

Kent Area PTA Council

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President:

Sharon Pfeiffer

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August 2008

Editor:

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newsletter@kacpta.org

Volume 34, Issue 1

Next Council Meeting  
August 25 at 7 PM  
KSD Board Room

Large Group:

Welcome Back

Local Unit Notebooks

## President's Message

### Welcome Back!

I hope you have enjoyed your summer and are gearing up for another great school year. I would like to invite all of you to our first general membership meeting on **Monday August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Kent School District Administration Board Room**. We would like to encourage you to attend these meeting as they are filled with important information, training and networking opportunities. This year, in holding with tradition, our **general membership meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month** except for a few months where holidays fall on the fourth Monday. Our August meeting will be an informative meeting.

Sharon Pfeiffer

president@kacpta.org

206-244-3389

## Inside This Issue

### KAC Board News

- Welcome 2
- Save the Date 3
- Open Positions 3
- Reflections 3
- Membership 4
- Dues Increase 4
- Clothing Bank 5

### KAC Membership Meetings

- Looking Ahead to Sept 5
- Looking Back to June 5

### Local, State & Nat'l PTA News

- Region 9 News 6
- WSPTA News 6

### Kent School District News

- Superintendent Message 7
- School Board Message 7

### Contact Information

- KAC, WSPTA, NPTA 8
- Calendar 8

If you have not already done so, please update your officers by sending an email to [directory@kacpta.org](mailto:directory@kacpta.org) with the names, positions, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of each of your incoming officers and committee chairs to receive important updates from Kent Area Council. You can also visit our website at [www.kacpta.org](http://www.kacpta.org) for information about our council as well as committee information, membership information, calendar of events and more! If you have not registered your officers with Washington State PTA please send an email to [manderson@wastatepta.org](mailto:manderson@wastatepta.org) with that information. It is important that you do so as soon as possible to receive important updates from them too.

There are several training opportunities coming up in the next couple of months through Region 9. The class dates and registration forms are on the website so be sure to take a look and send in those registration forms. This is a great way to get the training you and your new board members need to help you have a successful PTA year.

Kent Area Council has a fantastic board that is ready and willing to help you have a successful year. We do have several open committee chairs. Please contact me if you would like information about those open positions. It is wonderful to be part of an organization that not only believes that all children have value and can be successful, but is actively working on assuring a bright future for all of our children.

## KAC Newsletter

### Going Green

Jennifer Hanscom

newsletter@kacpta.org

(253) 859-9567

In an effort to save a tree, as well as some money, the Kent Area Council PTA Newsletter will be available only via the KAC PTA website—[www.kacpta.org](http://www.kacpta.org). Starting in September all units will be notified that the newsletter has been posted online. If you prefer to continue to receive a hard copy, please email me so I can make those arrangements. Also, be sure to let me know about the great activities and events your PTA is hosting. E-mail me at [newsletter@kacpta.org](mailto:newsletter@kacpta.org).

## **KAC Board of Directors' Message**

*Welcome to another great year!*

The Kent Area PTA Council Board welcomes you to another great PTA year. KAC PTA is here to help support you in your efforts whether you are an experienced PTA leader or if you are brand new to this level of involvement.

### *Some PTA Basics*

When you joined the PTA at your child's school, your "local unit," you became connected to an entire network of support through Washington State PTA beginning with the Kent Area PTA Council. New PTA officers and board members often feel overwhelmed. However, for every position on your PTA's board there is additional support and information available through PTA Councils and PTA Regions.

### *Not the PTA Police*

Your local unit PTA is an independent entity and it is essential for all to understand that PTA Councils and PTA Regions are not "The PTA Police" or even your PTA's "Parents." Their roles are as experienced mentors who have great information but can't tell you what to do.

### *What is a PTA Council?*

A PTA council is a group of local PTA units within the same school district. The 36 local units in the Kent School District make up the Kent Area PTA Council (KAC). The purpose of a council is to support the efforts of those units and functions like any PTA in that it has elected officers, a board of directors, and regular membership meetings.

### *KAC Membership Meetings*

Each KAC meeting provides useful information and valuable training to support local unit PTAs. Council officers and committee chairs are available for questions. In addition, roundtable discussions with other local unit officers may be held. The first KAC Membership Meeting will take place on August 25.

### *Who should attend KAC Meetings?*

It is up to your board to decide who your KAC delegates will be. Every PTA is asked to designate 2 members to serve as "Voting Delegates" (and 2 alternates) who then attend monthly KAC meetings to receive information and training and to participate in council decision-making.

### *Local Unit Packet*

Each local unit will be provided a "Local Unit Packet" that contains a variety of information to assist you and that better explains what KAC has to offer and what additional resources are available for download from the KAC web site at [www.kacpta.org](http://www.kacpta.org).

### *What is a PTA Region?*

A PTA region is a geographical area within the state of Washington and Kent Area Council is located within WSPTA Region 9 along with the PTAs within the Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Renton, Tahoma, and Tukwila school districts. Each region elects a director who serves a two year term. Novella Fraser is the current Region 9 Director. Region Directors are members of the Washington State PTA Board of Directors and appoint members to their region's Service Delivery Team.

*Continued on page 3*

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### *What is a Service Delivery Team?*

Each region also has a Service Delivery Team, a group of experienced PTA leaders who provide additional support and training to the local units within their region. The Region 9 Service Delivery Team (SDT) consists of representatives from each of the 5 PTA Councils as well as the Region 9 Legislation Chair. The SDT member from Kent is Allyson Johnson.

### *The Bottom Line*

You are not alone! No matter what the problem there is someone available with the experience and the willingness to help you. And we all get by with a little help from our friends.

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## **Save the Date**

### *Mark Your Calendars for these Special Events*

Toni Troutner  
foundersday@kacpta.org  
(253) 854-1268

As we look ahead to the coming year, please be sure to mark the following special events on your calendar:

- President and Principal Luncheon - December 1, 2008 at the Golden Steer
- Founder's Day Dinner - March 27, 2009 at Kentridge High School

More information on these events will be provided soon. If you'd like to volunteer with the December luncheon, please contact Hallie Knudson at (253) 850-3318.

Volunteers are also needed for the Founder's Day dinner to plan the event and chair the basket raffle. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Toni Troutner at (253) 854-1268.

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## **Open Positions at Kent Area PTA Council**

### *Open Positions for Us Mean Opportunities for You!*

Sharon Pfeiffer  
president@kacpta.org  
206-244-3389

There are many opportunities to become involved with KAC. We welcome new faces and fresh ideas! For more information, contact any current KAC Board member at [allboard@kacpta.org](mailto:allboard@kacpta.org). Open positions include:

Council Public Awareness	Historian	Scholarships
Emergency Preparedness	Fundraiser	
Advocacy Topics	Parent Involvement	
Directory	Scholarship Fundraiser	

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## **Reflections**

### *2008—2009 Theme — “Wow!”*

Heather McCurdy  
reflections@kacpta.org

A special Reflections pull out session is scheduled for the September 22nd KAC PTA general membership meeting. In the meantime, please note that all Reflections artwork will be due to Council on December 6th. The Council Ceremony will be held on January 10th at Kentlake High School. More information will be included in the September newsletter. Also note the theme of this year's Reflections is “Wow!”

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## KAC Membership

*Making a Difference One Member at a Time!*

Hallie Knudson  
membership@kacpta.org  
(253) 850-3318



The membership theme for the 2008 - 2009 year is “PTA ~ Making a Difference One Member at a Time!”

Our enrollment has been on the decline in recent years. We want to “Step it up” to an incline!

Here are just a few ideas to get on an incline:

1. It is never too early or too late to plan your membership campaign. Always remember that statistically 49% of people join PTA because they are asked!
2. We will have a breakout session at the September 22nd general membership meeting to answer questions and provide support. If you weren't able to attend WSPTA Convention, the conference is a great way to get wonderful information and jump start your campaign.
3. Some parents can get behind your school goals, so consider some of these goals or challenges.
  - “Achieving 100% PTA Membership to ensure every child that attends your school has an adult representative and voice.”
  - Increase 8 in 2008!
  - Challenge your Board and Committee Chairs to ask and enroll 3 new members.
4. Get behind Membership: Educate parents that one of the best ways they can be involved and show support for their children is simply by joining the PTA!

If you need ideas on how to increase your unit's membership, go to the Washington State PTA website at [www.wastatepta.org/programs/membership.htm](http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/membership.htm). You will also find “art work” for the new theme.

To help improve communication, please forward me the name, email and phone number of your membership chair to [membership@kacpta.org](mailto:membership@kacpta.org). I attended a session on Membership at the WSPTA Convention and I've just returned from the WSPTA Advanced Leadership Training. I'm excited about membership, so please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Whether you are a seasoned or new chair, please let me know how I can help you succeed!

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## KAC PTA Dues Increase

*Be Sure to Update Your Standing Rules*

Sharon Pfeiffer  
president@kacpta.org  
206-244-3389

Please note that the KAC PTA dues have increased from \$1.25 to \$1.75. You may need to update your standing rules to reflect the change. Make sure you put this on the agenda for your next PTA board meeting, if you haven't addressed it already. If you have questions, please contact Sharon Pfeiffer.

## Looking Ahead To September 22, 2008

7 PM KSD Board Room

### Pull Outs:

- Membership
- Reflections

### Who should come:

- Your PTA's Voting Delegates or Alternates
- Your PTA's Reflections Chair
- Your PTA's Membership Chair

### What you should bring:

- Voting Delegate Forms
  - Membership Ideas
  - Reflections Program booklet
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## Looking Back To June 9, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7:22pm by President Allyson Johnson in the KSD board room. Minutes and Financial Report were approved and filed. President Allyson Johnson thanked Bonnie Kayla for a basket donation. She also shared thank you messages from scholarship winners and outstanding educator award winners. Robin Blake noted that the clothing bank would be closed during the summer months. Hallie Knudson reported that the President/Principals Luncheon in 2008 would be held at the Golden Steer. Under new business President Johnson thanked outgoing PTA members and handed out journals to people who did not attend the May General Meeting. President Johnson then passed the President's book on to incoming president Sharon Pfeiffer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

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## KAC Clothing Bank

### *Back to School Night Scheduled*

Robin Blake  
(206) 276-6506

Dianna Madison  
(206) 669-1983  
[clothingbank@kacpta.org](mailto:clothingbank@kacpta.org)

On Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> the KAC Clothing Bank will be holding its first open night of the 2008-09 school year. We will be open from 6-8pm and all families needing to be served must have a new form signed by either the school counselor or administrator. Please check the website at [www.kacpta.org](http://www.kacpta.org) for necessary forms and other information.

We look forward to another very successful year at the clothing bank, but we do need your help to make that happen. Please help us with the following:

- We accept donations of gently used, clean used clothing. These can be dropped off at the Phoenix Academy during open office hours.
- Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated as this helps us to fill in the gaps. Most of the funds collected are used to supply the clothing bank with new socks and underwear.
- Volunteers are always welcome to help on any of our open nights. All schools in the district have been assigned a night to help supply volunteers, but we also welcome any and all other help we can get. We generally need approximately 15 volunteers per night to help accommodate the crowds! So please help!

If you have further questions or comments, you can either contact Robin Blake or Dianna Madison at the above numbers or leave us a message through the KAC website!

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## **PTA & the Law**

### *A Must For Your PTA's Board Members*

Novella Fraser - Region 9 Director  
ptareg9@wastatepta.org  
253.529.0458

As a member of your PTA's Board you are on the Board of Directors for a non-profit corporation and this class is one of the most important services offered by WSPTA! It deals with state and federal rules and regulations for running a charitable, tax exempt, non-profit corporation.

The Region 9 PTA & the Law Workshop will be held on October 16, 6:00-9:00pm at Kennydale Elementary School—1700 NE 28th Street, Renton, WA 98056. The cost is \$40.00 per unit before October 10 or \$65.00 after.

Go to [www.kacpta.org](http://www.kacpta.org) to download the brochure and registration form.

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## **Region 9 990 EZ Class**

### *Save the Date*

Novella Fraser - Region 9 Director  
ptareg9@wastatepta.org  
253.529.0458

Do you need help with your 990EZ? Bring your most recent treasurer's report and your PTA's 2007-2008 financial records. This workshop will give you line-by-line assistance with this very important form. The Region 9 990EZ class will be held on Thursday, October 23 from 6:00—9:00pm at the Kent School District Building in the Board Room. The street address is 12033 SE 256th St, Kent, WA 98030. The cost is free and you'll need to RSVP by October 17 to Novella Fraser at [ptareg9@wastatepta.org](mailto:ptareg9@wastatepta.org). Subject line of your email should read "990EZ Class." Please include in your email your name, local unit name & number and how many people from your local unit will attend.

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## **WSPTA Legislative Assembly**

### *October 3-4 at SeaTac Marriott*

Laura Bay - WSPTA President  
[president@wastatepta.org](mailto:president@wastatepta.org)  
(800) 562-3804

One-hundred years ago PTA was founded as a child advocacy organization and advocacy is still an important part of our mission. We all joined PTA to make a difference for kids and participating in Legislative Assembly is an essential part of making that difference. Because there are so many issues impacting children and PTA's resources are limited, it is essential that we identify which are the most critical.

This annual process begins each spring when PTA members submit issues important to them and their community. It carries forward at Legislative Assembly where attendees learn more about proposed issues and let their voice be heard to determine PTA's Legislative Priorities. It culminates with advocacy we do with the issues during the legislative session.

**The PTA 2008 Legislative Assembly, to be held Oct. 3-4 at the SeaTac Marriott. Registration information will be available soon.**

Also mark your calendars for the 2009 Legislative Focus Day, February 26, 2009 at the Legislative Building in Olympia.

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**KSD Superintendent's Message**  
*Our Role in Our Children's Success*

Dr. Barbara Grohe  
Barbara.Grohe@kent.k12.wa.us  
(253) 373-7701



Welcome to the 2008-09 academic year! We look forward to welcoming all students and families back for a very successful year.

As thoughts turn to school, we know that our children's future depends on their successful education now. Parents, educators, and the community play a significant role in that education.

Educators present students with rigorous and relevant curriculum and support them as they grow academically and as individuals. Families provide encouragement, involvement, and assistance. Numerous individuals and organizations donate valuable time and experience to help students. Our district also benefits from the support of the community as a whole – from partnerships focused on student achievement to approving funding to make all of this possible. We are truly fortunate that our students have a strong support network.

This network is especially important since the district is struggling to live within our means, just as you are doing with your home budget. KSD Board President Bill Boyce highlights these issues within his column.

Working together, our community network can ensure that KSD students are successfully prepared for their future.

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**KSD School Board Message**  
*Rising Costs Affecting KSD*

Bill Boyce  
School Board President  
Bill.Boyce@kent.k12.wa.us  
253.631.7213

We are all aware of the rising costs of salaries, health care, gas, food, and utilities. Kent School District is also experiencing those pains as we work to balance the 2008-09 budget.

Unfortunately, as costs increase, the money we receive does not keep pace. Other costs are also growing such as paying for a portion of federal and state mandated programs. As a result, KSD must make adjustments.

With budget challenges, come possible solutions. Here are explanations why two well-intentioned options are incorrect.

*Why not use money from the technology levy?* We use those dollars to bring current technology and training to our classrooms. That is what we promised voters when they went to the polls. Washington state law does not allow us to spend those levy dollars on anything else.

*Why not use the district's reserve or "rainy-day" fund?* This reserve is critical for the district's financial stability. The truth is that our reserve would only last for ten days of district operation. We use these funds to protect us from emergency situations such as a sudden hike in fuel prices. If we spend part of this reserve for ongoing expenses, it means we would have to make deeper cuts in future years to rebuild that fund.

Although budget decisions are difficult, you can be assured that we will continue to live within our means while working to successfully prepare all students for their future.

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**KAC, WSPTA, and NPTA Contact Information**

KAC President-Sharon Pfeiffer  
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president@kacpta.org

Senior Vice President-Hallie Knudson  
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www.wastatepta.org

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National PTA  
(800) 307-4782

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**Calendar**

Aug 25	KAC Membership Meeting 7 PM KSD Board Room	Oct 16	Region 9 PTA & the Law 6 PM Kenndale Elementary
Sept 8	KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg	Oct 23	Region 9 990EZ Class 6 PM KSD Admin Bldg
Sept 22	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room	Oct 25	Membership Fees Due
Oct 3/4	WSPTA Legislative Assembly SeaTac Marriott	Oct 27	KAC Membership Meeting 7 PM KSD Board Room
Oct 13	KAC Board Meeting Rainier Room KSD Admin Bldg	Nov 3	KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg

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*every child. one voice.*

**Kent Area *PTA* Council**

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Kent WA 98064-6624**