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Alaska PTA News

September 2007

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ALASKA PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Al Tamagni, President
president@alaskapta.org
 Mary Schrage President-Elect
presidentelect@alaskapta.org
 Pat Blakney, Treasurer
treasurer@alaskapta.org
 Amey Tamagni 1st Vice
 President Membership
membership@alaskapta.org
 Paula Pawlowski 2nd Vice
 President Legislative
legislative@alaskapta.org
 Nancy Copping, 3rd Vice
 President Programs
programs@alaskapta.org
 Marie Lacher, Secretary
secretary@alaskapta.org

ALASKA PTA REGION VICE PRESIDENTS

Regions 1, 3 & 5 Vacant
 Pending Volunteers
 Georgia Sandgren, Region 2
<mailto:region2vp@alaskapta.org>
 Cathy Crew, Region 4
region4vp@alaskapta.org
 Tim Booth, Region 6
<mailto:region6vp@alaskapta.org>
 Lynn Hohl, Region 7:
<mailto:region7vp@alaskapta.org>
 Karen McNeil, Region 8
region8vp@alaskapta.org

ALASKA PTA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Mary Meacham, Advocacy
advocacy@alaskapta.org
 Vacant, Bylaws
bylaws@alaskapta.org
 Pat Blakney, Budget
mailto:budget@alaskapta.org

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A Note From Our President

Dear PTA Leaders,

On behalf of the Alaska PTA Board of Managers I would like to welcome everyone back for the 2007-2008 school year. I hope that everyone had a great summer and is ready for the new challenges that lay ahead.

As we begin the new school year, I just want to pass on a few reminders as new boards start taking shape and planning for the school year. Remember to complete the end of the year tasks: for example, do the end of the year audit and start preparing your documents for the 990ez tax filings that some of you have to do. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Membership cards and insurance bills have been mailed to all of the units statewide. If you did not receive yours, please contact our office so we can get you the information. Membership and Insurance are both due to the office in October. Please make sure you have everything signed off and into us by the deadlines. This year we elected to change insurance companies for several reasons. One of the major ones is the new company, AIM Insurance, is willing to come to our Convention and offer sessions on our coverage and how we can make it work for us. Unfortunately, insurance costs have gone up on everything, but we were able to minimize the increase to you at the local level.

Julie Doll, Convention
mailto:convention@alaskapta.org
Vacant, Education
Education@alaskapta.org
Paula, Pawlowski, Grant
Admin.
Nancy Copping, Health and
Safety
Vacant, Reflections
Suellen Appellof, Public
School Land Trust & Tech
landtrust@alaskapta.org
webmaster@alaskapta.org
Dee Parson, Immediate Past
President
mailto:pastpresident@alaskapta.org

ALASKA PTA OFFICE:
555W. Northern Lights
Suite 204
Anchorage, AK
1-888-822-1699 toll free
907-279-9345 or
907-278-0085
Fax: 907-222-2401
Office Manager: Bessie Pagel

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***

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/>

Membership will be a main focus this year: our membership was down by nearly 2000 members last year.

The NCLB law is up for revision this year. Alaska PTA along with National PTA has been working hard with our Legislative delegation to make sure that Alaska is represented and our needs are looked at. We are confident our voice is being heard.

News for the Anchorage folks: We have split Anchorage into two regions. We used to have one Region VP in charge of the whole Anchorage School District, Region 4. To better meet the needs of all units in this region, there is now a Region 4 and a Region 8 for Anchorage. Region 8, in general, covers the east side of town, both military bases and the Eagle River/Chugiak area and your new region VP is Karen McNeil. The west and south sides of Anchorage are in Region 4, and your new region VP is Cathy Crew... They look forward to getting to know you.

As you start the new school year, please take the time to review your bylaws with your board. These are the rules that govern your PTA and it's important to be familiar with them. Also set your goals and get your budget ready for your general membership to review and vote on.

We are in need of a Reflections Chair person. The Reflections Program is an arts program that is sponsored by National PTA. Reflections provide a great opportunity for Alaska children to participate in the arts. If we are unable to find a chairperson for this program by the 15th of September, children will be limited to participating in Reflections at the local level, and perhaps at the Regional level, as we will not be able to run the program at the state level. This means no work from Alaska will be sent forward to the National level. If you are interested in helping with this program or know someone who is, please contact our office immediately.

We will have our legislative/issues conference in Anchorage on November 9 and 10. Please mark your calendars, more information will be coming out on this shortly.

Again, welcome to the new school year. If you have any questions or need any information please feel free to contact our office. We look forward to getting to know you better and to being of help to you this year.

Have a great school year.

Sincerely,

Al Tamagni Jr.
President
Alaska PTA

LEADERSHIP SATURDAYS:

10 AM TO 2 PM

Each leadership Saturday will have a different focus

This will help us meet your local levels training needs.

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

Convention

Legislative

Advocacy

Lands Trust

Education

Environment Health and Safety

Grants

Membership

Parental Involvement

Reflections

Ways & Means

Leadership Saturday

Save the Date: September 8th

Training focus points and schedule:

- Leadership presentation 10:15a.m -11:30 a.m.
- Open House 11:30 a.m. – Noon
- Basic Board training 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Open House 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location:

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

This is our third Leadership Saturday for this new board. We will focus on pertinent training that will help you to get your local units off to a great start. We hope to see many of you on Saturday and look forward to getting to know you better.

Expanding Your Influence

AKPTA invites you to take on a greater role in advocating for not only your own child's education, but for all children within this state. By volunteering on the state level, you will enable AKPTA to better serve all of our members to a higher level.

- Take an Executive Board position with AKPTA
- Chair a committee on AKPTA Board of Managers
- Serve on a committee with Board of Managers
- Offer your professional services to AKPTA; we are a 501c(3) (I'm not sure what this means . . .)
- Spend time to improve your leadership skills

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact: Dee Parson, Immediate Past President and Nominations Chair at:

nominations@alaskapta.org



Annual Legislative Issues Conference

Save the Dates:

November 9th evening session

November 10th all day

Location Anchorage

Have you included the Conference in your PTA's budget? Plan ahead so you can join us for an important weekend of learning and decision-making.

Membership Benefits

Did you know...All PTA Member units have access to:

- ***Our Children* magazine**, PTA's flagship publication with parenting articles by experts on children's health, education, and well-being; and information on advocacy efforts; the latest news that affects children and youth.
- **Professionally designed public service announcements (PSAs)** to aid in membership recruitment.
- **National PTA Annual Convention** registration information.
- **A Back-to-School kit** containing recruitment ideas and other materials to get the year started.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** ideas.
- **Select resources** developed in collaboration with PTA's national partners.
- **National PTA's Membership Achievement Program.**
- **Numerous resources** on parent involvement programs, fundraising, working collaboratively, and much more.
- **Discounts** and special offers from a host of PTA sponsors and community partners.
- **Online parenting resources**, including select articles from *Our Children* magazine.
- **E-newsletters** on parenting and legislative issues.
- **Exclusive National PTA member benefits** and sponsor offers from companies such as Office Depot and Barnes & Noble.
- **Leadership training** opportunities in-person and online.
- **Discounted member rate** for PTA's annual national convention, magazine subscriptions, and more.
- **The Member-to-Member Network**, connecting you to Congress when help is needed on issues important to children, schools, and families.

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

Note: Organizational Bylaws is what guides board members in what actions they should be taking to keep their organization in good standing with the IRS and it's members. If bylaws are not followed, organizations run the risk of losing their 501c3 status.

Know and follow your bylaws. Without them it would be like trying to go on a trip without a map or any preplanning.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO
GIVE



FROM THE BOUNTY WE
HAVE RECEIVED

Outreach Opportunity: Calling all Quilters

Do you love to quilt? Are you willing to donate time, fabric, quilt blocks, supplies etc.? We are anticipating that approx. 50 girls will be graduating from Crossroads School and we would like to make a wall hanging for each.

Crossroads is the Anchorage School District's instructional setting for pregnant and parenting teens. Crossroads provides a supportive instructional environment which allows students to continue their education while pregnant and parenting . A complete program of instruction is provided with an emphasis on core academics. The program utilizes online instruction to compliment traditional coursework to meet the academic needs of the students. Maternity health is offered and community support contacts are available for students. The staff at Crossroads is committed to providing quality instruction in an environment that fosters regular school attendance and student responsibility for learning.

If you are interested, please contact Karen Fish via email werfourfish@hotmail.com. More details to follow as we develop a plan. Thank you for your time and consideration for this worthy cause.

ALASKA PTA
PO BOX 201496
ANCHORAGE AK 99250-1496

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 376
Anchorage, AK