



# *The Beacon*

**Western Region PTA®**

**New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.  
-Branch of the National-**

**June 2008**

## ***A Message from the Region Director***

As newly appointed Western Region Director, I cannot tell you how excited I am about the upcoming year.

My term is off and running. One of my goals is to increase the number of units chartered in our region and within my first two weeks, we have brought in two units from the Cheektowaga School District. In addition, we are working toward chartering new units in the Lakeshore School District.

To help ensure a smooth start for the next PTA year, I have a few reminders before you pack away your 2007-2008 materials.

### **Annual Officers Contact Information Form (formerly called Form A)**

If you have not already done so, please submit this form to guarantee the unit president receives his/her mailings. You may send it by traditional mail or electronically via the [www.nyspta.org](http://www.nyspta.org) web site.

### **Membership**

Thank you for returning all unused cards on time.

### **Insurance payments**

If your unit paid before June 1, you received the early bird rate of \$235.00. After that date

the rate is \$255.00. Make your checks payable to New York State PTA.

### **Bylaws**

Check your expiration date and appoint a committee if necessary. Bylaws must be updated every three years.

### **Calendar and Budget**

You should have this completed and voted on for the upcoming school year.

### **Check Book Signers**

Change signers on your PTA account if you have a new treasurer or other signing officer. Keep in mind that you must have 2 signers, since all checks require 2 signatures.

### **Summer Leadership Training**

We would love to see you for our annual Western Region Summer Leadership Training August 19, 2008 at the Oracle Charter School. Information with more specifics will follow. Last year, we had a great turnout.

Finally, thank you for all you did for children through your PTA volunteer efforts in the 2007-2008 year.

*Maria*

**Maria Eagen  
Western Region PTA Director**

## Region Director's Annual Report May 22, 2008

(Delivered at the annual Spring Conference)

This has been my second year as Region Director and it has been a rewarding year for me. I hope I have been helpful to you. I have enjoyed working with you and assisting you. Western Region PTA has accomplished much for children because we have a wonderful Executive Committee, a willing Region Board, and hard-working units and councils. Your grass-roots support has made our events most successful during the 2007-2008 school year.

There are 5 councils and 60 local PTA units in Western Region PTA®. The Western Region Board consists of 33 members, who are officers, assistant directors, chairmen, council presidents, and presidents of centralized units. Our Region, one of 16 in the state, services most of Erie County and all of Genesee and Wyoming Counties. Our Membership Chairman Kelly Stephenson has reported that our Region had the third highest percentage of membership increase among all the Regions in New York State PTA. We chartered 1 new unit this year, have conducted several pre-charter meetings, and expect to charter new units very soon.

During this past year four Western Region members have served on the New York State PTA® Board of Managers: Pat Hysert as Recording Secretary, Sue Andrijczuk as Parenting and Family Life Chair, Max Donatelli as Special Education Chairman, and myself as Western Region Director.

The Presidents Workshop this year was chaired by Jane Lenhardt and held at Oracle Charter school in June 2007. In August many officers, chairmen, and other PTA members gathered at the Frontier Education Building for our Summer Leadership Conference. This important annual event was well attended and provided training and workshops for all unit and council officers and chairmen.

Western Region was represented at NYS PTA's Summer Experience and at the Legislation/Education Conference. All participants received training that energized and inspired us.

Our Western Region Board members received a Board Training at Frontier High School this fall conducted by Pat Hysert and Penny Leask. Board members from Niagara and Southwestern Regions also attended this training.

In October, our annual Presidents and Principals Dinner was held at Samuel's Grande Manor. Diane DeJoseph was presented with the Western Region Jane Skrzypek Volunteer of the Year Award. All had a wonderful and enlightening evening despite the inclement weather that seems to follow our Region events.

We held a Pre-Convention Workshop in the KenTon Council room at the Green Acres building in Tonawanda. We learned about the proposed resolutions that are being voted on and convention procedures. Region representatives attended the

annual NYS PTA® Convention that was held at the Crowne Plaza in Albany in November.

Western Region PTA collaborated with the Erie County Association of School Boards to present a Legislative Breakfast, where we are able to meet with our local elected officials. Maria Eagen served as a representative of our region on this event.

Our 26<sup>th</sup> annual Founders Day Dinner was held at Ilio DiPaolo's Restaurant on February 12, 2007. It was another successful event despite another storm.

We are pleased to be recognizing our award winners for this year. We have 6 students who were Reflections winners at the State level. Jessica Calzi again received an award of excellence at the National level. Our awards committee convened and worked diligently to select the most qualified applicants for the Jane Skrzypek Educator of the Year, Stanley Marcus Humanitarian of the Year, Newsletter Award, and Spotlight on Youth Award.

One thing I am particularly proud of is the fact that we have continued to increase the number of "Schools of Instruction" we have provided as a Region. Our dedicated Western Region Board members have provided this service to our units. They have also been working hard on outreach meetings to encourage new PTA units.

Thank you for your continuing support and your willingness to work as a team for all children. Our purposes are to strengthen and give aid to units and councils and seek new members through outreach to non-PTA schools in our area. We provide leadership training for our PTAs through conferences, workshops, and schools of instruction. We advocate for all children and youth and we provide educational programs for parents and communities. To advance our goals, we collaborate with other organizations as a member of the Erie County Coalition for Public Education, the Erie-Niagara Tobacco-Free Coalition, the Early Childhood Coalition, Clean Air for All, the Experience Today Advisory Board, Smoke-Free NOW, SICA (State Incentive for Community Action), and Stop Underage Drinking.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Region director. Thank you for the continued support you have shown me. At this time I am passing the gavel to Maria Eagen, who has been appointed your new Region Director. I am very confident that Maria will be of utmost assistance to you. Congratulations Maria on your appointment. Thank you to George Kimble and the Spring Conference Committee for all their hard work in putting this conference together.

**Etta Czaja**  
**Western Region PTA® Director**  
**2007-2008**



## Western Region PTA Calendar—2008—2009

The following calendar was adopted by the membership at the Western Region PTA Spring Conference on 5/22/08.

### September

**2008**

Wednesday 17 7 pm Board Meeting  
Deadline: Jane Skrzypek Educator of the Year

### October

**2008**

Thursday 16 Presidents and Principals Dinner  
Wednesday 29 6:30 pm Pre-Convention Workshop  
7 pm Board Meeting

### November

**2008**

Fri - Sun 7 - 9 NYS PTA Convention: Rochester

### December

**2008**

Thursday 11 7 pm Board Meeting/ Winter Gathering  
Wednesday 17 Reflections Drop Off

### January

**2009**

Friday 16 Deadline: Jenkins Scholarship to NYS  
Tuesday 20 Board Meeting

### February

**2009**

Wednesday 11 Founders Day Celebration  
Saturday 28 Deadline: Youth Humanitarian Award to NYS

### March 2009

Monday 9 7 pm Board Meeting  
Saturday 14 Jenkins Scholarship interviews  
Tuesday 31 Final membership payment due

### April 2009

Friday 24 7 pm Reflections Reception

### May 2009

Friday 1 Deadline: Newsletter, Spotlight on Youth,  
Ruth Huber Awards  
Wednesday 6 7 pm Board Meeting  
Wednesday 20 Spring Conference

### June 2009

Thursday 11 7 pm Board Meeting/Picnic  
Monday 15 Annual Officers Contact Information due  
Monday 15 Presidents Meeting  
Fri - Mon 26 - 29 National PTA Convention: Fort Lauderdale, FL

### August 2009

Tuesday 18 7 pm Summer Leadership Conference

## Western Region PTA® Spring Conference 2008

Western Region held its annual Spring Conference on Thursday May 22, 2008 at Oracle Charter School.

State Reflections winners entertained the general membership. Original keyboard work was performed by Jason Ross of Hamburg Central. Performing in modern dance was 2 time National PTA Reflections winner Jessica Calzi, this year partnering with Jacob Artist.

The business meeting was conducted after a make-your-own taco dinner. Pat Hysert brought greetings from President Maria DeWald. Ron Moore, now retired from the NYS Board, gave an inspiring message. The membership report and awards were presented by Kelly Stephenson. Anne Ehrlich presented the newsletter award. George Kimble, Spring Conference Chair, retiring Recording Secretary, and incoming Associate Director, was honored with a NYS PTA Life Membership.

The following incoming officers were installed:

Associate Directors:

Diane DeJoseph

Kathie Jarvis

George Kimble

Kelly Stephenson

Treasurer: Sue Andrijczuk

Recording Secretary: Shirley Lam

Corresponding Secretary: Cathy Catalano

Outgoing Director Etta Czaja was honored. The gavel was passed to incoming Director Maria Eagen.

The Conference concluded with an address by keynote speaker Sally Yageric, from the Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

**Anne Ehrlich**  
**Beacon Editor**

Western Region  
**PTA®**

## WESTERN REGION PTA MEMBERSHIP AWARD REPORT for 2007-2008

### Membership Growth Award

In recognition of membership increases by at least 5% over last year's March 31 membership total

19-144 Cleveland Hill PTA  
 19-189 Ben Franklin Elementary PTA  
**19-204 Kenmore East High School PTSA\***  
 19-237 Sweet Home High School PTSA  
 19-243 Forest Elementary PTA  
 19-247 Heim Middle School PTSA  
 19-280 Frontier Central High School PTSA  
 19-294 Frontier Middle School PTA  
 19-383 Akron PTA  
 19-393 Casey Middle School PTSA  
 19-399 Ken-Ton SEPTSA  
 19-407 Frontier SEPTA  
 19-413 Clarence SEPTSA  
 19-415 West Seneca West Elementary PTA

\*Kenmore East High School PTSA is the unit with the highest membership growth in Western Region and the winner of \$50 from New York State PTA.

### Teacher Membership Enrollment Certificate

In recognition of 100% Teacher PTA Membership

19-239 Maplemere Elementary School PTA  
 19-244 Maple East Elementary School PTA  
 19-294 Frontier Middle School PTA

### President's Letter of Community Involvement

In recognition of 10 or more members outside of the school family who are NOT parents, teachers, or students in your building(s)

19-239 Maplemere Elementary School PTA  
 19-294 Frontier Middle School PTA

### Focus on Fathers Award

In recognition of at least 25% of total memberships who are men (dads, stepfathers, grandfathers or any male interested in advocating for children and youth)

19-183 Alexander Hamilton PTA  
 19-198 Theodore Roosevelt Elementary PTA  
 19-202 Herbert Hoover Middle School PTA

19-239 Maplemere Elementary School PTA  
 19-244 Maple East Elementary School PTA  
 19-247 Heim Middle School PTSA  
 19-286 Hamburg Central PTA  
 19-294 Frontier Middle School PTA  
 19-360 Williamsville East High School PTSA  
 19-380 Thomas Jefferson PTA

### Founders Day Membership Award

In recognition of the units that sold and made a membership payment of at least 15 member during the month of February

19-183 Alexander Hamilton PTA  
 19-238 Glendale Elementary School PTA  
 19-239 Maplemere Elementary School PTA  
 19-248 Maple West Elementary PTA  
 19-373 Buffalo Elementary School of Technology PTA  
 19-397 Winchester Elementary PTA

### Early Bird Award

In recognition of a payment on or before October 20<sup>th</sup> that equaled at least 50% of the previous year membership

19-144 Cleveland Hill PTA  
 19-183 Alexander Hamilton PTA  
 19-189 Ben Franklin Elementary PTA  
 19-202 Herbert Hoover Middle School PTA  
 19-203 Kenmore Middle School PTA  
 19-204 Kenmore East High School PTSA  
 19-229 Smallwood Drive PTA  
 19-237 Sweet Home High School PTSA  
 19-238 Glendale Elementary School PTA  
 19-239 Maplemere Elementary School PTA  
 19-242 Dodge Elementary School PTA  
 19-244 Maple East Elementary School PTA  
 19-245 Mill Middle School PTSA  
 19-247 Heim Middle School PTSA  
 19-275 Blasdell Elementary PTA  
 19-280 Frontier Central High School PTSA  
 19-286 Hamburg Central PTA  
 19-294 Frontier Middle School PTA  
 19-311 Springville Elementary PTA  
 19-360 Williamsville East High School PTSA  
 19-378 Community School #53 PTA  
 19-380 Thomas Jefferson PTA  
 19-393 Casey Middle School PTSA  
 19-397 Winchester Elementary PTA

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19-399 Ken-Ton SEPTSA  
 19-401 Transit Middle School PTSA  
 19-402 Big Tree Elementary PTA  
 19-415 West Seneca West Elementary PTA  
 19-419 Enterprise Charter School PTA  
 19-430 Sweet Home Middle School PTA

### **Western Region PTA**

#### **Membership Chairman's Challenge**

In recognition of the units that met the membership goal issued by the Region Membership Chair and earned at least one NYS PTA membership award. One winner of a \$25 gift certificate to an office supply store will be chosen at random at Spring Conference.

19-144 Cleveland Hill PTA  
 19-189 Ben Franklin Elementary PTA  
 19-204 Kenmore East High School PTSA  
 19-237 Sweet Home High School PTSA  
 19-242 Dodge Elementary School PTA  
 19-243 Forest Elementary PTA  
 19-247 Heim Middle School PTSA  
 19-280 Frontier Central High School PTSA  
 19-294 Frontier Middle School PTA  
 19-361 Williamsville SEPTSA  
 19-373 Buffalo Elementary School of Technology PTA  
 19-378 Community School #53 PTA  
 19-383 Akron PTA  
 19-393 Casey Middle School PTSA  
 19-399 Ken-Ton SEPTSA  
 19-407 Frontier SEPTA  
 19-413 Clarence SEPTSA  
 19-415 West Seneca West Elementary PTA

#### **Special Recognition to the local units that earned at least three NYS PTA memberships awards**

19-183 Alexander Hamilton PTA  
 19-239 Maplemere Elementary School PTA  
 19-244 Maple East Elementary School PTA  
 19-247 Heim Middle School PTSA  
 19-294 Frontier Middle School PTA

### **Kelly Stephenson Membership Chair**



# **BUDGETS**

Hmmmm do we need one? Just what is a budget anyway?

At this time of year, units are going on hiatus from PTA but before you do, you need to have a budget in place for your September meeting. A budget is a plan of work. Does that mean you cannot change it? Does that mean you cannot add items to it? Do you have to vote on the budget? Who decides the budget? So many questions... A perfect place to find answers is in the NYS PTA® Resource Guide. The president of your unit should have a copy.

A budget is an outline of estimated income and expenses. It explains the kinds of programs and PTA development you want to carry out and how much money is needed to be raised to carry out the program.

The budget should include the estimated anticipated number of members multiplied by the local portion of dues, as well as estimated proceeds from each approved fund-raiser. Receipts should be stated as the gross amount before any cost of sales is deducted. All expense categories, including the cost of merchandise sold, should be estimated and included in the budget.

PTA bylaws call for a budget committee, with the treasurer serving as chairman. This committee usually has three to five members and may include the membership chairman, the ways and means chairman, and others with an understanding of the financial needs of the PTA.

After the budget has been drafted, it should be presented by the treasurer to the PTA executive board for review. It is then presented to a quorum of the PTA membership. After a motion is made to adopt the budget as presented, it is reviewed item-by-item to allow discussion and amendment of each section. A majority vote of the members present and voting is required for adoption.

Once the budget is adopted, it may be amended by a vote at any meeting of the association.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Sue Andrijczuk**  
**Treasurer, Western Region PTA®**  
 Treasurer@westernregionpta.org  
 www.westernregionpta.org

## ***Ken-Ton Special Education PTSA***

### ***Who we are...a brief history***



- Ken-Ton SEPTSA is a PTA unit in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda school district that strives to bring people together so that all children with special needs have an equal opportunity to develop to their full potential. We provide a system for uniting persons involved with children of any age throughout the entire district and around Western New York in cooperation with individual school PTA units. Ken-Ton SEPTSA is a unit in good standing with New York State PTA, National PTA, and Ken-Ton PTSA Council.
- Ken-Ton SEPTSA is in its 18<sup>th</sup> year. The current President is Aimee Levesque, Vice President Rosann Brecher, Secretary Roxanne Golde, and Treasurer and Fundraising Chair Karen Philips-Proy. Ken-Ton PTSA Council Representatives are Donette Darrow and Lynette Hameister, Membership and Publicity Chair Bev Browning. Our membership fee is \$6.00 for Adults and \$4.00 for Children.
- SEPTSA gives two scholarships each year to graduating seniors, from the Ken-Ton School District, who have been identified by the Committee on Special Education. These scholarships recognize educational achievements and community service and are available to assist the students in further educational endeavors.
- SEPTSA has a web site and updates it regularly. <http://www.freewebs.com/kentonseptsa> .
- SEPTSA's e-mail address is [kentonseptsa@gmail.com](mailto:kentonseptsa@gmail.com) .
- At each monthly meeting, SEPTSA brings in a guest speaker that is of interest to our membership. If there is a topic or speaker you are interested in, please let us know. SEPTSA promises to give voice to the concerns of parents and also to keep up-to-date on current special education issues within the District as well as across Western New York, Erie County, New York State, and Nationally.
- Ken-Ton SEPTSA is a member organization of Western New York Parent Groups. Through this organization, we have sponsored parent nights in conjunction with the appearance of nationally known speakers presented by Parent Network of WNY.
- In an effort to support the inclusion of special needs children in extracurricular activities, SEPTSA cooperates with groups like Erie County Special Olympics, CAPS-Challenged Athletes Participating in Sports, Boys and Girls Club of the North Towns-Franklin Club, as well as Camp Special Place which is made possible by the Town of Tonawanda Youth Parks and Recreation Department.
- SEPTSA assists parents in attending conferences in an effort to further their knowledge on special education and disability-related issues.
- A lending library is maintained in room 122 of the Philip Sheridan building which contains books, films, and articles for parents and educators on a wide variety of special education topics. A bibliography is available on our web site. Members may borrow on a month-to-month basis. We keep this library current and welcome donations of materials as well as funds to purchase new items. Please Contact Aimee @ 876-3019 or Rosann @ 875-4985 if you would like to borrow an item.
- SEPTSA has done several fund raising ventures over the years. Early on, the Buffalo Bills gave a grant; also, the Ken-Ton Friends of Youth gave SEPTSA two sizeable grants for the lending library as well as for SEPTSA's scholarship fund. Initially, the main fundraiser for SEPTSA was a craft show, which raised money for our operating costs. This has been replaced by a fish fry dinner and theme tray auction. A community cookbook was also created and sold. SEPTSA parents have held garage sales, hot dog sales, and sold Bon-Ton Community Day booklets to benefit the scholarship fund, the agency fair, teacher of the year awards, and

transition backpack awards.

- This year SEPTSA was awarded a National PTA Health Lifestyles Award for The Northtowns Family Agency Fair, an event that unites organizations from around the Western New York community with Special Needs children, their families, and educators to provide timely information on services that are available to them and also to answer any questions they may have. Agencies that attend provide services that range from medical to educational to recreational - so there is something for everyone into the future!



- Ken-Ton SEPTSA was honored with a National PTA Unit Achievement Award in 2008 for their hard work and dedication to the community in which they serve.

**Aimee M. Levesque**  
**Ken-Ton SEPTSA President**

**Ken-Ton SEPTSA**  
**Meeting Dates for the 2008/2009 School Year**

Speakers TBA

September 10th, 2008

October 8th, 2008

November 12th, 2008

December 10th, 2008

January 14th, 2009

February 11th, 2009

March 11th, 2009

April 8th, 2009

May 20th, 2009 \* - Please note: This meeting is the **THIRD** Wednesday of the month so that the board can report on the auction.

**Ken-Ton SEPTSA Special Events**

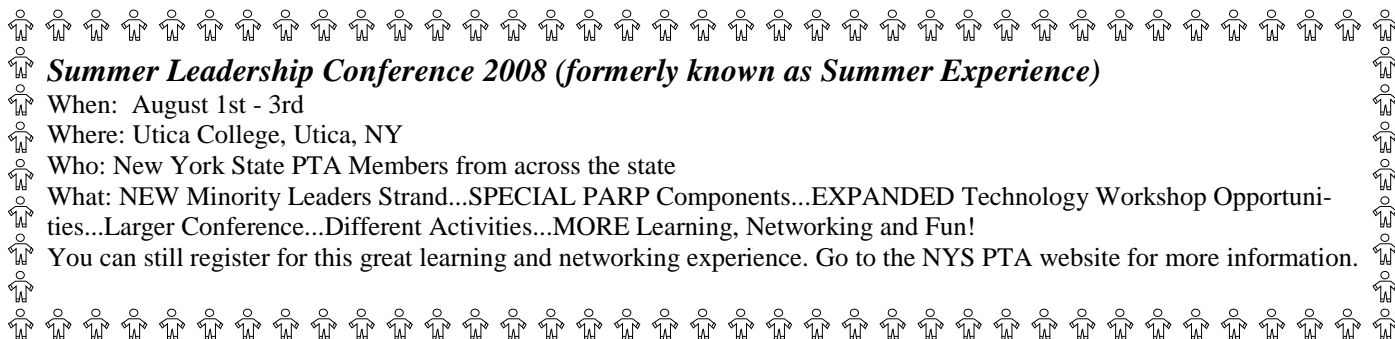
Bon-Ton Community Day Saturday, November 15th, 2008

Northtowns Family Agency Fair Saturday, November 22nd, 2008

Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser Friday, February 27th, 2009 (Tentative)

SEPTSA Theme Tray Auction Saturday, May 16th, 2009

Please join our mailing list to receive up-to-date SEPTSA information. Sign up today or visit our new web-site: <http://www.freewebs.com/kentonsepta/> .



**Summer Leadership Conference 2008 (formerly known as Summer Experience)**

When: August 1st - 3rd

Where: Utica College, Utica, NY

Who: New York State PTA Members from across the state

What: NEW Minority Leaders Strand...SPECIAL PARP Components...EXPANDED Technology Workshop Opportunities...Larger Conference...Different Activities...MORE Learning, Networking and Fun!

You can still register for this great learning and networking experience. Go to the NYS PTA website for more information.



## Children's Mental Health Awareness

May is Children's Mental Health Awareness month and the first full week of every May is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. A tool kit is made available each year by the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. Below is an excerpt from this year's materials. There are important resources for families and schools. You may want to put May 2009 on your calendar and plan events for the next Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

### IMPORTANT RESOURCE LINKS

**Families Together in New York State** is a nonprofit, family run organization that strives to establish a unified voice for children and youth with emotional, behavioral, and social challenges. Our mission is to ensure that every family has access to needed information, support, and services. For Information & Referral call Families Together in New York State tollfree

At (888) 3268644 or visit [www.ftnys.org](http://www.ftnys.org) for important links and resources.

#### **Information on planning Children's Mental Health Week and related resources:**

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

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

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

**A Family Guide To Keeping Youth Mentally Healthy & Drug Free**—a public education Web site developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to communicate to parents and other caring adults about how they can help promote their child's mental health and reduce his or her risk for becoming involved with alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

<http://www.family.samhsa.gov>

**Online Depression Screening Website:** The mission of this website is to educate people about clinical depression, offer a confidential way for people to get screened for symptoms of the illness, and guide people toward appropriate professional help if necessary. It is also a great site for those concerned over anonymity of themselves or their child.

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

**New York State Office of Mental Health's Suicide Prevention Education and Awareness Kit (SPEAK)**—is an information kit for the public, health care providers and educators to help them understand the terrible frequency and toll of suicide, and to discover ways and methods to aid in preventing it.

<http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/speak/index.htm>

## Shocking

I find myself thinking that Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama need to run together so that if they become president and v-p, anyone who would assassinate the president would not do it because he wouldn't want the other to be president either. It's 2008 and as shocking as it seems, many of us are race/gender/religion bigots and the worst of us will kill to express their hateful beliefs.

I belong to a gym in Hamburg and have joined a second gym in Springville, because I figure gas will cost me about \$180 in 2008 to drive between Hamburg and Springville just to use the gym twice a week on my Springville days. That's only the actual gas. At the updated 2008 federal mileage rate of \$0.505, two trips per week to Hamburg would be \$757.50 in a year. That's almost 2 times the gym membership.



The healthy ladies at the gym are as brown as we were as teenagers. My friends with melanomas and less lethal skin cancers, wrinkled and looking lots older than our almost 60-something years, my freckled red-headed husband with his twice a year visits to the dermatologist to be frozen or burned, all would love the chance to go back in time to opt out of the sun exposure that was the fashion before we knew better. When I am 80 and hopefully still going to that gym, those lovelies will be paying dearly for their tans. And our weather man still proclaims "another beautiful day in western New York," after a week of record heat.

Putting food into the gas tank always seemed immoral to me, but there was comfort in knowing it was prohibitively expensive. Now our agribusiness farmers are subsidized to grow corn for fuel and they also get top dollar for it. Besides driving wheat out of production and pushing the cost of food off a cliff, this switch to ethanol production is the nail in the coffin of the small dairy farm. And after all that, \$4.50 a gallon corn winds up as a global warming gas just like gasoline. If my kids learned like American consumers, they'd still be in kindergarten.

In the 21st century, it is shocking that we are still invoking the evils of "socialized medicine" while all the other G8 nations give health care as a right of citizenship. We think we have the best medical care money can buy, but that is not what the statistics show and clearly those without the price of admission get less than our best. And it is shocking that no one admits that our medical care is already socialized if that means that we all pay: our legislators get top notch medical coverage at our expense, and at least at the federal level, they get that benefit for life. Many of the rest of us, including our teachers,

get medical expenses covered by the taxpayers. Our less affluent neighbors get their bills paid, usually at terrible cost since late care is so much more expensive than early care. And the healthy of us with private insurance paid either by our bosses or our families are covering the less healthy among our plan through our huge premiums. And that still does not cover the occasional organ transplant, necessitating fundraising on a scale that makes a PTA chocolate sale look like a vacation.

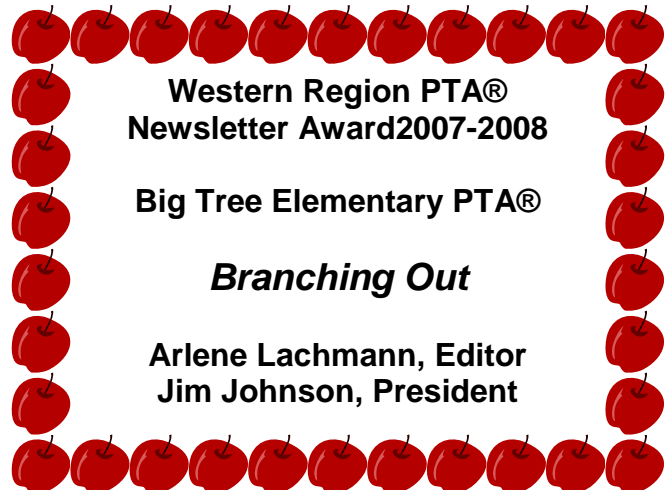
At Spring Conference we heard about how kids hide vodka in flip-flops. It's shocking to me that we are still striving to drug-proof our children and that we have not really dealt with the reasons all these programs we throw at them fail. Is it not mainly about parents being attentive, interested, present, and good models and if that is so, why can't we do that right? My kids carried a baby doll around with them for some health class in 11th grade. What was that about anyway?

It's shocking that in my 13th year of PTA leadership, we are still trying to find ways to involve parents in the education, health, and welfare of their dear children, parents who love their kids but just don't have the time, energy, interest, or whatever to show up twice a year.

I look forward to the most shocking thing of all when we resume our PTA activities in September: peace, prosperity, effective parenting, and PTA involvement.

**Anne Ehrlich**  
**Western Region Newsletter Editor**  
 annehrlich@yahoo.com

**Send your articles to me. I will show off the accomplishments of your units here in the pages of *The Beacon*.**



**2008 WESTERN REGION PTA BOARD MEETINGS** (locations TBA)

SEP 17 Wednesday  
 OCT 29 Wednesday  
 DEC 11 Thursday (meeting and winter gathering)

**2009**

JAN 20 Tuesday  
 MAR 9 Monday  
 MAY 6 Wednesday  
 JUN 11 Thursday (meeting and picnic)

(SEE PAGE 3 FOR THE COMPLETE REGION CALENDAR.)

**WESTERN REGION PTA®  
2008 – 09 OFFICERS**

Director: Maria Eagen  
 Associate Directors:  
 Diane DeJoseph  
 Kathie Jarvis  
 George Kimble  
 Kelly Stephenson  
 Treasurer: Sue Andrijczuk  
 Recording Secretary:  
 Shirley Lam  
 Corresponding Secretary:  
 Cathy Catalano  
 Immediate Past Director:  
 Etta Czaja

**WESTERN REGION PTA®**  
 NEW YORK STATE CONGRESS  
 OF PARENTS & TEACHERS, INC.  
 - Branch of the National -

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