



*everychild. one voice.*

# Alaska PTA News

March 2008

Volume 7, Number 7

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## **Alaska PTA**

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Nancy Copping, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice  
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## Alaska PTA

### Region Vice Presidents

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## ALASKA PTA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Vacant, Education  
Paula Pawlowski, Grant  
Administration

## A Note From Our President

As usual I am late getting my portion of the newsletter turned in so Sarah can get it out on time. There is no reason other than I spend too much time thinking or struggling about what I want to focus on. What topics are important, not only to me but to you. I have focused on our present and our future several times this year, but I have left out the most important part which is our past and where we came from.

It is hard to believe that in February of 1897 Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst founded the National Congress of Mothers, or what we know today as the PTA. When they created this organization they felt it was up to the mothers of this country to help eliminate the threats that endangered our children. When they founded the PTA they had more than 2000 people respond. The response was far more than they could have asked for, not only were mothers responding but so were father, teachers, legislators and laborers and they all had the same commitment in mind and that was help the children.

Whether the year is 2008 or 1897 we have people who continue to achieve the same goals, and that is to protect and advocate on behalf of our children. Yes, some of those issues may be the same, but as the times have changed so have the complexity of our concerns. We may not have to fight for a public health service, child labor laws, or mandatory immunizations anymore. Instead, we now fight for educational funding, NCLB changes, and child obesity.

No matter what the challenge may be or the century we are in, it takes parents, educators and legislators to work together to make our educational system successful. It is with your help and support that Alaska PTA has been able to advocate on behalf of Alaska's children for the past 50 years. It is with your help and support that National PTA has been doing the same since 1897. I wonder if Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst ever gave any thought to what they started then would develop and grow into what it is now. What began with 2000 members has grown to over 6 million strong across the United States. As our organization continues to evolve we will continue to maintain our focus on advocating for all children.

Al Tamagni Jr.,  
Alaska PTA President



## 2008 Alaska PTA Convention

**"Charting Our Course"**  
**April 17 - 19, 2008 in Fairbanks**

Nancy Copping, Health and Safety

Kirsten Dolan & Katie Thaggard-Reflections  
Suellen Appellof, Public School Land Trust & Technology

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webmaster@alaskapta.org  
Dee Parsons, Immediate Past President  
pastpresident@alaskapta.org

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www.alaskapta.org

*Need to get in touch with the Board of Managers? It's easy!! Simply click on the link listed below on the net or enter the online link into your computer and you will.... Contact Us*

**Alaska PTA Home Page**  
<http://www.alaskapta.org/>

**Alaska PTA Blog**  
*Look for updates, changes and announcements on the*

Alaska PTA Blog

Go to <http://www.alaskapta.org/convention.htm> for your 2008 Convention Planner complete with registration information, deadlines, and fees.

The **Alaska Railroad** is pleased to provide Alaska PTA with a special fare of \$99 for a one way (\$198 round trip) fare Anchorage to Fairbanks or the reverse. The offer is valid April 16 – April 20, 2008. Please call the reservation line at 907-265-2494 in Anchorage or 800-544-0552 outside Anchorage and reference the code: AKPTA when making a booking. All schedule and fare information is on the website at [www.AlaskaRailroad.com/passenger](http://www.AlaskaRailroad.com/passenger)

**Westmark Hotel & Conference Center**

813 Noble Street

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

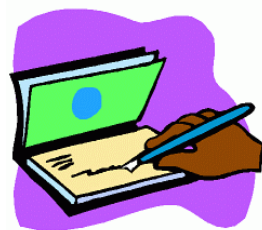
Hotel Phone: (907) 456-7722 Hotel Fax: (907) 451-7478  
Front Office: (907) 459-7704 Central Reservations: 1-(800)-544-0970  
**[www.westmarkhotels.com](http://www.westmarkhotels.com)**

**Coordinator: Julie Doll 488-6185 [thegrypps@acsalaska.net](mailto:thegrypps@acsalaska.net)**



**Reflections Update**

State judging for Reflections will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> in Anchorage. Finalists in each category will be notified by mail in March. The state Reflections awards program will be held on Friday, April 18, 2008 at the annual Alaska PTA convention in Fairbanks. Invitations will be sent in early April.



**Tips for Treasurers**

Please remember that all dues need to be submitted by March 31, 2008 to the Alaska PTA for both state and national dues. Also, if you have not sent in your insurance premium payment for 2007 – 2008, please remit it. As units pay their insurance, we forward their name and address to AIM Insurance to be issued a certificate of insurance showing the coverage for the current year.

Only those units that have paid their insurance and membership dues will be allowed to send voting delegates to the PTA Convention in Fairbanks on April 17 – 19, 2008. The membership chair will be notifying the units at the end of March as to the number of votes they have at convention in accordance with their membership that has been reported and recorded.

**National PTA**  
<http://www.pta.org/>

**LEADERSHIP SATURDAY**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the

**ALASKA PTA OFFICE**  
555 W. Northern Lights,  
Suite 204  
Anchorage, AK 99503

**If you are interested in working with the Board of Managers, letters of interest and applications for nomination can be found on the Alaska PTA website:**

[www.alaskapta.org](http://www.alaskapta.org)

**or by contacting the Alaska PTA office.**

**The following Committees need you: With your help, we can do more for all of the children in Alaska:**

Click on the links below to check each one out.

- Nominations
- Bylaws
- Convention
- Legislative
- Advocacy
- Lands Trust
- Education
- Environment Health and Safety
- Grants
- Membership
- Parental Involvement
- Reflections
- Ways & Means



**Legislative Priorities Survey Results**

First let me say, *YOU ARE AWESOME! THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR FIRST ON-LINE SURVEY!!!*

I hope you enjoyed this as much as we did. After canceling the Annual Issues Conference due to lack of attendance we were stumped on how to get input from members on what they would like to have as legislative priorities. The number of people who responded to the survey is triple the number of delegates that can physically come to the Issues Conference.

You had great comments and suggestions that will give the State Board of Managers direction. We adopted the changes recommended and our next step will be to develop 'Talking Points' on each priority.

Click here <http://www.alaskapta.org/2008LegislativePriorities.pdf> to review the 2008 Legislative Priorities.

Next steps for you? Attend, if you can, the Legislative Fly In, March 4 & 5, 2008 to talk with your Senators and Representative in person. The Alaska PTA has a registration form and more information on the Advocacy page of our web site. You may have also received the information via email if we have your email address. Please do register so we can bring enough packets to Juneau for you to hand out and help you in any other way we can. This is PTA advocacy in action and is a legitimate expense for PTA boards.

If you cannot attend the Fly In, you still can contact your Senator and Representative by email or snail mail.

The Alaska PTA President, President-Elect, and Legislative Chair will be traveling to Washington D.C. to attend the National PTA Legislative Conference (funded by NPTA) and will be attending workshops concerning Juvenile Justice and No Child Left Behind so we will have current updated materials to pass on for your information.

Again, thank you for participating and you will find the complete results of the survey at <http://www.alaskapta.org/>

Paula Pawlowski, Legislative Chair



**Contribute**

Help ensure your child and all children have the best possible support in their education experience. AKPTA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. If you would

## H.U.G.S.

Items to be sent to the Alaska PTA office to be a

### **"HEALTHY UNIT IN GOOD STANDING":**

1. Current Officers List
2. Insurance Premium Payment
3. Membership List
4. Membership Dues
5. Updated Bylaws (should be updated every 5 years)
6. Annual Audit for the 2006-2007 school year
7. 990EZ form filed if required

like to make a donation to the Alaska PTA online, click on the link below that we have provided.

**[www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)**

We do need your financial support so we can continue to make a difference in education. Children everywhere need us more than ever! Your financial gift will be used wisely. We thank you for giving generously to benefit the children for soon they in turn, will give back what we have given them. Let us make sure they have been prepared well. To mail in a donation send to:

**ALASKA PTA  
PO BOX 201496  
ANCHORAGE AK 99520-1496**

