



everychild.one voice.

Alaska PTA News

November 2007

Volume 7, Number 4

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- Pending Volunteers
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mailto:region2vp@alaskapta.org
- Cathy Crew, Region 4
region4vp@alaskapta.org
- Tim Booth, Region 6



A Note From Our President

As the new school year is well underway, I have had the opportunity to meet with a variety of schools, conduct training for several regions, and to simply meet and listen to individual unit officers. I am excited to see the level of commitment and drive that parents have for their children's education. I am inspired to hear what PTA units are doing to help all of the students in their schools. No matter which unit I have spoken with, the drive and determination, which all parents have shown, is tremendous. I am confident that the same dedication is in place across the entire state of Alaska.

One of the biggest challenges continually facing all PTAs is to help both Parents and Administrators to understand that PTAs are not here for the sole purpose of raising money for the schools. They are also here to advocate on behalf of every child. When my oldest daughter started school, my wife told me that she signed us up for the PTA. My first thought was, "OK, I can handle baking cookies or cupcakes once in a while. This should be no problem, after a couple of bake sales we should be off the hook."

Twelve years later, (and yes, I did cook for the bake sales), I am still on the hook. I did not realize what the PTA stood for, or that it actually had a mission and goals. The more I got involved, the more I learned and wanted to be part of the process to help make education in Alaska better not only for my children, but children across the state.

After I returned from my first National PTA convention as the State President-Elect, I realized that being the State President was something that I wanted to do. However, I was not sure whether I was ready for it. Nor was I sure the State PTA was ready for me. It took me a year to realize that I wanted to be more involved. Now that I am here, I only wish I had more time to focus on the areas that need the most attention. I have realized that neither I, nor the Alaska PTA Board of Managers can do it all alone. I don't wear a blue shirt with a red cape with a big "S" on the chest, so there must be another way to achieve our goals.

There is another way to do this. There are 9000 other ways to for each of us to advocate on behalf of our children. Each of our members is a piece of the advocate puzzle. Each member has a State Representative and a State Senator. It is through forming these relationships and contacts that we can help our elected leaders understand what our children need. There are several ways this can be done. Our members can call or write their legislators and tell them their position on educational issues; they can come to the State PTA's Legislative Issues conference and help us

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Monday-Friday
**Office will be closed
Nov 22 & 23rd**

AKPTA@alaska.net

**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**

set our priorities; and they can join us when we go to Juneau in February to talk with our legislators about these issues. If we don't let our elected leaders know where we stand, they are left to make decisions based on the little information they are given. It is not something one person can do on his/her own. It takes time, effort and commitment.

Long gone are the days of simply baking cookies and cupcakes for bake sales. They have now been replaced with legislative priorities and educational issues.

Please continue to get involved. It's with your help and involvement that we can speak for every child with one voice.

Al Tamagni Jr.
President
Alaska PTA

Programs Update:

Upcoming events for November:



Programs Update

Making Healthy Choices. As we begin November, remember that it is Healthy Lifestyles month for PTA. If your unit does not have an event planned to celebrate and to educate, there is still time to at least put information in your newsletters to inform families of the importance of making healthy choices. Click here for ideas: [National PTA Healthy Choices ideas](#)



Reflections. Hopefully your Reflections program is under way. You should have received a flyer in the mail giving you some detailed information on how to get started. If you need additional assistance, please contact Reflections@alaskapta.org

Safe Routes to Schools. Do many children in your school community walk or ride bikes to school? What a great way to encourage physical activity! Often times in Alaska we find that a major obstacle is in the lack of safe paths for children to use to walk or bike to school. There is

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

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

Alaska PTA Blog

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

LEADERSHIP SATURDAYS:
10 AM TO 2 PM
Each leadership

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

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

an excellent resource available to help your neighborhood streets and paths to become more safely accessible to those who desire to use their feet to get to and from school. You can get more information at the Safe Routes to School web site, including the contact information for Steve Soenksen, the Alaska Safe Routes to School Coordinator. You will find information on how to assess the needs of your school. You can find ideas from other folks who have used Safe Routes to School resources. There is grant money available to make improvements in your neighborhood paths so that they are safe for children to use to walk or bike to school. Check out the website and then call or email Steve to get a project started at your school.

Leadership Saturday

Save the Date: November 3rd



When time is of the essence

Training focus points and schedule:

- Bylaws Training Session: 11am-12am
- 10am-2pm open house with board members available to answer specific questions

Location:

- AKPTA Office
555 W. Northern Lights Blvd Suite 204 of the Valhalla Center

This is our fifth Leadership Saturday for this new board. We will continue to focus on pertinent training that will help you to get your local units off to a great start. We have met many of you and are enjoying getting to know each of our units better.

What training topics would you like to see next month? Contact: Mary Schrage at: presidentelect@alaskapta.org



Alaska PTA 2007 Legislative Issues Conference

Registration Form

Friday Nov. 9, 6-9 p.m. & Saturday Nov. 10, 10-3 p.m.

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

- H.U.G.S.**
- Items to be sent to the Alaska PTA office to be a**
- HEALTHY UNIT IN GOOD STANDING:
- Current Officers List
- Membership List
- Membership Dues
- Updated Bylaws (should be updated every 5 yrs)
- Annual Audit for the 2006-2007 school year
- 990EZ form filed note new IRS laws

- Know and follow your bylaws. They are your guide your roadmap.

Hanshew Middle School,
10121 Lake Otis Pkwy, Anchorage

Guest Presenters to include:

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Gov. Sarah Palin (scheduled),
Sen. Fred Dyson, Rep. Bob Roses, Eddy Jeans (DEED) and others

Presentations: Drop Our Prevention, School Funding, Education Technology, Career/Technical Training, School Wellness, Lands Trust, Drug & Alcohol Prevention

The following two delegates were (s)elected by (unit name) _____ PTA:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

The following delegates will be attending as non-voting delegates. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Early Bird Registration (postmarked by Oct. 24):

First person from each unit \$20, each additional person \$15

Registration after October 24:

First person from each unit \$30, each additional person \$20

[Registration form must be accompanied by a check made payable to Alaska PTA](#)

Amount Enclosed

PTA President Signature

PTA Secretary Signature

Phone: 907-279-9345
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AKPTA@alaska.net

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Membership Counts

"Why should I pay to volunteer?" Over the years, I have heard this question many times at a local unit level. This is the wrong perception of what PTA stands for. Volunteering is free, in a monetary sense. All parents are encouraged to do what they can to help out in their children's schools. Joining the PTA does not mandate giving 30 hours of time each week at your child's school. Neither does simply volunteering at the school. One is not required to do the other. I have found that the best way to explain why we pay dues to join PTA is to gain a voice in advocating for our children. Each unit's annual dues are set by what is in its by-laws. The general membership reviews the by-laws when they are up for amendment and use their individual voting voices to determine whether they like or dislike the amount charged. An example of why a person volunteering for the PTA in particular should join is the handling of PTA funds. A successful school fundraiser typically involves handling large amounts of cash and checks. The yearbook also deals with monetary issues, as and involves training. Both fundraising and yearbook are often governed in the by-laws as committees, which are usually part of the PTA Board. In order to be on the PTA board, an individual must pay the annual dues, thus giving him/her the right to vote. Because each PTA pays for insurance coverage annually, the Board can rest assured that its volunteers will be covered, should the unforeseen and unmentionable issues of money coming up missing, or simple litigation that would also be aided under that PTA umbrella. Of course, people can still be blamed individually for these happenings, but I personally would feel better knowing that I had a bit of help from the organization that I am volunteering for. In summary, you don't have to pay to volunteer. By joining a PTA, you will give that unit one more important voice for its own good, the state's good, as well as the National PTA's. If you also have the time to volunteer, it makes for a win-win situation. If you don't, we all still win with your individual vote.



OMDR (Online Membership Dues Reporting)

Any questions that you are having in this area contact: Amey Tamagni



Alaska PTA Convention goes North to Fairbanks!!

April 17-19, 2008

Westmark Conference Center

Local Coordinator: Julie Doll 488-6185 TheGrypps@acsalaska.net

AK PTA Regions I & II are hosting the '08 State Convention. What a great opportunity for our local units to attend and fully participate in all the workshops and seminars. We have a chance to take advantage of the great training and networking, and to involve and showcase our students, teachers, staff, administrators, parents, volunteers, and supporters.

Contact Julie to be a part of the team that makes it happen!

Creative Team: Generate Theme & logo, ideas for display focus

Outreach: Contact & inform Interior, Delta, North Slope, Western AK area school and homeschool groups of PTA hosting opportunity

Sponsorships: Contact supporters, place advertisements, order promotional materials, solicit trinkets, prepare credentials materials & convention bags

Speakers/Seminars/Workshops: Generate & submit ideas, names, coordinate needs

Exhibitor Manager: Contact existing & new vendors, coordinate requirements

Documentarian: Order materials, contract services, acquire, assemble & print convention materials

FCVB Contact: Obtain services & products at key points

Westmark Contact: Obtain services & products at key points

Special Arrangements: Flags/Color Guards/Music/Flowers/Plaques/Reflections

On-Site Assistance:

Setup: Decorations, unpack boxes

Hospitality: possibly arrange social/transportation activities if needed

Registration, Sales/Auction, Awards, Session Facilitators

Technical Guru: Computer setups, troubleshooting

Teardown: Package materials, transport items



**A Season of Giving, a New Year of Opportunity
From our NPTA PRESIDENT- Jan Harp Domene**

[Click here for English version](#)

[Click here for Spanish version](#)

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