities. This training is essential for your ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Cost of the workshop is \$40 per unit. The cost includes as many PTA members in your unit or council who wish to attend. Included are two PTA & The Law books.

Registration must be postmarked on or before Friday October 23, 2009. Go to the Region 9 website (www.wastatepta.org/regions/region_9/region_calendar.html) to download a registration form. On site registration will be \$65 per unit! Registration from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday - October 29, 6:00-9:00 at Kennydale Elementary School -

Register to Vote

In November we will all have an opportunity to start the journey to change how education is funded. In preparation it is important for you to:

- **Register to vote!** If you're registered.....
- **Ask a friend to register!** If you have no friends.....

Ask a family member to register to vote!

You can register at any **Library**, online at www.metrokc.gov/elections/register.htm or by **phone at 206-296-8683**.

Take the time and vote...for the kids' sake.



Legislative Assembly

2009 WSPTA Legislative Assembly

October 2-3, 2009

SeaTac Marriot, SeaTac, WA

This is an educational and fun two-day event where delegates learn more about each of the proposed issues and represent their PTA's priorities. The delegates then cast ballots to decide the issues will be worked on most during the upcoming legislative session.

Join us for the premier advocacy and legislation training and planning event of the year! Local units and councils send delegates to our statewide Legislative Assembly to develop our statewide legislative platform and to learn how to effectively advocate for children at all levels. **LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!**

Check out the WSPTA legislative page for the submitted issues: http://www.wastatepta.org/meetings/leg_assembly/

Could your PTA use a bit more \$\$?

The State PTA would like to help. Our Applegate Grant Program provides opportunities for supplemental funding to units and councils for community-wide projects. Qualifying projects focus on the health, welfare, safety, education, care, and protection of children. Each year, the Washington State PTA sets aside funds to be awarded to local units and councils for these programs, projects, and activities.

Due date: December 1, 2009



Elect Your Nominating Committee - Sooner Rather Than Later!

The charge of the Nominating Committee is to recognize and recruit the most qualified people for the positions available. It is the most important committee in PTA.

Having qualified people step into leadership positions in a local unit, council, region or at the state level will ensure success for many years into the future. The work of this committee is paramount to fulfilling our mission as PTAs.

Therefore, the sooner the nominating committee is elected the better so they can begin their work. Consider electing your nominating committee at the first general meeting in the fall. Some may say "Why so early? We just began our elected term in July." It is really very simple. You need to give this committee time to observe the needs of their organization and the leaders who serve the members. This will offer enough time to interview those who serve currently, and those who may be potential candidates down the road. But, most importantly, it gives this new group time to attend a nominating committee workshop and get to know one another.



Reflections

Thank you for volunteering to chair the Reflections Program at your local school. The Reflections Program is a National PTA and a WA State PTA sponsored program. Participating in the Reflections Program is an opportunity for all students to explore and express themselves through various art forms. It does not matter whether an entry is created as a classroom assignment or independently at home. The students can choose from: Dance/Choreography, Film/Video, Literature, Musical Composition, Photography and Visual Arts.



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Questions? Contact Suzanne Chandler at suzannechandler@comcast.net 425-271-1228

Principals and Presidents

Save this date on your calendar: October 26 at 6 pm at the KEC Building. This is an opportunity to put the faces with the names, to hear more about our PTSA plans for this school year, and to truly get to know each other - in some cases it's a first time meeting opportunity! Be prepared to **have some fun** and introduce your Principal to the rest of the PTSA family. Be sure to ask your Principal to "save the date!". Here's the meal plan:

The evening is potluck, please bring to share!

Last Name: A - J: Main Dish

Last Name: K - R: Salad or Vegetable or Fruit Tray

Last Name: S-Z: Dessert

* DRINKS will be provided by Council



Directory Information

Your PTA Council will once again be offering complimentary local unit directories to be available at the October membership meeting and Presidents & Principals Potluck. Please check the WA state PTA membership web site to make sure that your executive board information is correct. This is the information we use to build the directory.

Go to wastatepta.org and click on membership. If you do not have your password, it is included in the leadership packets which are handed out at the Fall Leadership Conference or can be obtained by calling the state office at (800) 562-3804.

Dates to Remember for 2009 - 2010

September 28	7:00PM – 9:00PM	Renton PTSA Council meeting
October 2-3		Legislative Assembly, Seatac Hilton
October 14	6:30PM - 9:00PM	990EZ Class, Auburn School district bldg. Registration @ 6:00
October 25		Membership fees due
October 25		Cookie concert - Seattle Philharmonic @ IPAC
October 26	7:00PM – 9:00PM	Renton PTSA Council meeting
October 29	6:00PM - 9:00PM	PTA & the Law , Kennydale Elementary School. Registration @ 5:30
November 24		Reflections Electronic paperwork due
November 30	7:00PM	Renton PTSA Council meeting
December		No Council meeting
December 8	5:00PM – 7:30PM	Reflections artwork DROP-OFF
December 9		Reflections judging
December 10	5:00PM - 7:30PM	Reflections artwork PICK-UP
January 7		Reflections Ceremony
January 25		Membership fees due
January 25	7:00PM - 9:00PM	Renton PTSA Council meeting (Nominating Committee report)
February 22	7:00PM - 9:00PM	Renton PTSA Council meeting (Elections)
March 29	7:00PM - 9:00PM	Founder's Day Dinner and Auction
April 26	7:00PM - 9:00PM	Renton PTSA Council meeting
April 30 - May 2		WSPTA Annual Convention
May 24	7:00PM - 9:00PM	Renton PTSA Council meeting (Potluck & Scholarship presentation)

** Council meetings and Reflections activities are held at KEC building unless otherwise noted.

KEC: Kohlwes Education Center (KEC), 300 SW 7th Street, Renton

Let Us Help

Are you struggling to find officers for your executive board? Finding members who are engaged? Any other pressing issues? We would love to help you. Please contact any of the council officers and we will be happy to provide support and guidance.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & LEGISLATIVE

CO-PRESIDENT	Annie Hetzel	president@rentonptsa.org	(425) 235-4188
CO-PRESIDENT	Ray Kusumi	president@rentonptsa.org	(425) 221-2852
VICE-PRESIDENT	Karen Carpenter	vicepresident@rentonptsa.org	(425) 254-9630
SECRETARY	Maureen Monson	secretary@rentonptsa.org	(206) 799-8104
TREASURER	Paul Sjöholm	treasurer@rentonptsa.org	(425) 277-8758
EDITOR	Maureen Monson	secretary@rentonptsa.org	(206) 799-8104